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PLACES AND WORSHIP

SC hearing may decide future of secularism in India

The verdict may have an impact on many cases

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



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Govt. stable, says Syria PM; Israel conducts air strikes

Militant leader al-Jolani promises representative government and religious tolerance; Israeli attacks target suspected chemical weapons sites to keep them out of the hands of extremists

Associated Press
DAMASCUS

Syria's Prime Minister Mohammed Ghazi Jalali said on Monday that most Cabinet Ministers are still working from offices in Damascus after militants entered the capital over the weekend and overthrew President Bashar al-Assad. Streams of refugees crossed from neighbouring countries, hoping for a more peaceful future.

However, there were already signs of the difficulties ahead for the militant alliance now in control of much of the country, which is led by Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, a former senior al-Qaeda militant who severed ties with the extremist group years ago and formed Hayat Tahrir



Uncertain times: Militants seen atop a tank, patrolling an area in Damascus on Monday. AFP

al-Sham which leads the militant coalition that stormed Damascus. He has promised representative government and religious tolerance.

He said on Monday they would not tell women how to dress.

Israel said it is carrying out air strikes on suspected

chemical weapons sites and long-range rockets to keep them from falling into the hands of extremists. Israel has also seized a buffer zone inside Syria after Syrian troops withdrew.

In northern Syria, Turkey said allied opposition forces seized the town of Manbij from Kurdish-led

India calls for inclusive political process in Syria

NEW DELHI

India on Monday called for a peaceful and inclusive political process in Syria to find a resolution to the dramatic turn of events after militants claimed control of capital Damascus. "We are monitoring the situation in Syria," the MEA said in a statement. » PAGE 12

forces backed by the U.S., a reminder that even after Mr. Assad's departure, the country remains split among armed groups that have fought in the past.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
PARADIGM SHIFT
» PAGE 8

Misri visits Dhaka, airs concerns over safety of minorities

Kallool Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday conveyed India's "concerns" over the safety and security of minorities in Bangladesh, and urged the interim government there to follow a "constructive approach".

Mr. Misri made the remarks while holding a Foreign Office Consultation with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Mohammad Jashim Uddin, in Dhaka. He also called on Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, who urged India to "join his initiative to revive the SAARC".

Mr. Misri is the first high-ranking Indian official to visit the neighbouring country after the student-peoples uprising forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee to India in August. Bilateral ties have nosedived since the interim



Vikram Misri with Mohammad Jashim Uddin.

government took charge.

Responding to Mr. Misri's remarks, Mr. Jashim Uddin expressed Dhaka's concerns over the breach of security at the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala and asserted that the safety of minorities was an "internal matter of Bangladesh".

"I have underlined India's desire to work closely with the interim Government of Bangladesh authorities," Mr. Misri said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Reservation must not be based on religion, SC tells West Bengal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday orally observed that reservation must not be based on religion while hearing an appeal filed by the State of West Bengal against a Calcutta High Court judgment striking down its policy to include several castes, largely Muslim communities, in the State's Other Backward Classes (OBC) list.

The Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan scheduled the case for hearing on January 7. In an earlier hearing, the top court had asked the State to clarify the nature and scope of the survey undertaken to identify the social and educational backwardness of these communities and their inadequacy of representation in the State public services which warranted their inclusion in the list.

He will take charge of the country's monetary policy framework and banking regulation. He will take charge of RBI at a challenging time with inflation having been a bugbear.

Sanjay Malhotra
Union govt. names Sanjay Malhotra as RBI Governor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday announced the appointment of Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, a day before incumbent Shaktikanta Das's six-year term comes to an end on Tuesday.

He will take charge of the country's monetary policy framework and banking regulation. He will take charge of RBI at a challenging time with inflation having been a bugbear.

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Govt. working on Rajasthan's development: PM

JAIPUR
At the inaugural session of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his government was working on the mantra of "development" and Rajasthan was deriving immense benefit from it. » Page 4

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Provide details of all properties burnt, looted during violence: SC to Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Manipur government to provide details of buildings and properties which were burnt, partially burnt, looted and trespassed during the ethnic violence which began in May 2023.

A Bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar also sought information on the criminal action taken against persons found unauthorisedly occupying these properties and steps taken by the State to make them pay occupation charges or mesne profits (money paid to the



Burning issue: INDIA bloc staging a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Monday over the situation in Manipur. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

rightful owner of a property by someone who is in unlawful possession of it).

The court listed the case for hearing in the week commencing January 20.

"We want all the details of these properties which have been burnt, looted and encroached on... you can give us this in a sealed envelope," Chief Justice

INDIA bloc seeks action on Shah, Biren Singh

NEW DELHI
INDIA bloc leaders from Manipur on Monday held a protest at Jantar Mantar over the ongoing ethnic conflict in the State, demanding that Union Home Minister Amit Shah resign and CM N. Biren Singh be sacked for the way they handled it. » PAGE 12

Khanna told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Manipur government.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

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IN BRIEF



BJP's social media campaign to 'expose' AAP govt's 'scams'

The BJP on Monday launched a social media drive against the ruling Aam Aadmi Party to "expose its 12 scams" over the next 12 days. As part of the campaign, the BJP will post videos on the party's social media handles explaining various "scams", as part of which it will highlight issues regarding the now-scraped excise policy for 2021-22, said a party leader. The BJP's upcoming 'Parivartan Yatra' will be used as a platform to bring these issues to the forefront, the leader added.

Exhibition of paintings by Bireswar Sen, son opens today

"Father-Son: An Artistic Lineage", an art exhibition designed to highlight the contrasting styles and approaches of painters Bireswar Sen and his son Sureshwar Sen, will be showcased at the India International Centre from December 11 to December 24. The paintings by the two will explore the fusion of multiple cultures of art. Poet Ashok Vajpeyi will inaugurate the exhibition on Tuesday at 6.30 p.m. It will be open for viewers from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Bail of Rau's IAS CEO extended

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has extended till January 31 next year the interim bail of Abhishek Gupta, the CEO and owner of Rau's IAS Study Circle, where three Civil Services aspirants had drowned after the institute's basement was flooded with rainwater in July this year.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of the Rouse Avenue Courts on Saturday also extended the bail of Deshpal Singh, the institute's coordinator, till January 31.

The Delhi High Court

had earlier given bail to four co-owners of the basement. Another court last week took cognisance of the chargesheet filed by the CBI, noting that Mr. Gupta and Mr. Singh allowed students to study in the basement even when they were aware that water used to collect there.

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| HP / 3777/24-25 | | | | |

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture,
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560001

No.: DDA/FM&MI)/FM RFP/2024-25 Date: 07.12.2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture invites Request for Proposals (RFP) from OEM / Manufacturers / Importers for supply of Farm Machineries and Agro Processing Units to farmers under Departmental subsidy Programmes and CHSC Centers. The interested OEM / Manufacturers / Importers who are interested to participate in this RFP can submit their proposals through e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. The interested OEM / Manufacturers / Importers can download the RFP document through e-Procurement platform by payment of applicable e-Procurement processing fees and the EMD amount as fixed by the Department. Applications for RFP can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>, in from 09.12.2024 to 08.01.2025. The last date for submission of proposals in e-Procurement platform is 08.01.2025, 4:30 p.m. The Technical proposals will be opened on 10.01.2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Samruddhi VC Hall, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001.

The Hard copies (Physical Deposition) of the Technical and Financial Proposals along with other relevant documents uploaded in the e-Procurement portal will be received at the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farm Mechanization & Micro irrigation), Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001 upto 4:30 p.m., on 09.01.2025.

The interested Manufacturers / OEM / Importers have to register at the e-procurement cell, Centre for e-Governance, 4th Floor, Sri Arvinda Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001 and obtain the DSC key or e-token (Helpdesk: +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777).

NOTE: e-Procurement processing fee is non-refundable and Tender documents are non transferable.

Sd/- Director of Agriculture and Tender Inviting Authority

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department

CORRIGENDUM

The online e-tenders called vide this office letter No. PWU/CB/T-1/2024-4801-10 dated 26.10.2024 (R.O. No.3520/2024-25(Classified)) and due for publication 09.12.2024 at 10.00 AM and due for opening on 16.12.2024 at 12.30 PM is hereby extended as under due to administrative/technical reasons:-

Key Dates

| S. No. | Description | Old Dates | Amended/new dates |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Date of online publication | 09.12.2024 (10.00 AM) | 13.12.2024 (10.00 AM) |
| 2. | Documents download start and end date/time | 09.12.2024 (10.30 AM) up to 16.12.2024 (11.00 AM) | 13.12.2024 (10.30 AM) up to 19.12.2024 (11.00 AM) |
| 3. | Bid submission start and end date/time | 09.12.2024 (10.30 AM) up to 16.12.2024 (11.00 AM) | 13.12.2024 (10.30 AM) up to 19.12.2024 (11.00 AM) |
| 4. | Physical submission of EMD and cost of tender documents | 16.12.2024 up to 11.30 AM | 19.12.2024 up to 11.30 AM |
| 5. | Date of Technical Bid opening | 16.12.2024 (12.30 PM) | 19.12.2024 (12.30 PM) |

Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer,
HPPWD Division, Haroli, Distt.Uttarakhand HP.

HP / 3768/24-25

CM
YK

Delhi poll: AAP releases second list, drops 18 out of 20 sitting MLAs; Sisodia gets new seat

Gopal Rai says most candidates are party councillors who were chosen based on performance, public feedback; list shows that AAP leaders are aware of having lost their political ground: Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva; Capital's ruling party seems to have conceded defeat already: Devender Yadav

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday issued its second list of candidates for the Delhi Assembly election due in February next year. The list of 20 candidates has 18 new names while two sitting MLAs – former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Deputy Assembly Speaker Rakhi Birla – have been shifted to other seats.

The list prompted the BJP to remark that the manner in which Mr. Sisodia and Ms. Birla have switched constituencies shows that senior party leaders have "lost their political ground". Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said that the list showed that AAP had "conceded defeat" even before the announcement of the election date.

AAP released its first list of candidates for 11 constitu-



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal taking a selfie with autorickshaw drivers, with whom he interacted at his residence in Delhi on Monday. PTI

encies on November 21, including the eight that it had lost to the BJP in the 2020 poll. In it, the party dropped the three sitting legislators and fielded candidates who recently switched over from the BJP and the Congress on six seats.

AAP has been in power in Delhi since 2015. It won 67 of the 70 seats in the 2015 Assembly poll and 62 in the 2020 election.

Addressing a press conference, AAP's Delhi con-

vener Gopal Rai said most of the new names on the list are the party's own councillors. "They were chosen on the basis of their performance. The party has been gathering feedback from the public in every constituency," said Mr. Rai.

There are several seats where councillors have replaced the sitting MLAs. AAP's Adarsh Nagar MLA Pawan Sharma was dropped in favour of Leader of the House in the Mun-

icipal Corporation of Delhi Mukesh Goel. In Mundka, MLA Dharmpal Lakhra has been replaced by Rani Khera councillor Jasbir Kaurala. Pravin Kumar, a councillor, is set to contest from Janakpuri replacing Rajesh Rishi. AAP councillor Dinesh Bharadwaj has been picked in Narela over sitting MLA Sharad Kumar Chauhan.

AAP has also fielded a couple of candidates who crossed over from the BJP last week. Former two-time MLA Surendra Pal Singh Bittu, who has been fielded from Timarpur, joined the party on December 6, hours after the sitting MLA, Dilip Pandey,

hinted at taking a break from electoral politics. The other candidate, former AAP legislator Jitender Singh Shunty, has been fielded from Shahdara, replacing sitting MLA and Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, who announced retirement from politics.

Vacated Patparganj due to Ojha's vision: Sisodia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Patparganj after Mr. Sisodia's victory margin from there shrunk considerably in the 2020 Assembly poll.

While Mr. Sisodia had won from the constituency by around 11,000 and 28,000 votes in the 2013 and 2015 Assembly polls respectively, his victory margin had reduced to around 3,000 votes in the last Assembly election.

Admission of failure? However, AAP's Delhi convenor Gopal Rai told reporters that Mr. Sisodia himself offered the seat to Mr. Ojha. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said it was an acknowledgement of the failure as the constituency is "marred by poor road infrastructure, neglected parks and drinking water crisis".

Supreme Court moots agency to increase green cover in Capital

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

gress has been made in terms of what this court expected. We therefore propose to appoint an agency to suggest measures for enhancing green cover of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. We permit the *amicus curiae* to suggest names of the agencies which will be able to take up this task," the court ordered.

The Bench had expected the Forest Department and the Tree Authority to keep a vigil on the activity of illegal damage to trees in Delhi.

The case is scheduled for hearing next on December 18.

CM promises salary hike, permanent jobs to DTC employees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Atishi on Monday promised to hike the salaries of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) drivers and conductors, with a periodic revision in their dearness allowance.

Moreover, the Chief Minister said her government is in the process of regularising services of contractual employees.

The drivers will be trained to operate electric

buses as part of the government's plan for transition to electric vehicles, she added.

The announcements came in the wake of a two-day protest by the DTC employees earlier this month, which had affected transportation services.

The Chief Minister said the decisions would come into effect within a month or two from now, and would put an additional burden of ₹222 crore on the Delhi government.

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FOOD FIESTA



Delhi Public School Ghaziabad Vasundhara hosted a vibrant Food Fiesta, celebrating culinary creativity and teamwork among students, parents, and teachers. Chief Guest Ms. Garvit Gupta, an award-winning Chief Data Analytics Officer, commended the young entrepreneurs for their dedication and encouraged students to explore their interests with passion. Principal Dr. Vinod Kumar inaugurated the event, highlighting its role in fostering creativity, responsibility, and teamwork. The fiesta featured creatively decorated stalls offering diverse treats, from fried rice and manchurian to traditional favourites like vada chutney and golgappe. The event concluded with cherished memories of food, laughter, and camaraderie.

CBSE REGIONAL SCIENCE EXHIBITION

Gurukul The School hosted the CBSE Regional Science Exhibition, showcasing creativity and scientific brilliance under the theme 'Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future.' With participation from 44 schools, 78 teams, and over 150 students, projects addressed global challenges in areas like waste management, transport, and health. Esteemed judges evaluated the entries, with winners selected across six categories, including Trash-O-Matic and Neuro-Sketch. Principal Mr. Gaurav Bedi commended students' innovation and encouraged them to apply their ideas in real life. The event concluded with 14 top exhibits advancing to the National Science Exhibition, celebrating science's role in building a sustainable future.

ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS



Pinegrove School, Subathu, celebrated their Annual Function with inspiring performances that showcased the students' excellence in academics and co-curricular activities. The event began with a flawless march-past by the school's NCC contingents, followed by captivating gymnastics and a synchronised Brass Band performance. Cultural highlights included a thought-provoking Hindi play, Kankad, addressing societal inclusion, and a mesmerising Kathak ballet, Eklayava. Chief Guest Mr. Arjun Bhagat lauded the school's efforts in fostering all-round development and encouraged students to embrace empathy and inclusivity. Parents and guests appreciated the students' creativity and dedication, making the event truly memorable.

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

THE HINDU REWIND 2024 TRIVIA QUIZ

- In February 2024, the Indian government announced plans to establish a naval base on Agatti and Minicoy islands. These islands belong to which union territory?
- Which movie, released in February 2024 and set in Kodaikanal, became the highest-grossing Malayalam film ever, earning over ₹200 crores?
- On 26 May 2024, who became the first Indian gymnast to secure a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships?



Scan QR code or visit newsth.live/RTQPA take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Kulasekharapatnam
2. England
3. Spain

Yesterday's Winners:

1. Mith

Anti-Sikh riots:
CBI told to
locate witness
against Tytler

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday asked the CBI to locate the key witness in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler.

The order came after the Central agency in the past told the court about the unavailability of the key witness, Manmohan Kaur. The CBBI has accused Mr. Tytler of instigating a mob near Gurdwara Puri Bangash, resulting in the deaths of three people.

| Timings | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| TUESDAY, DEC. 10 | |
| RISE 07:03 | SET 17:26 |
| RISE 13:32 | SET 01:21 |
| WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11 | |
| RISE 07:04 | SET 17:26 |
| RISE 14:06 | SET 02:25 |
| THURSDAY, DEC. 12 | |
| RISE 07:05 | SET 17:26 |
| RISE 14:44 | SET 03:33 |

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 22 08
Safdarjung 22 08
Palam 19 09

Delhi Palam Today
25°C The weather will be dry.
Shallow fog and mist will occur
in cold morning. Day will be
pleasant. Night will be cool and
hazy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
24°C Temperature will
decrease. Morning will be cold
with fog and mist. Day will be
pleasant. Dry weather to
continue.

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THE HINDU
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Over 40 Delhi schools get bomb threat; Centre's failure, says Atishi

Police and fire services personnel, along with bomb detection squads and dog units, rush to schools following early morning calls to authorities; law and order situation worsening as now our children aren't safe: Kejriwal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

More than 40 schools in Delhi received an email on Monday morning threatening to blow up their premises, prompting the deployment of local police and fire services personnel with bomb detection squads and dog units across the city.

The threat turned out to be a hoax as no suspicious object was found in the inspections, said the police. Most of the schools suspended classes for the day and sent students back home.

A similar hoax email was sent to over 200 schools in the Capital and Noida in May. However, the case is yet to be solved. Since then, several more schools, including a few in Rohini and Dwarka, have been issued similar threats, apart from hundreds of hospitals, malls, and public transport hubs in the city. A parents' association member in Delhi said there was much less panic among them on Monday owing to the frequency of such



A similar email was sent to over 200 schools in the Capital and Noida in May. The case is yet to be solved. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

incidents.

A senior officer said the sender had placed a demand for \$30,000 in the email, which was sent at 11:38 p.m. on Sunday to some of the national capital's most prominent schools, including Delhi Public School in R.K. Puram, G.D. Goenka Public School in Paschim Vihar, The British School in Chanakyapuri, The Mother's International School on Aurobindo Marg, and Modern School in Mandi House.

Chief Minister Atishi said the Centre has "failed" in its only responsibility to ensure the safety of the Capital's resi-

dents. Delhi Police reports to the Union Home Ministry.

First alert at 6:15 a.m.

"After the schools informed us about the emails, we conducted a thorough check of the premises. However, nothing suspicious was found," said DCP (South West) Surender Chaudhary. Four schools in his district received the threat.

The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said it received the first alert from G.D. Goenka Public School at 6:15 a.m., followed by a call from Delhi Public School at 7:06 a.m.

Aprajita Gautam from the

Delhi Parents' Association said their WhatsApp group was buzzing with messages since early morning.

S.K. Gupta, the chairman of North-Ex Public School in Rohini, said their staff saw the email around 8:30 a.m., following which they informed the authorities and the parents. By 9:30 a.m., all students had been safely led out, he added.

'Not just threats'

Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal hit out at the BJP-led Centre over the incident.

"The situation of law and order in Delhi is getting worse every day. Now our children are not safe as bomb threats are being received in many schools and this is not the first time something like this has happened," said Mr. Kejriwal.

He added, "There has been a blast outside a CRPF school in Rohini, so it is not that only threats are being received. I want to ask the Union Home Minister (Amit Shah) what he is doing to tackle this?"

No group will march to Delhi today: farmer leader

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

Punjab farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said no 'jatha' (group) of farmers will resume foot march to Delhi on Tuesday, and accused the Centre of being confused on how the protesters should proceed to the national capital.

Mr. Pandher said they will

decide their next course of action in a meeting of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha on Tuesday.

Agitating farmers suspended their foot march to Delhi from the Shambhu border on Sunday after some of them sustained injuries in teargas shelling by Haryana security personnel who thwarted another

attempt by the protesters to cross the border.

Addressing the media at the Shambhu and Khamauri border points separately on Monday, Mr. Pandher claimed that the BJP-led Centre was "confused" after farmers decided to march on foot to the national capital.

"Now Central Minister Mahesh Lal is saying farmers

should come by other vehicles.

When Mr. Lal was the Chief Minister, he used to say that farmers should come on foot. Earlier, the entire BJP was objecting to farmers going by tractor trolleys to Delhi. The government is confused on what to say and what not to say. This is lowering the credibility of the government among people," he said.

Jharkhand Assembly session begins; Soren, Ministers take oath

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday took oath as a member of the Jharkhand Assembly on the first day of the four-day session of the House.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Radhakrishna Kishore, Revenue and Land Reforms Minister Deepak Biraj and Labour Minister Sanjay Prasad Yadav were among the Ministers in the Hemant Soren Cabinet who also took oath as members of the Assembly.

The Speaker's election is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, an Assembly official said.

Mr. Kishore said Nala MLA Rabindra Nath Mahato is likely to be elected as Speaker of the House unopposed as all members, including those of the BJP, have given their consent for it.

The four-day session will conclude on December 12.



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| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Opening date and time for receipt of application | 07.12.2024/09.00 Hrs. |
| Closing date and time for receipt of application | 06.01.2025/23.59 Hrs. |

Online Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for Recruitment to fill 2 posts in Pay Level 2 of 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) against Cultural Quota for the year 2024-25 in the following disciplines.

| Sl.No. | Discipline | No. of Posts |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Classical Dancer in any of the discipline in Bharatanatyam / Kathak (Male) | 1 |
| 2. | Violinist | 1 |
| | Total | 2 |

Please visit our website <https://pb.ict.gov.in> under the link "APPLY FOR CULTURAL RECRUITMENT (2024-2025)" for detailed Employment Notification regarding age, educational qualification, minimum Cultural norms, eligibility criteria etc.

Candidates are advised to go through the detailed notification before applying.

Assistant Personnel Officer / WS

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

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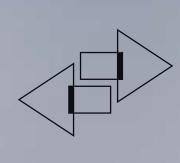
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IN BRIEF



Noida International Airport completes validation flight

The National Capital Region's (NCR) second airport, the Noida International Airport, successfully completed its validation flight on Monday for testing navigational aids and air traffic control systems. An Airbus A320 aircraft IndiGo was used for the validation flight. Monday's flight followed the calibration of the instrument landing system that helps an aircraft to land in poor visibility as well as precision approach path indicator that provides visual descent guidance information during final approach to the runway.

RS bypolls: BJP fields former NCW chief Rekha Sharma

The BJP on Monday announced three candidates, including former National Commission for Women chief Rekha Sharma from Haryana, for the December 20 Rajya Sabha bypolls. The party also fielded Ryoga Krishnaiah from Andhra Pradesh and Sujeeet Kumar from Odisha, the two leaders who switched over from the YSRCP and the BJD, respectively. Mr. Krishnaiah had resigned his Rajya Sabha seat and left the YSRCP. Mr. Kumar had also resigned from his Upper House seat after which he was expelled by the BJD. Krishan Lal Panwar of the BJP had quit his Rajya Sabha seat from Haryana following his election as MLA in Assembly polls, creating a vacancy. PTI

JD(U) reiterates demand for Bharat Ratna for Nitish Kumar

Amarnath Tewary

PATNA

Janata Dal (United), a major ally of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar, has reiterated its demand to honour Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with the Bharat Ratna.

JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said CM Nitish Kumar has worked tirelessly to pull Bihar out of the abyss of hopelessness. He deserves the Bharat Ratna, or something even bigger if there is any, as a recognition for doing what was considered unbelievable until a couple of decades ago. Bihar was condemned as a failed State and nobody was ready to give it a chance," Mr. Jha said, recalling the "dark days of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) rule" in the State.

In October, the party had put up a poster outside



JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said CM Nitish Kumar has worked tirelessly to pull Bihar out of the abyss of hopelessness. ANI

the JD(U) office in Patna demanding the top civilian honour for Mr. Kumar. Alliance partners, including Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) chief Ram Manjhi and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief and Union Minister Chirag Paswan, had also supported the demand. Mr. Manjhi even said he would himself urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to confer Bharat Ratna on Mr. Kumar.

In January, veteran socialist leader and former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur was posthumously awarded the highest civi-

'Rajasthan suffered as governments failed on development, heritage'

Prime Minister Modi says the people of the State had voted for a 'stable government' one year ago, and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma delivered 'impressive results' in a short span of time

Mohammed Iqbal

JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said Rajasthan had to suffer losses in the years after Independence because the governments at the time had failed to pay attention to development and heritage conservation. "These were crucial areas of governance, but the governments did not give priority to them," Mr. Modi said.

Laying emphasis on the nation's growth by taking pride in the cultural legacy, Mr. Modi delivered an address at the inaugural session of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit here. He said his government was working on the mantra of "development as well as heritage" and that Rajasthan was deriving immense benefit from it.

Mr. Modi said the people of Rajasthan had voted for a "stable government"



PM Modi, Governor Haribhai Bagde and CM Sharma at the Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit in Jaipur on Monday. ANI

one year ago, and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma along with his team had delivered "impressive results" in a short span of time, creating new opportunities for the youth and ensuring rapid progress of infrastructure projects, including roads and power generation.

"The State government's swift action in controlling crime and corruption has instilled confidence among investors and the public at large," Mr. Modi said, adding that the desert State had a huge potential as it had qualities that could be defined as "reliable, receptive and refined".

The Prime Minister said Rajasthan knew how to adapt and improve with time, and facing challenges was a defining characteristic of the State. With the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) government nearing the completion of its first year in office, various development works were being carried out at a fast pace in the State, he said.

Reacting to Mr. Modi's remarks, Pradesh Congress Committee president Govind Singh Dotasra said the previous Congress governments had made sincere efforts to provide a supportive environment and necessary facilities for investors. "The BJP government should demonstrate how many of the MoUs signed in the summit will translate into real investments on the ground," he said.

Control law and order

Mr. Dotasra said the law and order situation in the State had deteriorated during the last one year since the BJP came to power. "It needs to be brought under control to enable the investors and entrepreneurs to plan and execute their projects," he said.



Abhinav Deshpande

MUMBAI

Former Maharashtra Minister and Nationalist Congress Party MLA Aditi Tatkare on Monday refuted reports that the Mahayuti government planned to re-examine applications for the flagship Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.

"There is no question of re-examining the applications of beneficiaries under this scheme. Around 2.34 crore women are currently receiving benefits and all applications were rigorously reviewed before the funds were disbursed. Any suggestion to the contrary is incorrect," Ms. Tatkare told a vernacular news channel.

The monthly cash transfer scheme for women is said to have played a significant role in the Mahayuti coalition's resounding victory. Ms. Tatkare, who headed the Women and Child Welfare Department in the previous Eknath Shinde-led government, oversaw the roll-out of the scheme.

Under the scheme, beneficiaries receive ₹1,500 per month, with a promise by Mahayuti leaders during the election campaign to increase the amount to ₹2,100. According to re-

No plans to re-examine Ladki Bahin scheme list, says ex-Minister

Abhinav Deshpande

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Implement SOP for abandoned tea gardens, workers' union appeals to West Bengal govt.

The Hindu Bureau

KOLKATA

Observing that the newly notified standard operating procedure (SOP) by the West Bengal government holds potential for resolving issues in abandoned gardens, the Paschim Banga Cha Majoor Samity (PBCMS) on Monday urged the State government to implement it.

The government came up with an SOP on abandoned gardens in November this year where certain conditions including clearance of dues for workers has been fixed for companies before taking over the operations at abandoned gardens.

"All we want the government to do is to follow its own SOP," said Anuradha



There are about 25 abandoned tea gardens in north Bengal, particularly in the Terai and Dooars region. FILE PHOTO: AFP

Talwar, the chief adviser to the tea garden union. The workers of PBCMS met the State Labour Commissioner and sought for implementation of the SOP. There are about 25 abandoned tea gardens in north Bengal, particularly in the Terai and Dooars region.

ers to their own fate in the season when the tea leaves are not plucked.

"Persistent wage delays in multiple gardens, coupled with the non-payment of wages have pushed the workers into financial despair. Many retired workers and dependents are gratuity and statutory destitute, with tragic consequences such as hunger-related deaths in gardens like Madhu in Alipurduar district," a press statement issued by PBCMS said.

The union representatives expressed their anger against a particular company that runs over a dozen of gardens in north Bengal and said that the condition of workers has only deteriorated after the management of the particular company took over.

T.N. Assembly adopts resolution against tungsten mining in State

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a special resolution urging the Union government to immediately cancel the tungsten mining rights granted to Hindustan Zinc Limited in Madurai district. It further requested the Centre not to grant any mining licence without the permission of State governments.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin asserted that his government would not permit the proposal as long as he held his post.

The special resolution observed that it was "condemnable" that, despite the concerns raised by the Tamil Nadu government in October, 2023, over the



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin

Union government granted the rights to carry out mining activities in the area, the special resolution said. "The people of Tamil Nadu and the government of Tamil Nadu will never accept this step," it further said.

Since the Union government's action had created a sense of anxiety among the people living in the area that their livelihood would be permanently affected, they staged several protests against this action, the resolution said.

It further recalled that the Chief Minister had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to cancel the tungsten mining rights granted to Hindustan Zinc Limited, considering these issues and to protect the area and the people living in the area. Disregarding this, the

High Court had reasoned that Ms. Mukerjea could do her work with help from the embassies in the U.K. and Spain.

The case against her is that her daughter Sheena Bora was strangled to death in a car allegedly by Ms. Mukerjea, her then driver Shyamvar Rai and former husband Sanjeev Khanna in April 2012.

SC notice to CBI on Indrani's plea to travel abroad

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday sought a response from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to a plea by former media executive Indrani Mukerjea, accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora, challenging a Bombay High Court decision refusing her permission to travel out of the country.

A Bench headed by Justice M.M. Sundresh issued notice on the Special Leave Petition filed by Ms. Mukerjea, represented by advocates Sana Raees Khan and Sandeep Singh.

On July 19 a special court in Mumbai had allowed her to travel to the U.K. and Spain for about 10 days across the next three months. However, the CBI had approached the Bombay High Court, which set aside the trial court permission.

Ms. Mukerjea said she was a British citizen, and had to travel to the U.K. and Spain to "make necessary changes and amendments and to take care of pending work which cannot be transacted without her personal presence".

The High Court had reasoned that Ms. Mukerjea could do her work with help from the embassies in the U.K. and Spain.

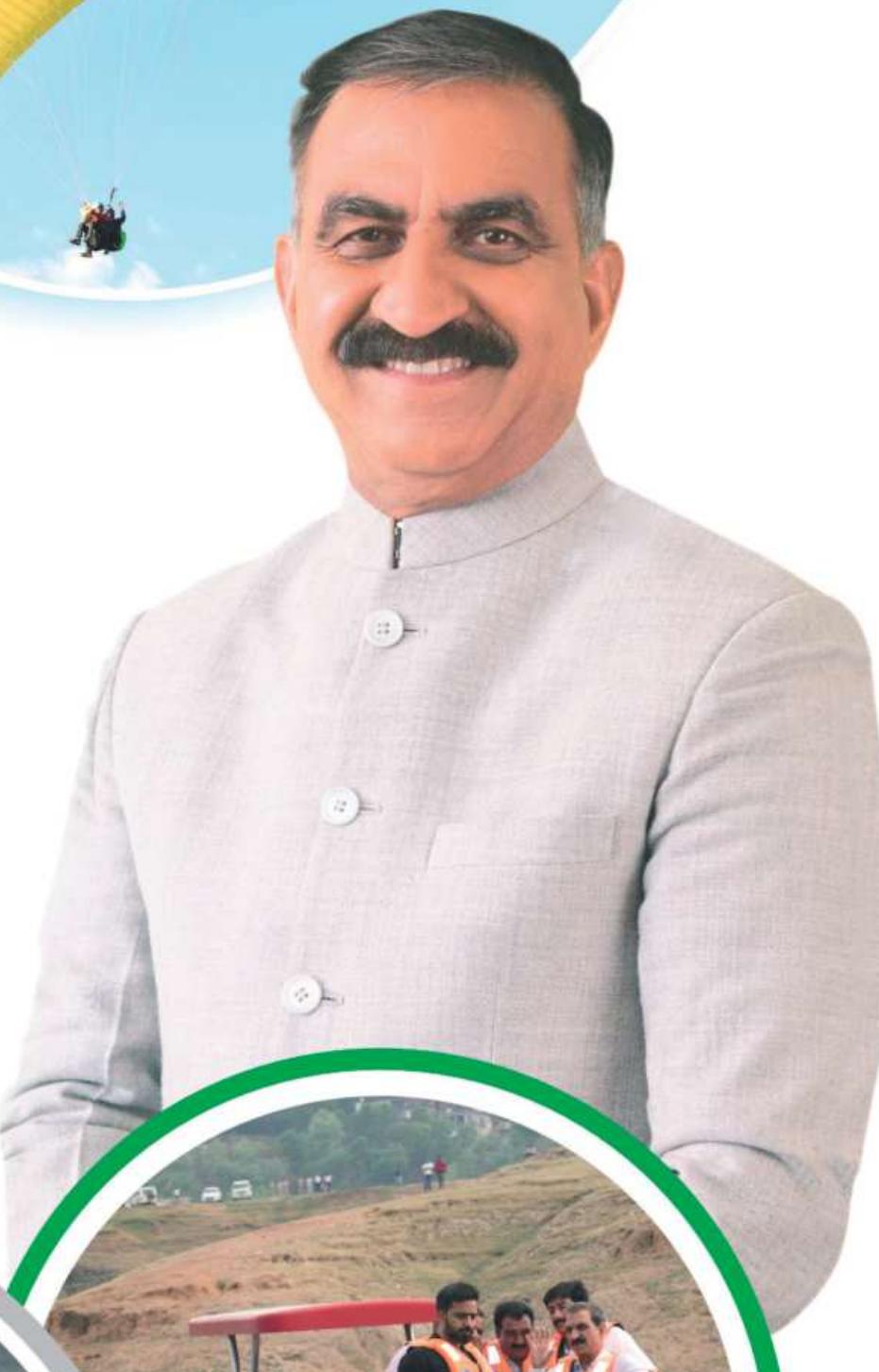
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व्यवस्था परिवर्तन से आजनिर्भर बनता हिमाचल



विश्वस्तरीय पर्यटन सुविधाओं का विकास

- बिलासपुर जिले में पहली बार गोविंदसागर झील में क्रूज, शिकारा राइड, हाउसबोट, हाई-टेक मोटरबोट, जेट स्की और वाटर स्कूटर जैसी रोमांचक जल क्रीड़ा गतिविधियां शुरू।
- बिलासपुर जिले के हरनौडा से शिमला जिले के तत्तापानी तक 30 किलोमीटर लंबा क्रूज मार्ग विकसित करने का कार्य जारी।
- ऊना जिले के अंदरौली में गोविंद सागर झील में भी जल्द ही जेट स्की, पैराग्लाइडिंग, कायाकिंग, कैनोइंग और स्पीड बोटिंग जैसी रोमांचक गतिविधियां आयोजित की जाएंगी।
- कांगड़ा जिले को प्रदेश की पर्यटन राजधानी के रूप में विकसित करने और कांगड़ा हवाई अड्डे के विस्तार का कार्य प्रगति पर।
- पर्यटकों की सुविधा के लिए प्रदेश भर में 16 हेलीपोर्ट और रज्जू मार्गों का निर्माण प्राथमिकता पर शुरू।
- देहरा के बनखंडी में 619 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से वन्य प्राणी उद्यान स्थापित किया जा रहा है।
- मंडी जिले के बाखली में बगलामुखी मंदिर रोप-वे जनता को समर्पित।



जारीकर्ता : निदेशक, सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश

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Pinarayi denies Shah's claim on delay in Wayanad report

Kerala CM describes Home Minister's statement as misleading; adds that State had submitted requirement and projected financial outlay for recovery within three months of the landslides

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has taken strong exception to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement attributing the Centre's delay in declaring a special package for the landslides-ravaged Wayanad to the State government's "lag" in submitting a detailed study report.

At a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, Mr Vijayan described Mr Shah's statement as "misleading and patently lacking factualness". He said the State government had submitted the requirement and pro-



Instead of airing misleading statements, the Centre should point out lacunae on Kerala's part, if any. We are ready to rectify any anomaly

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
Kerala Chief Minister

jected financial outlay for recovery and rehabilitation in the mandated format within three months of the catastrophe.

Mr Vijayan said Mr Shah had "misled" Parliament in the immediate aftermath of the landslides by alleging without any factual basis that the Kerala government's alleged fail-

sion, and the Geological Survey of India. Mr. Vijayan said the agencies had raised no cautionary red flags of an impending natural disaster in Wayanad.

Mr. Vijayan said the Centre had discriminated against Kerala since the catastrophic floods in 2018. In contrast, it had shown open-handed generosity to other States.

"Kerala is not against other States getting the Centre's disaster aid. But, we are also a people and State in the Union. Instead of airing misleading statements, the Centre should point out lacunae on Kerala's part, if any. We are ready to rectify any anomaly," he said.

Maharashtra leaders condemn Karnataka's action against Marathi speakers in Belagavi

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Maharashtra has been claiming administrative rights over the 865 villages in Bidar, Belagavi, Karwar and Kalaburagi districts of Karnataka since 1966

Leaders from various political parties in Maharashtra, including Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray, on Monday denounced the "repressive measures" employed by the Karnataka police against Marathi-speaking people in the border areas. Our fight for a unified Maharashtra, including Belagavi and Nipani, will continue until it becomes a reality," the Chief Minister asserted.

The protests coincide with the winter session of the Karnataka Assembly, which began on Monday, at

and restricted the entry of leaders from Maharashtra into the State.

Mr Fadnavis condemned the Congress government's actions during a statement in the Legislative Council.

"The Maharashtra government firmly stands with Marathi-speaking people in the border areas. Our fight for a unified Maharashtra, including Belagavi and Nipani, will continue until it becomes a reality," the Chief Minister asserted.

The western State has been claiming the administrative rights over the 865

villages in Bidar, Belagavi, Karwar and Kalaburagi districts of Karnataka since 1966. The matter is currently under the consideration of the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, Mr. Thackeray called for Belagavi to be declared a Union Territory, stating, "Marathi-speaking people in Belagavi are being oppressed. The previous 'unconstitutional' Chief Minister had promised additional funds for Marathi speakers in the disputed territory. What happened to that promise?" he questioned.

15 more days sought to file Sambhal mosque report; Muslim side objects

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The court commissioner appointed to conduct a survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal on Monday said the report will be filed in the next 15 days.

The report of the survey, ordered in response to a petition alleging that the Mughal-era masjid was built after demolishing a temple, was expected to be submitted on Monday. However, the advocate assigned to the task requested an additional 15-day extension citing ill health. The Muslim side in the case has raised objections to the commissioner seeking an extension.

"I had asked for 15 days' time from the honourable court. But the application has been marked 'keep on file' because the Supreme Court has issued a stay that the lower court will not pass any order... we will submit our report within 15 days," advocate Ramesh Singh Raghav told reporters.

Advocate Shakeel Ahmed Warsi, representing the Muslim side, said the commissioner sought 15 more days to which he raised objections in writing. "The honourable court did not give them any time. Today, the report has neither been filed nor will it be filed," Mr. Warsi said.

Advocate Zafar Ali, chairman of the mosque's management committee and also representing the Muslim side, said the survey report will be presented in a sealed cover.

Following the violence during the survey that left four persons dead on November 24, the Supreme Court has ordered the trial court to halt the survey and the proceedings in the case, till the petition filed by the Masjid Committee against the survey order is listed in the Allahabad High Court. The court also directed that the survey report should be kept in a sealed envelope.

**Office of the Principal
Government Polytechnic, Nawada**
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E-mail: principalgpawada@gmail.com; Website: www.gpawada.org
Tender Notice No.: 09/2024-25
Urgent Tender Notice: INVITING e-TENDER for
"Equipments for Civil Engineering Lab & Consultancy Work in the Premises of
Government Polytechnic, Nawada"
(Through e-Procurement mode only on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

The detailed e-Tender document contained in following sections has been prepared to elaborate all techno-commercial conditions of this tender. In case of any discrepancy between the press advertisement and detailed provisions of this Tender Document, the later will prevail. For any further changes (if any, based on feedback/queries and pre-bid meeting) in this tender document, please see its updated version/corrigendum on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in. The press e-Tender Notice will be published by Information and Public Relation Department, Government of Bihar, Nawada.

1. Government Polytechnic, Nawada has been constituted under the Department of Science, Technology and Technical Education, Government of Bihar to cater to the needs of technical education. The Government Polytechnic, Nawada intend to invite bids from eligible entities supply of Machines and laboratory Equipment's for Civil Engineering in the Institute Premises as mentioned in the tender document.
2. The contract will be signed between Government Polytechnic, Nawada and the successful agency/bidder.
3. To participate in the e-tendering process, the bidder/agency is required to get themselves registered with eproc2.bihar.gov.in.
4. Bidder may also download the tender document available from eproc2.bihar.gov.in and submit the tender by using the downloaded document.
5. The Government Polytechnic, Nawada will select the bidder based on Least Cost Selection (LCS) method for supply of Machines and Laboratory Equipment's for Civil Engineering in the Institute Premises.
6. The tender shall be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of 10000/- (One Lakh rupees only) in the shape of Demand Draft from any Schedule Bank in favour of Government Polytechnic, Nawada.

Schedule of Events:

| S.N. | Event Description | Timeline |
|------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7.1 | RFP No. & Date | No-09/2024-25, Date-03/12/2024 |
| 7.2 | Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 100000/- |
| 7.3 | Bid Validity Period | 180 Days |
| 7.4 | Pre-Bid Meeting | 18/12/2024, Office of the Principal, Government Polytechnic Nawada, At+PO-Khanwan, PS-Narhat, Dist.-Nawada at 11.00 AM |
| 7.5 | Bid Submission Start Date | 14/12/2024 at 11.00 AM on the eproc2.bihar.gov.in |
| 7.6 | Bid Submission End Date | 23/12/2024 till 5.00 PM on the eproc2.bihar.gov.in |
| 7.7 | Last Date & Time of Downloading the RFP | Till 23/12/2024, upto 5.00 PM on the eproc2.bihar.gov.in |
| 7.8 | Submission of EMD | Offline By Demand Draft in Favour of "Principal, Government Polytechnic Nawada" on 23/12/2024 till 05.00 PM |
| 7.9 | Opening of Technical Bid | 24/12/2024 on the eproc2.bihar.gov.in |
| 7.10 | Opening of Financial Bid | After Evaluation of Technical Bid on eproc2.bihar.gov.in |
| 7.11 | Method of Selection | Least Cost Selection (LCS) |
| 7.12 | Contact Person | Principal, Government Polytechnic, Nawada Mobile: 8252958485 Email: principalgpawada@gmail.com |

Principal, Government Polytechnic, Nawada reserves all the right to revise/change/cancel the tender without assigning any reasons thereof.

For further details please visit www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
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PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Hamren Road Circle, Hamren on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for, "Construction of Road from Amkhalam to Morten under Special Grant to KAAC for the year 2024-25 (Length =2.00Km) for a total amount of Rs. 108,95279 Lakhs (approx) in the Amri (ST) LAC of Assam Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

**Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads),
Hamren Road Circle, Hamren**
Janasanyog /CF/2588/ 24/10-Dec-24

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Dy. CME/Works, for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur- for and on behalf of President of India invites tender through on-line E-Single Tender for the following work:- S.No. 1. E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No.-34-GKP-MWS-2024-25* "Conversion of Humsafar coaches from rake formation type FSDS to stand alone type FSDS with braking feature coaches Sanrok make as per BO RSP LAW book No. 711/24-25 in Allocation-CAP". Estimated Cost (in ₹): ₹60,51,040/- Ernest Money (in ₹): ₹1,21,000/- Cost of the Tender Forms: Zero; Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00; Date: 07.01.2025. Period of Contract: 12 Months. The details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway website "<http://www.irspg.gov.in>".

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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(as per Rule 81 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Saraswat Co-op. Bank Ltd., under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, has taken Symbolic Possession of the following property described herein below in terms of the said Act. The public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Saraswat Co-op. Bank Ltd. for an amount of 20,06,693.64 (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Six Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Three and Sixty Four Paisa Only) as on 28/08/2024 along with further interest and other charges as applicable.
Description of the Secured Asset:
Property Address:
All that premises lying being and situated at Property number, b-31/2, Second Floor, without Terrace rights, Sarai Jullena, Yatra, Mahashiv Ratri, Krishna Janashtami, Durga Puja, Ganesh Visharjan, Deepawali, Chhhatpuja etc. in area of E&M-2, Noida. Cost Rs. 64.53 Lacs.
**Superintendent, PWD (Roads),
Hamren Road Circle, Hamren**
Janasanyog /CF/2588/ 24/10-Dec-24



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (UP)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <http://etender-upn.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments/ & corrigendum etc.

(A)

1. 35/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET, Annual Maint. of Community Center, Authority Building at Sec-19,20,27,28,56,56,66,68 Vill-Garhi Chaukhandi, Noida. Cost Rs. 43.45 Lacs.

2. 33/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET, Temporary Lighting arrangement for Various National Festival and Ramnili, Noida Diwas, Kanwadi, Yatra, Mahashiv Ratri, Krishna Janashtami, Durga Puja, Ganesh Visharjan, Deepawali, Chhhatpuja etc. in area of E&M-2, Noida. Cost Rs. 64.53 Lacs.

3. 48/GM (E&M)/S.M./E-M-III/24-25, providing 30Mtr/16Mtr High Mast Light in the ground Opposite of Sai Apartment Sector-71, Noida (as per demand of SHO Phase-III sector-71, Noida). Cost Rs. 58.02 Lacs.

4. 49/GM (E&M)/S.M./E-M-III/24-25, Annual Maintenance and Repairing of 12.5 Mtr./16Mtr./30Mtr. High mast in Sector-14, 15, 16, 15A, 16A, 17, 28, 29, 37, 30, 31, 36, 96, 98, 99, 100, 107 and DSC Road, MP2 Road upto Film city flyover, Hajipur Road, Noida. Cost Rs. 36.26 Lacs.

5. 22/GM (E/M)/Sr.M (E/M)-IV/2024-25, Providing Street Lighting arrangement on Service Road of JP Aman Sector-153, Noida. Cost Rs. 53.16 Lacs.

Which can be uploaded by date:-23.12.2024 Upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:- 24.12.2024 at 11.00 AM.

(B)

1. 15/GM (E/M)Sr.M (E/M)-IV/2024-25, Construction of 11 KV Overhead Line in Sector-149, Noida. Cost Rs. 47.23 Lacs.

can be uploaded by date:-16.12.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:- 17.12.2024 at 11.00 AM.

*Mahatma Gandhi Surya Sagar

51. 2024/25/ET, Construction of 11 KV Overhead Line in Sector-149, Noida. Cost Rs. 47.23 Lacs.

52. 2024/25/ET, Construction of 11 KV Overhead Line in Sector-149, Noida. Cost Rs. 47.23 Lacs.

53. 2024/25/ET, Construction of 11 KV Overhead Line in Sector-149, Noida. Cost Rs. 47.23 Lacs.

54. 2024/25/ET, Construction of 11 KV Overhead Line in Sector-149, Noida. Cost Rs. 47.23 Lacs.

55. 2024/25/ET, Construction of 11 KV Overhead Line in Sector-149, Noida. Cost Rs. 47.23 Lacs.

56. 2024/25/ET, Construction of 11 KV Overhead Line in Sector



Government of Rajasthan



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Places and worship

Supreme Court hearing may decide future of secularism in India

A special Bench of the Supreme Court of India, headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, will begin hearing on December 12 a batch of petitions that question the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, a law that freezes the status of places of worship in the country as on the day of its independence and bars suits that seek to alter such status. It is no exaggeration to say these petitions pose a virulent challenge to the survival of secularism. The outcome may well decide the trajectory of communal relations and the future of secular thought in the country. The 1991 Act does have some exemptions: it did not apply to what was then the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, which ended in favour of the Ram temple. Nor does it apply to monuments, sites and remains covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. It will also not apply to any suit that has been finally settled or disposed of, any dispute that has been settled by the parties before the 1991 Act came into force, or to the conversion of any place that took place by acquisitio. The challenge has come in the backdrop of a renewed attempt through motivated litigation by some Hindu organisations and devotees to target mosques such as the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, the Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura and the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, among others. Any order that strikes down or dilutes the 1991 law is likely to have a malign influence on these proceedings.

The petitions highlight the demolition of temples by invaders in the past and contend that many mosques have been built on their ruins. The Places of Worship Act, they claim, legalises such depredations, and also violates the right of Hindus and other communities to reclaim their places of worship through legal proceedings. It also violates the right to practise and propagate religion and manage and administer places of worship. Ironically, they also contend that the Act goes against the principle of secularism, which would surely stand to be undermined if their attempts to reclaim these sites succeed. Fortunately, there are some clearly established principles in favour of the Act. In its Ayodhya judgment, a five-member Bench observed that the law "imposes a non-derogable obligation towards enforcing our commitment to secularism". It also called it a "legislative intervention that preserves non-retrogression as an essential feature of our secular values". For the present, it does not seem likely that the Court will depart from the Constitution's secular vision and Parliament's mandate against misusing judicial fora to remedy historical wrongs.

Paradigm shift

Syria needs to be free of its societal fissures and religious militias

The regime of Bashar al-Assad has fallen in Syria. The Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a former arm of al-Qaeda that had rebranded itself, is now the most powerful force in the country. Between a secular dictatorship that collapsed like a house of cards and a surging group of militants with a menacing recent past lies the present and future of 23.5 million Syrians. Eight years ago, Mr. Assad seemed to be winning the civil war. He had recaptured most of the lost territories, with help from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah. A tense calm prevailed as militants holed themselves up in the tiny northwestern region of Idlib. In the southeast, the Kurds enjoyed limited autonomy, but bought peace with Damascus. Syria was readmitted into the Arab League. Gulf monarchs, who once funded the anti-Assad militancy, embraced him. But his victory was hollow, as he relied on external allies for security. His army, which fought years of civil war, was in bad shape. Under crippling U.S. sanctions, the government's finances were in a shambles. The country never recovered from the scars of the civil war. To tackle dissent, the regime turned up repression, widening the social schisms.

However, what made Mr. Assad's dramatic fall on December 8 possible were factors beyond his direct control. After the Israel-Hamas war broke out in 2023, Israel has carried out air strikes in Syria, which weakened its armed forces. Israel's war against Hezbollah substantially limited the Lebanese outfit's ability to continue to help Mr. Assad. Iran, which lost officers in Syria, also took a step back, while Russia has been preoccupied with the Ukraine war. The weakening and distraction of the alliance provided the HTS, backed by Turkey, a golden opportunity. And it took just 12 days for the HTS, and other militias, to reach Damascus as the regime army melted away. With Mr. Assad gone, Syria has an opportunity to build a new future. But the key actors of change are far from promising. The HTS wants to turn Syria, a diverse country with Sunnis, Alawites, Christians, Shias and Druze, into an Islamic state. The Syrian National Army, a sidekick of the HTS, is a Turkish proxy. In the south, there are numerous local militias. It is to be seen whether the winners of the civil war are going to unite under a national flag or, as in the case of the post-Communist Afghanistan or post-Qadhafi Libya, going to start a new one. A desirable outcome would be the establishment of a transition government, a disarming of the militias and the laying of the foundations of an inclusive new republic. But given Syria's tumultuous history, societal fissures, and the ideological and programmatic characteristics of the militias, a likelier outcome would be more chaos and instability. That is the tragedy of Syria.

Confirming the adage that the victor takes all, the stunning victory achieved by Donald Trump in the 2024 United States presidential election has transformed perceptions of him across the globe. There is much reference to him being the most consequential American President since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and of defining a new political era for America and the world. Similar hyperbolic statements have been made to the effect that following his latest victory, 'the world lies at Trump's feet'.

President-elect Trump is an enigma, and may remain so even after he takes office. Whether he would fit the description of being an iconoclast remains to be seen, but he is known to challenge 'cherished beliefs or venerated institutions on grounds that they are erroneous or pernicious'. Having also taken control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the incoming President seems unstoppable.

With few restraints remaining, speculation is rife about what he may do, including whether he could strike a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin, over Ukraine, impose still greater burdens on Iran to bring down the temperature in West Asia, and find ways and means to rein in Israel.

What the foreign policy outlook might be
It appears almost certain that Mr. Trump's foreign policy priorities would be Europe, West Asia and China. Mr. Trump has been openly critical of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and even more so of Europe's pusillanimous attitude to defence issues, but this does not mean that he will be ready to sacrifice Ukraine to ensure peace in Europe. His approach is also unlikely to be transactional in nature and, hence, giving up on Ukraine for ensuring peace in Europe appears highly unlikely. Mr. Trump would, however, expect Europe to contribute far more towards its defence, but is again unlikely to raise the stakes still higher, to avoid Ukraine turning into a conflict that implicitly takes on the character of a third world war.

The incoming President's approach to the West Asia crisis is likely to be still more circumspect, notwithstanding speculation to the contrary. While both Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have sought to ingratiate themselves with him, Mr. Trump is unlikely to be taken in by such manoeuvres. Anyone who is familiar with Mr. Trump's thinking and his family business dealings, would know what his priorities are likely to be and where they lie. On what specific terms Mr. Trump would agree to a *modus vivendi*



M.K. Narayanan
a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

in West Asia is still in the realm of speculation, but prolongation of the conflict is Israel's terms appears highly unlikely.

There is much greater certainty in what Mr. Trump's approach and attitude towards China would be. China heads the list of Mr. Trump's 'enemies', followed by North Korea and Iran, with Russia bringing up the rear. It is certain that as President, Mr. Trump would raise the stakes as far as China is concerned on economic and trade issues, including tighter export controls, and raising tariffs on Chinese exports to unprecedented heights. He is, however, likely to avoid any rash actions, conscious of the fact that China's Peoples' Liberation Army has been steadily preparing to confront the U.S. for quite some time and cannot be easily trifled with. The U.S. is also aware that China is known to possess the world's largest hypersonic arsenal, having missiles that can fly and manoeuvre at more than five times the speed of sound. China may be Mr. Trump's enemy number one, but this is no reason to think that he would resort to any rash moves, that may well lead to a wider conflagration.

Taiwan would remain a potential flash point. Nevertheless, like Sumo wrestlers, the U.S. under Mr. Trump and China under President Xi Jinping are more likely to test the ground reality, before embarking on a conflict that will not stop with Taiwan, the Pacific region or East Asia. Existing U.S. alliances with nations in Asia and Australasia are certain to be strengthened, and already established links with Australia, Japan and South Korea would be further intensified. Yet, as President, Mr. Trump is unlikely to act as a guarantor of peace across the region, and one to be paid for by the U.S. exchequer. Notwithstanding the impatience that he displays at present, there will be certain limits as far as his actions as President are concerned.

Ties with New Delhi
Among the more important countries across the world, there is every reason to believe that Mr. Trump would be inclined to view India more favourably than others. There are several reasons for this. The personality of Mr. Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are in many ways not dissimilar; both demonstrate a 'no nonsense' approach to issues and problems and also appear to see them through a common prism. Both are powerful leaders who do not allow their political aides and others to change or alter the trajectory of their beliefs under any circumstances. Their dislike for China is visceral, and people in India are not likely to forget that in the wake of the Galwan incident in June 2020 (in which India lost

20 soldiers), Mr. Trump as U.S. President at the time appeared to support India.

Capping the relationship between Mr. Trump, then President, and Mr. Modi was the 'Namaste Trump' event (in February 2020) in Ahmedabad. The event which attracted over a lakh of people was, perhaps, the largest gathering for a foreign leader visiting India. On this occasion, Mr. Modi had hailed Mr. Trump as a 'true friend of India' and a leader who was reshaping geopolitics.

During Mr. Trump's previous tenure, both he and Mr. Modi seemed to arrive at a common understanding on issues and concerns affecting the Asia-Pacific region. Little has changed since. If anything, the emphasis on cooperation between the two countries in defence, trade and counter-terrorism has only increased. On his previous visit to India as President, Mr. Trump had made a specific mention of the \$3 billion military deal that existed between the two countries.

As incoming President, Mr. Trump is certain to be gratified that one of his first acts would be to sign a \$1.17 billion deal for equipping MH-60R helicopters. He would also be happy that India has firm up its relationship with the Quad (comprising Australia, Japan, the U.S. and India), which is perceived as an anti-China alliance, even though India does not per se share the view that it is a security alliance.

Mr. Trump, has also endeared himself to many Indians and the Indian establishment by making common cause with India over the plight of the Hindu minority in Bangladesh, who are facing a great deal of hostility from sectarian Islamic entities in that country, and who had forced former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee the country. This has further helped build an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship which will stand the two countries in good stead.

The role of technology

On the economic plane, India enjoys a slight advantage in terms of balance of payments, but this is nothing compared with what exists today between China and the U.S. In the case of U.S.-India relations, technology is certain to be a cementing rather than a divisive factor. Silicon Valley, which has a sizeable contingent of Indian tech entrepreneurs, could well serve as a vanguard to cement the relationship, quite contrary to the case of China. If innovation and dynamism is expected to be the hallmark of the new Trump Administration – with Elon Musk and others driving it – then the U.S.-India technological relationship is well set to approach the take-off point. India-U.S. relations will follow suit.

In energy-dependent world, the issue of food security

Addressing food insecurity and energy poverty is central to achieving global stability, but tackling these issues independently is no longer sufficient," warns the World Bank in its latest report on climate and development. The intertwined crises of food and energy security are defining the trajectory of the 21st century, casting a long shadow over global stability. Both systems are under siege – food production is strained by climate change, population growth, and inequality, while energy systems face geopolitical tensions, outdated infrastructure, and the slow transition from fossil fuels. Yet, their interconnectedness presents an even greater challenge: agriculture, a lifeline for humanity, is both a significant energy consumer and a contributor to climate change. As the world teeters on the edge of multiple tipping points, can we truly address one without confronting the other?

Dependency on carbon-intensive energy
Agriculture consumes nearly 70% of global freshwater resources and is responsible for over 20% of greenhouse gas emissions. Its dependence on fossil fuels – for mechanisation, irrigation, fertilizer production, and transportation – has created a vicious cycle of environmental degradation. This reliance also exposes food systems to energy price shocks, threatening global stability. Rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns further disrupt agricultural output, putting the livelihoods of 2.5 billion people at risk. Between 2020 and 2023, nearly 11.8% of the global population faced severe food insecurity, a figure projected to rise to 956 million by 2028.

Renewable energy investments reached \$500 billion in 2022, but fossil fuel consumption remains robust due to short-term economic and geopolitical pressures. Nations such as the United States, Brazil, and Guyana continue to expand oil and gas production, prioritising exports and domestic energy security. This ongoing dependency on carbon-intensive energy exacerbates the vulnerability of global food systems, particularly in regions with limited



Anupama Sen
associated with the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO), University of Sussex



Amit Mitra
with the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi

access to reliable energy. Energy poverty reveals sharp global inequities. Low-income countries account for a small fraction of global energy demand but suffer disproportionately from supply disruptions. Extreme weather events frequently damage energy infrastructure in regions where power grids are already unreliable. In rural areas, energy deficits hinder agricultural productivity, leading to higher food prices and deepening poverty. In sub-Saharan Africa, per-hectare fertilizer usage remains far below the global average, contributing to food insecurity despite \$1.9 billion spent on fertilizer imports by the top 10 African importing countries in 2021 – more than double the amount in 2016.

Agriculture's reliance on fossil fuels further highlights its vulnerability. Natural gas, critical for fertilizer production, is both a feedstock and an energy source, with 80% of it used for ammonia synthesis and 20% powering the process. Volatility in natural gas prices directly impacts fertilizer costs and global food prices.

Geopolitical actions, such as China's 2021 ban on phosphate fertilizer exports, disrupt agricultural supply chains. India, which imports 60% of its diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizers,

experienced significant delays during critical cropping seasons, exposing its vulnerability to external shocks.

Renewable energy offers a glimmer of hope, but its deployment remains uneven. High-income countries installed 83% of new renewable capacity in 2022, leaving low-income nations reliant on outdated, carbon-intensive systems.

While solar-powered irrigation and biomass energy solutions could transform agriculture, high costs and inadequate infrastructure limit their reach. The transition risks bypassing those who need it most.

Demands on agriculture

Meanwhile, agriculture is being increasingly burdened with competing demands. Beyond feeding a growing population, it is expected to support the global energy transition by producing biofuels. This dual role often pits food security against energy needs, as biofuel production requires vast land and water resources. In a world

where nearly 12% of the population faces hunger, is prioritising energy over food morally defensible? The financial costs of addressing food and energy insecurity are substantial yet achievable. The World Food Security Outlook estimates that ensuring basic caloric needs for the world's most vulnerable populations will require \$90 billion annually until 2030. Tackling malnutrition among women and children demands an additional \$11 billion per year, while transforming global food systems could cost \$300 billion-\$400 billion annually – just 0.5% of global GDP. However, for low-income nations, these costs are staggering, with food insecurity expenses in some cases surpassing 95% of GDP.

The implications of inaction are dire. Food insecurity is projected to cost the global economy trillions in lost productivity and adverse health outcomes. Climate-induced energy disruptions threaten to destabilise entire regions, driving social unrest and mass migration. For example, Africa's mineral wealth, essential for renewable technologies, is often extracted without benefiting local economies, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment.

Need for inclusivity

Despite record investments in renewables, fossil fuel expansions continue unabated. Every delay compounds the human, environmental, and economic costs, narrowing opportunities for a resilient future. Clean energy solutions must address structural barriers to inclusivity, ensuring that the most vulnerable communities are not left behind.

Ultimately, the twin crises of food and energy insecurity challenge global priorities. The solutions are within reach, but they require a fundamental shift in perspective. Agriculture must be reimaged as both a source of sustenance and a cornerstone of sustainable development. Failure to act will create the risk of pushing millions into hunger and undermining global climate goals. As the clock ticks, the question remains: will the world rise to meet the moment?

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parliament or battlefield?

Even though Parliament is one of the tallest democratic institutions of the country, with a mandate to debate policymaking and national progress and represent the will of the people, it has increasingly become synonymous with disruptions and pandemonium to the

dismay of conscientious citizens of the country. While the Opposition has increasingly been using disruptions as a tool to stall the government's agenda, the government has been stalling proceedings to scuttle discussion on issues raised by the Opposition. It is time parties across the political spectrum ensure

that Parliament does not become a battleground for political rivalry. There is a need to prioritise the nation's interests over short-term political gains.

M. Jeyaram,

Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Any hope of having peaceful parliamentary sessions lies shattered. In the tussle over

'Adani' and 'George Soros', matters of concern are being totally ignored. What is at stake is the very future of our parliamentary democracy. Brandishing pocket editions of the Constitution means nothing. Both sides across the aisle have to change from behaving like street fighters to becoming

respectable and responsible representatives of the people who voted them to power. The ruling party has to be less arbitrary in the use of its majority and recognise the merit of "give and take". When it comes to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, there is a yawning gap in terms of attitude,

experience and political maturity. It would take a deep sense of statesmanship on both sides to recognise their obligation to act in the national interest.

T.C. Narayan,

Bengaluru

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

Indians need the right to disconnect

Soon after death of an EY employee in September, allegedly due to work pressure, MP Shashi Tharoor had said that he would raise the issue in Parliament. He said that "inhumanity at the workplace must be legislated out of existence." A recent report by *The Hindu* reveals that Indian women in professional jobs, such as auditing, Information Technology, and media, work more than 55 hours a week. The working hours vary for those who belong to the marginalised sections of society and work in the unorganised sector. According to a study by ADP Research Institute, 49% of Indian workers said workplace stress negatively impacts their mental health. As French politician Benoit Hamon said, "Employees physically leave the office, but they do not leave their work. They remain attached by a kind of electronic leash like a dog. The text, the messages, the emails colonise the life of the individual to the point where he or she eventually breaks down".

Right to disconnect laws
Such tragic incidents, research, and statements highlight how the right to disconnect is an important right. It allows employees to disconnect from their employer outside of working hours. The Labour Chamber of the French Supreme Court ruled in 2001 that an employee is under no obligation to work from home or take home files and working tools. This decision was subsequently confirmed by the Cour de Cassation (the highest court in the French judiciary), which said, "The fact that [the employee] was not reachable on his cell phone outside working hours cannot be considered as a misconduct". Portugal has a Right to Disconnect law, which makes it illegal for employers to contact employees outside working hours, except in emergencies. Similarly, according to Article 88 of the Organic Law 3/2018 on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of

**Rajesh Ranjan**

Lawyer and researcher and former co-convenor, Constitutional law Society, National Law University, Jodhpur

Digital Rights in Spain, "Public workers and employees shall have the right to switch off devices in order to guarantee that, outside of legal or conventionally established working hours, their time off, leave and holidays are respected, in addition to their personal and family privacy, with the aim of promoting a good work-life balance". This year, the Australian Parliament passed the Fair Work Legislation Amendment, which gave employees the right to disconnect from work outside of working hours. Ireland has also recognised the right to disconnect for employees.

Where does India stand?

India does not have specific laws recognising the right to disconnect from work. However, the Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy, and various judicial pronouncements have spoken of the right to work in a conducive and healthy environment. Article 38 of the Constitution mandates that "the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people". Article 39(e) of the Directive Principles of State Policy directs the state to direct its policy towards securing the strength and health of its workers. The Supreme Court, in *Vishakha v State of Rajasthan* (1997), ruled that sexual harassment at the workplace violates fundamental rights, recognised the right to dignity at the workplace, and issued guidelines to ensure that there is a safe working environment for women and gender equality. In *Ravindra Kumar Dhariwal and Ors v. Union of India* (2021), the Court read Article 14 to include ideas of inclusive equality to reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said that an employer must consider an employee's individual differences and capabilities. In *Praveen Pradhan v. State of Uttarakhand* (2012), the High Court of Uttarakhand held that "under the pretext of administrative control

and discipline, a superior officer cannot be left to enjoy extreme liberty to make the intense humiliation and scolding inhumanly in front of all the subordinate staff members for a little lapse." Despite the clear recognition of the right to dignity at the workplace and a direction for employers to be sensitive towards mental health concerns, and also laws that fix accountability in the case of breaching working hours, violating dignity is unfortunately common in Indian workplaces.

Prolonged working hours

In 2018, MP Supriya Sule introduced a Private Member Bill in the Lok Sabha, which delineated the right to disconnect from work after working hours. The bill included the provision of a penalty of 1% of the total remuneration of all employees to be paid by companies for noncompliance with its provisions. However, in recent years, there has been no significant legislative effort to recognise employees' right to disconnect from work outside working hours or to impose a duty on employers to be mindful of employee well-being and avoid overworking them. Research by *Harvard Business Review* shows that working prolonged hours causes stress, coronary heart diseases, and impacts overall health. Contrary to the widespread belief that overworked human beings bring in productivity, research by the University of Oxford in collaboration with British multinational telecoms firm BT found a conclusive link between happiness and productivity. Therefore, employers need to take into account psychological factors while dealing with employees. In its march towards becoming the third largest economy by 2030, India must recognise that the right to disconnect will increase productivity and ensure the growth and well-being of both employees and employers.

India must recognise the right to disconnect will increase productivity and ensure the overall growth and well-being of employees and employers

An onerous task in Odisha

After the initial euphoria, the BJP government confronts legacy problems

STATE OF PLAY

Satyasundar Barik
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The Mohan Majhi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government ascended to power with the promise of transforming Odisha's image, which has long been associated with poverty and backwardness. During the election campaign earlier this year, the party had accused former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik of failing to uplift a large section of population living below the poverty line.

Some events in the State in recent months show that promises are easier made than implemented. In November, three women died after consuming gruel made of mango kernel, a traditional food preserved by tribal communities for times of food scarcity, in Kandhamal district. In the last month or so, four women have sold their newborns, unable to provide for them amid acute poverty. These are stark examples of why Odisha is often cited as an underdeveloped State and remind the new government of the challenges that lie ahead.

These incidents have been reported in the past too. In 2001, in Rayagada district, 24 tribal people had died after eating gruel made of mango kernel. In the 1980s, Odisha had grabbed international headlines when a woman in Kalahandi district sold her 14-year-old sister-in-law to buy food, signalling the State's deep-rooted poverty.

Since the oath-taking ceremony on June 12, the new BJP government has fulfilled four major poll promises: initiating payment of ₹50,000 to every woman between the ages of 21 and 60, increasing the mini-

mum support price for paddy to ₹3,100, opening all the four doors of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri, and increasing the monthly pensions to the elderly and to the disabled to ₹3,000. This is largely because the new government enjoys the financial means to fulfil its promises.

Over the past 24 years, Odisha's financial health has undergone a remarkable transformation: the State has shifted from a revenue-deficit economy to a revenue-surplus one, driven by prudent fiscal management and substantial revenue from its rich mineral resources.

However, the deaths of the women and the sale of the babies caused embarrassment to the party. The BJP blamed the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which was in power for 24 years, for alleged misgovernance. However, Opposition parties hit back at the BJP, arguing that its claims of being new to governing Odisha cannot absolve it of all responsibility. Mr. Patnaik stated that his government's efforts of providing food to the tribal communities had been rendered futile, as the "BJP government had abruptly halted subsidised rice supplies for tribal communities".

The BJP has also not been able to do much to tackle alleged corruption. During the election campaign, the saffron party had talked about deep-rooted corruption in the BJD government. In his recent statements during the winter

session of the State Assembly, the Odisha Chief Minister slammed the previous government saying jobs were provided in lieu of bribes. Six months have passed since the party came to power, but the new government has not ordered an investigation into any of the corruption cases that the BJP had highlighted. On the contrary, two Indian Police Service officers who were accused of meddling in the Assembly elections on behalf of the BJD were swiftly reinstated. Political observers point out that this shows lack of decisiveness on part of the new government.

There has also been no significant shake-up in the bureaucracy, which would help the BJP move away from the governance model of the previous BJD government.

The BJP government faces an uphill task in improving many key indices. The latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India states that the overall vacancy of specialist doctors in the State was 49% and 40% for medical officers as of March 2022. In the case of staff nurses and nursing officers, 30% posts were vacant. The human resources available in hospitals across the State did not meet the Indian Public Health Standards. The doctor to population ratio was 1:1,622 against the World Health Organization requirement of 1:1,000.

Steering a government on the path of development is far more difficult than shouting slogans from the gallery. The BJP government faces the difficult task of overturning Odisha's unfortunate legacy of poverty, unemployment, and terrible public infrastructure. It is important that it stays focused on ensuring steady and effective governance in the State.

India used 114 mg of antibiotics for every kg of meat in 2020

Of the 190 countries for which the data was collected, India ranked 30th in terms of antibiotic usage in animals

DATA POINT

Hannah Ritchie
Fiona Spooner

For humanity, antibiotics are a huge blessing. Antibiotics have saved millions of lives from bacterial infections. However, there is growing concern that these bacteria will become resistant to the drugs we use against them.

When we think about antimicrobial resistance, we often focus on what drugs humans take. We might not even consider the use of antibiotics in livestock, but they also pose a threat.

In fact, much more antibiotics are given to livestock than to humans. Researchers previously estimated that, in the 2010s, around 70% of antibiotics used globally were given to farm animals. While there hasn't been an update of these figures in the last few years, it's likely that more antibiotics are still used in livestock than humans.

Overusing antibiotics in livestock increases the risk of disease in animals and humans in several ways. First, antibiotics are often used as a cheap substitute for basic animal welfare practices, such as giving animals enough space, keeping their living environments clean, and ensuring that barns are well-ventilated. A failure to maintain hygienic conditions on farms increases the risk of disease for both livestock and humans.

Second, the overuse of antibiotics can also increase the risk of bacteria that are resistant to treatment. That threatens the health of the animals but can also be a risk for humans for crossover diseases.

Finally, humans can be exposed to resistant pathogens by eating contaminated meat and dairy products.

One of the key challenges in understanding the extent and risks of antibiotic resistance in livestock is the lack of transparent data sharing from countries. Of course,

comparing the total amount of antibiotics given to cows, sheep, pigs, and chickens would be unfair. Cows are bigger than chickens, so we would expect them to need more antibiotics for the same impact. So, researchers compare antibiotic use in units adjusted for the size of animals – usually as the number of milligrams used per kilogramme of meat product.

Chickens tend to receive the least antibiotics. You can see this in **Chart 1**: they receive about seven times less than sheep and five times less than pigs. Cows also receive less than pigs and sheep.

Antibiotic use is measured in milligrams per kg of animal product. Sheep have the highest usage at 243 mg, followed by pigs at 173 mg, cattle at 60 mg, and chickens at 35 mg.

One of the reasons why antibiotics are used in lower quantities in chickens is that they are killed at a much younger age. Fast-growing breeds reach their "slaughter weight" at around 42 days, so they are often slaughtered when they are just 40 to 50 days old. Since their lifespan is shorter, they consume fewer antibiotics. Pigs are usually slaughtered when they are around five to six months. The fact that intensive livestock get far more antibiotics than animals raised outdoors is one reason why cows tend to get less antibiotics than pigs.

Of course, the exact amount of antibiotics given varies across countries. Researchers Ranya Mulchandani and colleagues estimated antibiotic use across the world based on the best available data, as well as extrapolations for those countries that don't release data.

Map 2 shows antibiotic usage in livestock per kg of meat in 2020. Asia, Oceania, and most of the Americas use a lot of antibiotics. Europe and Africa, in blue, tend to use less than 50 mg per kg. For instance, India used 114 mg of antibiotics in livestock per kg of meat in 2020, compared to 4 mg in Norway – 30 times less. Of the 190

countries for which the data was collected, India ranked 30th in terms of antibiotic usage in animals. There are a few reasons why these differences are so large.

The first one is affordability and access: farmers in Africa, for example, have less access, just like they have less access to other farming inputs, such as fertilizers.

Another reason is the differences in regulatory and industry norms regarding antibiotic use. Antibiotic use has dropped significantly in Europe, partly due to regulation.

Finally, the most popular types of livestock make a difference. As we saw earlier, sheep and pigs tend to receive far more antibiotics than cattle or chickens, even after adjusting for their size. That means countries that raise many pigs would tend to use more antibiotics. More than half of Thailand's meat supply is in the form of pig meat. In China, it is two-thirds. That's more than the global average of one-third.

Some countries have reduced antibiotic use a lot. Antibiotics can play an important role in preventing disease and illness in animals. This is no different from humans. So, removing them completely is not necessarily the best option.

The key is to use them more effectively: changing farming practices to reduce antibiotic use where it's in excess or using antibiotics in smaller quantities when it is needed. Many antibiotics given today are not used to prevent disease but to promote growth and increase meat more efficiently.

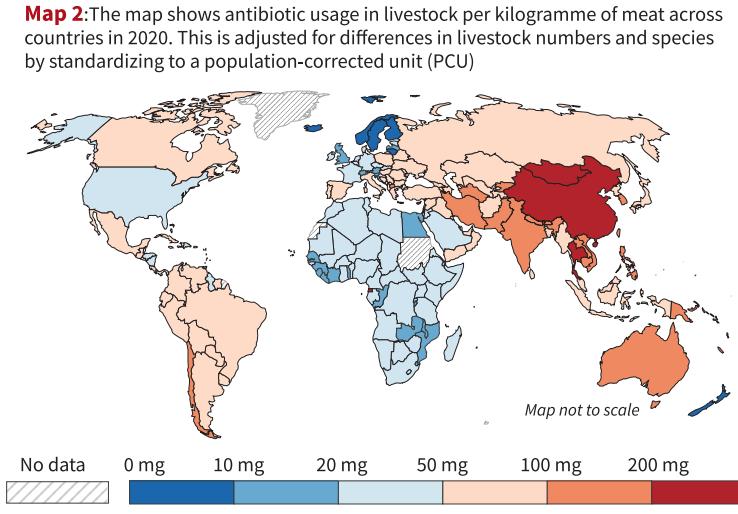
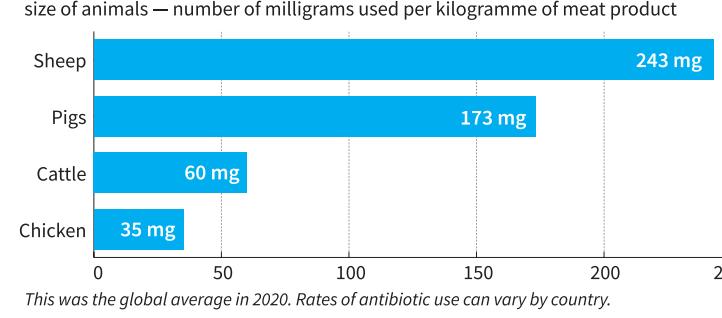
We know countries can reduce antibiotic use while maintaining healthy livestock sectors because some countries have already achieved rapid reductions. Between 2011 and 2022, sales of veterinary antibiotics fell by more than half across several European countries. The use of antibiotics considered critically important in human medicine also fell by half, with some specific drugs falling by 80% to 90%.

Bitter pill to swallow

The charts are sourced from "Large amounts of antibiotics are used in livestock, but several countries have shown this doesn't have to be the case" published online at OurWorldInData.org



This was the global average in 2020. Rates of antibiotic use can vary by country.

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE DECEMBER 9, 1974 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON DECEMBER 10, 1974

Thant laid to rest in mausoleum built by students

Rangoon, Dec. 8: The body of U Thant, former U.N. Secretary General, was buried this afternoon at a site chosen by students in defiance of his relatives who wanted him buried elsewhere in the city.

U Thant, who died of cancer in New York on November 26 at the age of 65, was laid to rest in a hastily-constructed mausoleum near the former Students Union Building, demolished during student riots in 1962.

Earlier in the mornings, the body, draped in a U.N. flag, was taken from the convocation hall in a procession of monks and students to the burial site. While people shuffled past the coffin, placed on a specially erected dais topped by golden umbrellas, the students decided by voice vote to go ahead with their burial plans.

In a final mark of respect the students observed a minute's silence and then raised the coffin over their heads for the mourners to see amid shouts of "victory, victory".

While the body was being buried, thousands of Burmese had lined another funeral route to a mausoleum which the Burmese leader's relatives had built near the Shwedagon Pagoda, the country's most sacred Buddhist shrine, in the heart of Rangoon.

The mausoleum, built by the relatives with the help of the Burmese authorities, lies beside the tomb of Burma's grand old man of politics, Thakin Kodaw Hmaing.

The students had seized U Thant's body on Thursday in front of 50,000 mourners, shortly before it was due to be buried at a public ceremony because they wanted a more fitting funeral and a special mausoleum in his honour.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 10, 1924

The Amrit Mahal cattle

It was from a Palegar conqueror that Tippu Sultan obtained the Amrit Mahal breed of cattle in Mysore, and that warrior prince maintained the purity of the breed with the greatest care till Seringapatam surrendered to the British. The cattle in Mysore were so excellent that the British military authorities were not altogether oblivious of the breed for dragging cannons and stores over difficult country.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of new faces in AAP's second list of candidates

18 The Aam Aadmi Party released its second list of 20 candidates for the upcoming Delhi assembly polls, dropping 18 sitting MLAs and moving two others, including senior leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, to new seats. Mr. Sisodia will now contest from Jangpura. PTI

Retail inflation for farm workers in the month of October

5.96 In per cent. Retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers eased to 5.96% and 6%, in October from 6.36% and 6.39% in September. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers registered an increase of 11 points in October. PTI

Bihar's abysmal sex-ratio at birth in 2022-23

894 The Bihar government is alarmed over the State's abysmal "sex ratio at birth" (SRB), and has decided to strictly implement measures for checking female foeticide. The SRB — the number of female births per 1,000 male births — has been declining in the State. PTI

Number of people killed in Haiti's capital due to gang violence

184 The UN rights chief said that 184 people had been killed over the weekend in the Haitian capital, rocked by a spike in gang violence. The violence was orchestrated by the leader of a powerful gang in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, in the Cite Soleil area. AFP

The increase in India's copper demand in the fiscal year of 2024

13 In per cent. India's copper demand grew by 13% annually to hit 1,700 kilo tonnes in FY24, driven by the rapid pace of infrastructure development and building constructions, the International Copper Association India said on Monday. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On reforms in merchant shipping

Have the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, and the Coasting Vessels Act, 1838 failed in addressing the contemporary needs of the merchant marine sector? What are some of the international maritime conventions that India has ratified? Will the new Bills address maritime training and education as well?

EXPLAINER

Amitabh Kumar

The story so far:

The Government is preparing to introduce several significant bills aimed at driving much-needed reforms in the shipping industry. Key among them are the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 and the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, both of which promise to bring transformative changes to boost the sector.

Why a new bill?

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, and the Coasting Vessels Act, 1838, which the new bills aim to repeal, have become outdated and fail to address the contemporary needs of the merchant marine sector. Significant regulatory gaps exist, particularly for vessels operating in the offshore sector which comprise nearly 50% of Indian-flagged vessels. Furthermore, maritime training was liberalised allowing private sector participation, yet there is no legal framework in the existing Act to regulate their activities effectively.

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, also restricts seafarers' welfare provisions to Indian-flagged ships, despite 85% of the 2,80,000 active Indian seafarers working on foreign-flagged vessels. Additionally, the Act lacks enabling provisions for implementing certain international conventions that India has signed or plans to ratify. Crucially, the outdated, license-era provisions of the Act have become a roadblock to modernising maritime administration, which needs to transition from being a mere regulator to a regulator-cum-facilitator, thereby promoting the 'ease of doing business.'

What are the features of the Merchant Shipping Bill?

The Merchant Shipping Bill introduces significant changes to modernise India's maritime framework, drawing upon the best practices of leading maritime jurisdictions like the U.K., Norway, and Singapore. Some of the key reform measures include:

i) Ease of registration: the existing law restricts vessel registration to entities with 100% Indian ownership. The new Bill proposes significant reforms to attract foreign investment. It also reduces the ownership threshold for Indian citizens/entities from 100% to 51%, enabling more flexibility. It allows Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) to own and register Indian vessels. This is in line with the law of the U.S. where Green card holders are permitted to own American flagships or Singapore law where permanent residents can own ships of their flags. It also permits foreign entities to hold shares in Indian vessels while ensuring majority ownership remains with Indian entities, NRIs, or OCIs.

Additionally, the Bill allows the registration of vessels chartered by Indian entities under the bareboat charter-cum-demise, enabling entrepreneurs to acquire ownership of vessels at the end of the charter period. This provision, particularly beneficial for capital-deficient entrepreneurs, facilitates entry into the shipping industry without upfront investment.

India is the second largest ship recycling centre after Bangladesh, and the ship recycling industry practises the concept of cash purchase of the vessel before it is brought for demolition. Often



Quick change: Catamaran boats pass by a merchant navy ship anchored off Visakhapatnam. FILE PHOTO

it becomes difficult for cash buyers to register the vessels for their final voyage, as they no longer remain 'seaworthy'. To address challenges faced by the ship recycling industry, the Bill introduces provisions for temporary registration of vessels destined for demolition. This measure is expected to bolster activities at India's ship recycling hubs like Alang.

ii) Enlarging the scope of vessels: the existing Act regulates only mechanised ships (engine-fitted vessels) above a certain size, leaving smaller mechanised vessels and all non-mechanised vessels outside its ambit. This regulatory gap has allowed many vessels to operate without adequate oversight. India's offshore drilling sector gained prominence in 1974 when Sagar Samrat, a merchant vessel designed for exploratory offshore drilling, drilled the first well in Bombay High. Since then, the offshore sector has employed a diverse range of mechanised and non-mechanised vessels, such as accommodation barges, work barges, submersibles, and drones. However, these vessels remain either unregulated or inadequately regulated under the current framework, exposing the sector to operational and safety risks.

The new Bill seeks to address this issue by expanding the definition of 'vessels' to uniformly include a wide range of crafts, including submersibles, semi-submersibles, hydrofoils, non-displacement crafts, amphibious crafts, wing-in-ground crafts, pleasure crafts, barges, lighters, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs), and Mobile Offshore Units (MOUs), whether mechanised or not. This definition is expected to enhance transparency and ensure comprehensive regulatory oversight in the offshore sector.

Furthermore, the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, which exploited gaps in maritime security, underscored the urgent need for stricter regulation of all categories of vessels. By empowering authorities to issue instructions to all types of vessels, the new Bill aims to strengthen coastal

security, making India's coastline safer and more secure.

What about marine pollution?

The Government has recently undertaken several initiatives to minimise pollution from shipping activities. Some of the measures include reducing the sulphur content in marine fuel from 3.5% to less than 0.5%, banning the use of single-use plastics on Indian ships, and launching the online portal 'Swachh Sagar' to facilitate the proper disposal of ship-generated waste at Indian ports.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted several conventions aimed at preventing and combating marine pollution, such as the Civil Liability Convention (CLC), the Convention on Limitation of Liability on Maritime Claims (LLMC), the Bunker Convention, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and the Wreck Removal Convention. The existing law, however, has either omitted or partially implemented these conventions. The new Bill fully incorporates these international conventions, aligning India's maritime regulatory framework with global standards. This comprehensive approach reinforces India's commitment to combating marine pollution and safeguarding the maritime environment for sustainable shipping practices.

What are provisions for seafarers? The remarkable growth in the number of Indian seafarers employed on foreign-flagged ships over the last 7-8 years stands out as one of the biggest success stories in Indian merchant shipping. The workforce has grown from 1,16,000 in 2015-16 to 2,85,000 today, with nearly 85% of these seafarers serving on foreign-flagged vessels.

However, the existing Act lacks provisions for the welfare and safety of this vast workforce working on foreign-flagged vessels. The proposed Bill addresses this gap by extending the scope

of welfare measures initiated by the Union government to include Indian seafarers working on foreign-flagged ships as well. Furthermore, it seeks to extend the protections and benefits outlined in the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) to all Indian seafarers, ensuring better working conditions, safety standards, and support systems for those contributing to the global maritime industry.

What about maritime training?

Under Entry 25 of List I (Union List) of the Constitution, the Union Government is responsible for the education and training of the mercantile marine and the regulation of such education and training provided by States and other agencies. In the past, maritime training was primarily conducted by government-run institutions directly under the administrative control of the maritime regulator, the Director General of Shipping. Consequently, there was no need for a specific legal framework to regulate these institutions.

However, following economic liberalisation, maritime training was opened to the private sector. Today, over 160 maritime training institutes operate across the country, yet their activities are governed solely by rules, government orders, and notifications rather than an enabling legal framework. This regulatory gap has allowed unauthorised institutes to operate without obtaining proper approvals, making it challenging for the maritime administration to take action against offenders.

The proposed Bill seeks to address this significant anomaly by introducing clear legal provisions for regulating maritime training in line with the constitutional mandate. This step is expected to eliminate illegal maritime training institutes and associated fraudulent practices, which often exploit unsuspecting rural youth, while ensuring the delivery of high-quality, standardised maritime education nationwide.

Is there a focus on coastal shipping?

The Government has taken a significant step by distinguishing between the technical regulation of ships and the commercial utilisation of Indian coastal waters, removing provisions related to the latter from the Merchant Shipping Act. These aspects, including licensing, permissions for operations along the Indian coast and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), creation of a coastal plan involving the Union and States, and the integration of inland and coastal shipping, have been incorporated into the proposed Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024. This focused approach aims to foster growth and development of the Indian coastal sector.

The move aligns with the Government's flagship 'Sagarmala' program, which emphasises the promotion of coastal shipping through initiatives like dedicated berths for coastal vessels and enhanced hinterland connectivity for coastal cargo movement. Infrastructure development and a robust regulatory framework must progress simultaneously, making the introduction of the Coastal Shipping Bill both timely and essential.

Maritime development, like any developmental initiative, should remain bipartisan and above party politics. By fostering investment, enhancing safety, combating marine pollution, and supporting seafarers' welfare, the proposed reforms promise to unlock the true potential of India's maritime sector.

Amitabh Kumar is Former Director General Shipping, Government of India. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 introduces significant changes to modernise India's maritime framework, drawing upon the best practices of leading maritime jurisdictions like the U.K., Norway, and Singapore.

Under Entry 25 of List I (Union List) of the Constitution, the Union Government is responsible for the education and training of the mercantile marine and the regulation of such education and training provided by States and other agencies.

The Government has recently undertaken several initiatives to minimise pollution from shipping activities. Some of the measures include reducing the sulphur content in marine fuel from 3.5% to less than 0.5%, banning the use of single-use plastics on Indian ships etc.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



In remembrance: Priest Olivier Ribadeau Dumas leads the Eucharist during a mass open to the public at the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, in Paris, France, on December 8. REUTERS

A dialogue with our fragile past: the importance of historical memory

The world needs to look differently at its historical memory and the cultural heritage which embodies it. The large fire that broke out in Paris and which consumed a part of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in 2019, is a grim reminder that centuries of heritage can be destroyed in minutes

Ramin Jahanbegloo

On December 7, the Notre Dame de Paris or the Cathedral of Notre Dame was re-opened after a massive fire destroyed its roof and spire five years ago in 2019. In this article, dated April 20, 2019, Ramin Jahanbegloo explains the importance of historical memory and why it is imperative to preserve it, however fragile.

It is only after our heritage is destroyed, in natural disasters and conflicts, that we realise how fragile historical memory is – even for a globalised period of history like ours. The large fire that broke out in Paris on Monday and which consumed a part of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, is a grim reminder that centuries of heritage can be destroyed in minutes. Of course the French people can rebuild the physical structure and in this enterprise they will be certainly supported by the vast wealth of Europe, America and others, made possible by centuries of industrialisation and capital accumulation. But rebuilding the Notre-Dame de Paris does not mean that we can necessarily renew its original spirit – of blocks of sandstones which narrate their own geological and social history. Undoubtedly, for over 800 years, the cathedral has been the driving force behind the eternal return of Paris as the ‘Heart of the World’.

Repository of history

As a powerful spiritual symbol of

Christian faith, it counts many treasures, such as the crown of thorns, which are believed to have been placed on Jesus Christ's head. Joan of Arc was beatified in the cathedral in 1909, after her execution for heresy in 1431.

And, for more than three centuries, Notre-Dame has stood as a symbol of political change in France. During the French Revolution, its treasures were plundered.

However, as seen in the famous painting of Jacques-Louis David, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself emperor of France at Notre-Dame in 1804. Other famous political ceremonies of the 20th and 21st centuries in France, such as the liberation of Paris from Nazi occupation in 1944, the farewell to Charles de Gaulle in 1970, and a requiem mass in tribute to François Mitterrand in 1996, took place in the Notre-Dame Cathedral.

Last but not least, for nearly nine centuries, Notre-Dame has been at the centre of French and world literature. We all remember Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* (1831) with the cathedral as its central plot. Hugo's multiple references to the architecture of the Cathedral are breathtaking and stupefying.

Strangely, it is as if Hugo was present at the fire, when he described flames in the cathedral (when Quasimodo uses fire and stones to attack Truands in order to save Esmeralda): “All eyes were raised to the

top of the church. They beheld there an extraordinary sight. On the crest of the highest gallery, higher than the central rose window, there was a great flame rising between the two towers with whirlwinds of sparks, a vast, disordered, and furious flame, a tongue of which was borne into the smoke by the wind, from time to time.”

Even for those of us who are not religious and yet believe in the cathedral as a spiritual home and a monument in glory of the human creativity, the horrific fire destroying this Gothic edifice has been a moment of tragedy and despair. Time might have been the devourer of Notre-Dame as Hugo wrote in his novel, but humanity has long been the enemy of its own heritage.

Spirit of freedom

As a matter of fact, what was important for Hugo, as for many other writers and intellectuals of his time, was the spirit of freedom represented by Notre-Dame.

As he put it clearly, “There exists in this era, for thoughts written in stone, a privilege absolutely comparable to our current freedom of the press. It is the freedom of architecture.” Hugo is right. To feel the spirit of Notre-Dame, as that of Paris, one needs the freedom of a flâneur.

One needs to allow one's gaze to be further absorbed by the play of light upon a meaningful stone that remained alive after a catastrophe.

Without the stones of Notre-Dame,

these aesthetic compasses, we would never be able to take our responsibilities in the world. If we want to be at home in this century, even at a price of living in a topsy-turvy world, we must try to take part in a dialogue with our fragile past. We need to educate our senses and to look differently at our historical memory and the cultural heritage which embodies it.

For centuries, humanity has witnessed the destruction of its historical memory, and each time a new door to our common fate is closed forever. We all believe that this should not happen anymore. But it does happen, and we cannot reconcile ourselves with it. None of us can.

However, within this horizon of despair, which manifests itself in the fragility of human history, there is a moral horizon that expresses a love of humanity in spite of its brokenness. Heritage, therefore, expresses a joy of witnessing the past despite the sadness of historical destruction. It is this joy of witnessing the past that becomes an awareness of our landscape of memory. This awareness is the strongest evidence of the victory of peaceful coexistence between the past and the present. Those who fail to see it, forget to make a prayer that one day the organ pipes of Notre-Dame of Paris will once again reverberate through the sanctuary.

Ramin Jahanbegloo is Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace, Jindal Global University, Sonipat

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on computer programmes on the birth anniversary of Ada Lovelace, the first computer programmer

Vighnesh. P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1

What is Lovelace's algorithm commonly called?

QUESTION 2

What is Lovelace's algorithm used to calculate?

QUESTION 3

Which unfinished device was Lovelace's algorithm written for?

QUESTION 4

While Lovelace wrote the first computer program, who is the first person to programme an electric computer?

QUESTION 5

What is the first computer virus?



Visual question:

How is this comedy troupe related to computer programmes? GETTY IMAGES

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

1. This military leader of Iran's elite Quds Force played a major role in training fighters in support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Ans: Qassem Soleimani

2. The name the Syrian Kurds call the de facto autonomous region in northeastern Syria. Ans: Rojava

3. Name the rebel force that was trained by the U.S. and is composed of Syrian Arab Army defectors. Ans: Syrian Free Army or Revolutionary Commando Army

4. The ethno-religious group Bashar al-Assad is affiliated to and the stream of Islam it is an offshoot of. Ans: The Alawites: Shias

5. This intellectual is considered a major influence in the development of the Ba'athist movement. Ans: Michel Aflaq

Visual: Name this individual. Ans: Abu Muhammad al-Jolani

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Basavaraj Metti| Tito Shiladitya| Bharath Viswanathan| Jose Joji



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

‘Why do the Australians call the English ‘limeys’?’

“Because the English drank a lot of lime juice.”

“Lime Juice! Oh stop joking. I want a serious answer.”

“I am giving you a serious answer. You see, during the late 18th century, the British navy made its sailors drink a lot of lime juice.”

“But why?”

“As protection against scurvy.”

“What’s that?”

“It’s a disease which is due to lack of vitamin C. You see during the early days of sea travel, sailors didn’t get a balanced diet. Since it wasn’t possible to store things like fruit and vegetables on ships, many sailors had vitamin C deficiency.”

“So in order to increase the vitamin C intake, the British navy asked its sailors to drink lime juice. Is that it?”

“That’s right. And since all English sailors drank the stuff, the Australians contemptuously referred to them as ‘lime-juicers’. Later, it was reduced to ‘limey’.”

“So the word ‘limey’ originally referred to an English sailor?”

“Yes, but later on it began to be applied to all Englishmen.”

“I see. So the people of a country are called something because of something that they drank?”

“Happens all the time. Just look around you. People are often called something because of what they eat or drink. The Germans, for example, are contemptuously called ‘Krauts’. The ‘au’ in the word is pronounced like the ‘ou’ in words like ‘out’ and ‘about’.”

“Kraut! I think I’ve got that. But what does it mean?”

“It’s a German word meaning ‘cabbage’.”

“A German is referred to as a ‘cabbage’! But why?”

“Because they eat a lot of ‘sauer kraut’, that is ‘sour cabbage’. The Germans love their sour cabbage. And as for the French...”

“...ah, yes! The French. They are supposed to love good food. I’m sure they’re called something that... that tastes delicious.”

“Do you think ‘frogs’ taste delicious?”

“The French are called frogs! That must make them hopping mad. But why, frogs?”

“Because the French have a great reputation for eating frogs. Similarly, the Latin American has a reputation for eating beans, so he’s often called a ‘bean eater’ or ‘beamer’. The Italian is called a ‘macaroni’, the Dutch ‘butter box’..”

“...Stop! Stop!”

“You don’t like any of these culinary insults?”

“I don’t. Can we change the topic?”

“Certainly. But don’t you want to know what Indian women are sometimes called in America?”

“Is it another culinary insult?”

“No, it isn’t.”

“Then tell me.”

“The Indian woman is sometimes referred to as a ‘dot head’.”

“Dothead! Why? Because some of our women wear a bindhi?”

“Exactly.”

Published in *The Hindu* on May 10, 1994.

Word of the day

Fulgent:

shining intensely

Synonyms: blazing, blinding, dazzling, glaring

Usage: The fulgent starlight cast hard shadows on the landscape.

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fʌl'dʒənt/, /'fʊl'dʒənt/

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

From Page One**Govt. stable, says Syria PM amid Israeli strikes**

The Kremlin said Russia had granted political asylum to Mr. Assad, a decision made by President Vladimir Putin. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov declined to comment on Mr. Assad's specific whereabouts and said Mr. Putin was not planning to meet with him.

Damascus was quiet on Monday, with life slowly returning to normal while most shops and public institutions were closed. In some areas, small groups of armed men were stationed in the streets.

Mr. Jalali, who remained in his post after Mr. Assad and most of his top officials vanished over the weekend, has sought to project normalcy. "We are working so that the transitional period is quick and smooth," he told Sky News Arabia TV.

The militants, meanwhile, said they would guarantee personal freedoms and would not impose Islamic dress on women.

Misri airs 'concerns' over safety of minorities

"At the same time, we also had the opportunity to discuss certain recent developments and issues, and I conveyed our concerns, including those related to the safety and welfare of minorities," he said in a statement at the end of the consultation with the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary.

Addressing the Indian side, Mr. Jashim Uddin conveyed concerns of the interim government regarding the December 2 "violent incident on the premises of Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala".

"On the issues of minorities, he emphasised that Bangladesh government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of the people of Bangladesh irrespective of their faiths, religions and ethnicities and that it is an internal matter of Bangladesh," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Mr. Misri, who was accompanied by Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma and other officials, said, "We also discussed some regrettable incidents of attacks on cultural, religious and diplomatic properties." He reached out to the stakeholders in Bangladesh and said, "India desires a positive, constructive, and mutually beneficial relationship with Bangladesh." He termed India-Bangladesh relation as a "people-centric and people-oriented relationship" that is reflected in the development projects that have been carried out "on the ground in Bangladesh".

Reservation must not be based on religion: SC

The court had asked the State to respond to allegations that no meaningful consultations were held by the State with the West Bengal Backward Classes Commission before the designation of these communities as OBCs.

The court had also asked West Bengal to include details of whether consultation was done while sub-classifying these castes for the purpose of reservation. "The State shall clarify the nature of the survey and material in its possession which led to the inclusion," the apex court had said.

The High Court judgment had impacted five lakh OBC certificates issued in the State since 2010. The High Court had, however, clarified that its judgment would not impact individuals who had already secured employment using the OBC certificates issued since 2010. It had struck down portions of the West Bengal Backward Classes (Other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) (Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012.

Among the Sections nullified were Section 16, the second part of Section 2(h), and Section 5(a) of the Act, which distributed reservation percentages of 10% and 7% to sub-classified categories. Consequently, the sub-classified categories OBC-A and OBC-B were removed from Schedule I of the Act.

'Give details of damaged properties amid clashes'

Mr. Mehta submitted that the State's first priority was to contain the violence and then to retrieve the arms and ammunition. "We will file the details," Mr. Mehta said.

Senior advocate Vibha Makhija, appearing for the Justice Gita Mittal panel appointed by the apex court to monitor rehabilitation in the State, highlighted that blockages were affecting the recovery.

Mr. Mehta said there were circumstances in the State which should be dealt with without aggression. A lawyer referred to an application filed by people displaced by the violence in the Northeastern State. The Solicitor General said such grievances could be placed before the Justice Mittal Committee.

A lawyer submitted that violence in the State had not ended, and the situation was getting "worse and worse".

One of the counsel appearing in the case said the court must ask the State for details of the "total quantum of weapons recovered".

Mr. Mehta said the State was ready to give the information but urged the court not to record the fact in the order.

After Assad's ouster, India calls for inclusive political process in Syria

New Delhi says all parties in the country must 'work towards preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria'; experts say India must pay close attention to events both inside Syria and its borders with Israel, Turkiye, and Iraq

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India on Monday called for a peaceful and inclusive political process in Syria to find a resolution to the dramatic turn of events after President Bashar al-Assad fled to Russia and militant groups claimed control of the capital, Damascus.

The events took New Delhi by surprise, given that the Ministry of External Affairs had hosted Foreign Office Consultations with Syrian officials less than a fortnight ago.

As the Ministry issued its first formal reaction to the end of the 50-year-long Assad family rule, which India has historically had close ties with, experts warned that New Delhi must watch for the spillover effects of the regime-change across West Asia.

"We are monitoring the situation in Syria in the light of on-going developments," the Ministry said in a statement, calling for all parties in the



Mystery trail: Rescuers search for hidden basements at Saydnaya jail in Damascus, synonymous with atrocities of Assad's rule. AFP

country to "work towards preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria".

"We advocate a peaceful and inclusive Syrian-led political process respecting the interests and aspirations of all sections of Syrian society," it added, given rising concerns that the new regime in Syria may target minorities, including the Alawites, Druze, Kurds, and Christians. On December 6, India had issued an advisory

telling Indians to avoid travel to the country.

Mr. Assad's ouster came as armed fighters belonging to the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), originally set up in 2011 as the al-Qaeda and Islamic State-affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra group, led by Saudi Arabia-born rebel commander Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, captured Aleppo, Homs, and Hama, eventually overrunning the capital Damascus on Saturday.

On Sunday, Mr. Jolani,

dressed in battle fatigues, entered the 1,300-year-old Umayyad mosque in the centre of the city, vowing that the changes would write a "new history for the region". He accused the Assad regime of allowing Iran to dominate the country.

"For India, Syria has been a keystone of the regional architecture, and any abrupt and fundamental change in its internal polity is bound to have a seismic impact in the region," said Gautam Mukhopadhyay at the Centre for Policy Research.

Mr. Mukhopadhyay, a former Ambassador to Syria, said India must pay close attention to events both inside Syria and its borders with Israel, Turkiye, and Iraq.

"Any instability radiating from Syria will affect everything in the Gulf region that is important for India, from energy security to trade and business, to the fate of Indian nationals employed in the region, especially if Israel takes its

offensive towards Iran," he added.

According to Mr. Mukhopadhyay, the collapse of the Syrian Army in the past few days had been even more unexpected than what happened in Afghanistan, where the Taliban claimed power in 2021.

Significantly, India and Syria had held their sixth round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on November 29.

Delegations led by the Joint Secretary of the External Affairs Ministry and the Syrian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates had discussed bilateral cooperation with special focus on pharmaceuticals, developmental partnership, and capacity building.

"India and Syria enjoy warm and friendly relations based on historic and civilizational ties. India has been a keen developmental partner for Syria and is also actively involved in capacity building of the Syrian youth," the MEA release had said.

Approach EC to enact POSH Act in political parties: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday asked a petitioner seeking application of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, or the POSH Act, of 2013 in political parties, to first approach the Election Commission of India.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Manmohan was hearing a petition filed by a Supreme Court lawyer, Yogamaya M.G., represented by senior advocate Shobha Gupta and advocate Sriram Parakkat, for a judicial declaration that political parties were bound to comply with the POSH Act, including the constitution of an Internal Complaints Committee.

Justice Kant said the Election Commission was the "competent authority" as far as political parties were concerned.

The court said in case the petitioner's concern was not addressed effectively, she could move the appropriate judicial forum in accordance with law.

Frigate INS Tushil commissioned into Indian Navy in Kaliningrad

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and Russia will enter a new era of cooperation by taking advantage of each other's expertise in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, space exploration and counter-terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday at the commissioning of the stealth guided missile frigate INS Tushil at Kaliningrad, Russia.

"Made in India content is continuously increasing in many ships including INS Tushil. The ship is a big proof of the collaborative prowess of Russian and Indian industries. It exemplifies India's journey towards technological excellence through jointmanship," he said at the commissioning ceremony.

INS Tushil is an upgraded Krivak III class frigate of Project 1135.6 of which, six are already in service –



Rajnath Singh during the commissioning ceremony of stealth guided missile frigate INS Tushil in the Baltic port of Kaliningrad, Russia.

three Talwar class ships, built at Baltiysky shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three follow-on Teg class ships, built at Yantar shipyard, Kaliningrad. All Krivak frigates are powered by engines from Zorya Nashproekt of Ukraine.

INS Tushil, the seventh in the series, is the first of the two additional follow-on ships under construction in Russia. In October 2016, India and Russia signed a deal for four

stealth frigates, two to be built in Russia and two to be constructed at Goa Shipyard Ltd. under technology transfer.

The second frigate T-

mal is expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy in Russia in the first quarter of next year. The construction saw repeated delays initially due to COVID-19 and then the war in Ukraine.

"Our Navy has foiled the designs of piracy, arms and

drug smugglers and non-state actors in various hotspots. From the Gulf of Oman to the Gulf of Aden, from Suez to Malacca & from Australia to Madagascar, the Indian Navy is playing the essential role of a net security provider in IOR. India, along with its friendly countries, believes in ensuring that maritime trade in the region remains safe and secure, thereby promoting unhindered trade across the sea."

As a first responder, the Indian Navy is always prepared to provide quick and timely humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to its friends in the region, Mr. Singh said.

INS Tushil is designed for blue water operations across the spectrum of naval warfare in all four dimensions air, surface, underwater and electromagnetic. It is armed with a range of advanced weapons, the Navy said in a statement.

SC refuses petition to clear blockades by farmers on highways

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea directing the Centre and authorities to immediately clear blockades on National and State highways in Punjab, where farmers are staging protests.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant said there were already similar petitions pending in the court, and it did not want another one to add to the numbers. "We are already examining the larger issue. You are not the only conscience-keeper of society," Justice Kant addressed petitioner Gaurav Luthra, who claimed to be a social activist in Punjab.

The court also refused Mr. Luthra's request to tag the petition with the pending matter. In August, the court had advised statesmanship and empathy on



Tents of farmers at the Shambhu border in Patiala, Punjab, on Monday.

the part of the government while reaching out to protesting farmers who had blockaded the Shambhu boundary between Punjab and Haryana.

At the time, the Bench headed by Justice Kant was considering the prospect of opening up the Shambhu boundary between Punjab and Haryana.

The court also refused Mr. Luthra's request to tag the petition with the pending matter. In August, the court had advised statesmanship and empathy on

SC grants permanent commission to woman Army officer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Supreme Court of India.

stand of the respondents in this case would result in the court putting its imprimatur on an "unreasonable stand" adopted by the authorities.

The court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a woman officer, who is posted as Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army Dental Corps at Agra, challenging a January 2022 order of the Armed Forces Tribunal Regional Bench, Lucknow.

It said that accepting the

National Food Security Act still driven by figures from 2011 Census, lawyer tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday orally remarked that a long-term response to problems of food security was to generate employment, even as advocate Prashant Bhushan said the National Food Security Act (NFS) continued to be driven by figures from the 2011 Census.

Mr. Bhushan argued that the calculation of food grains distributed to States by the Centre under the NFS banked on a census carried out over 13 years ago. Meanwhile, the pandemic had happened.

The court was hearing a *suo motu* case on food security, especially for migrant workers. The case was originally based on petitions filed by activists An-



The National Food Security Act had 81.35 crore beneficiaries, the Centre said. K.K. MUSTAFAH

jali Bharadwaj, Harsh Mandar and Jagdeep Chhokar, represented by Mr. Bhushan, seeking directions to the Centre and States to ensure food security, cash transfers, and other welfare measures for distressed migrant workers during the second wave of the pandemic.

During the court hear-

2 Trinamool Cong. workers murdered in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Two Trinamool Congress workers were murdered in two different incidents in West Bengal on Sunday.

One worker, Bishnupada Mondal, was killed in Nandigram following a clash that erupted during cooperative elections.

Mr. Mondal's family and Trinamool workers allege that BJP workers attacked him at his home and murdered him using a sharp object.

Local Trinamool workers protested by blocking roads in multiple places.

Another Trinamool worker, a panchayat ward member, Nuruddin Halder, was killed in South 24 Parganas' Kulpi. Local Trinamool MLA Yogarajan Halder said Mr. Nuruddin was stabbed and shot to death over local disputes.

LS adjourned in a blink; scene no different in RS

'Consensus' reached a week ago to let Parliament function remains a non-starter; both Houses witness tumult over BJP allegation linking the Congress and the U.S. billionaire George Soros

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI



Both Houses of Parliament failed to function on Monday over the alleged links between U.S.-based businessman George Soros and the Congress, and issues related to the Adani Group.

Exactly a week ago, on December 2, the ruling and Opposition sides had reached an agreement to let Parliament function, reaching a consensus on holding a discussion on the Constitution in both the Houses.

However, on December 5, when the alleged links between Mr. Soros and the Congress were raised by the Treasury benches in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, acrimony returned.

On Monday, as soon as the Lok Sabha convened for the day, Opposition members were on their feet, raising various issues. Speaker Om Birla responded by adjourning the proceedings within a minute.

"Question Hour is significant. Allow the House to function properly. The country wants the House to run. You are disrupting

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar listens as Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge speaks in the House on Monday. ANI

the proceedings of the House," Mr. Birla said adjourning the Lok Sabha till noon.

Similar scenes played out when the House reassembled at noon, with Congress MPs trooping into the Well, shouting slogans. While Samajwadi Party (SP) members joined them in the Well soon, MPs of the Trinamool Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) stood in the aisle and protested.

Finally, at 3 p.m., Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav attempted to reply to a debate on the Railways Amendment Bill, but Mr. Birla adjourned the Lok Sabha for the day.

The Rajya Sabha witnessed two adjournments in the morning session

with members of the Treasury benches demanding a discussion on what they termed a "national security issue".

The Upper House witnessed disruptions in the afternoon as well, and was adjourned for the day.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar invited the Leader of the House, J.P. Nadda, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, to his chamber to iron out the differences.

As soon as the House resumed, Mr. Dhankhar said he had received 11 notices under Rule 267, including from Sanjay Kumar Jha of the Janata Dal(U), a constituent of the ruling National Democratic Alliance, on "rising threats to

national security due to alleged nexus between a political party and some organisations working against India".

Discussion on all the notices, including the one alleging links between Congress leaders and Mr. Soros, were declined by the Chairman, but when the same issue was raised by Laxmikanth Bajpai of the Bharatiya Janata Party during Zero Hour with the permission of the Chair, Congress members raised objections.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh objected to Mr. Bajpai's remarks. "When the Chair had rejected notices under Rule 267, the issues mentioned therein should not be allowed to be raised," he said.

Mr. Nadda said BJP members were agitated over an issue that involved Congress leaders and wanted a discussion.

Mr. Kharge objected to the conduct of the Treasury benches in disrupting the proceedings when it did not suit them.

Mr. Dhankhar is scheduled to meet Mr. Nadda and Mr. Kharge at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

U.S. State Department should clarify allegations over OCCRP, says BJP MP

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI



Major reveal: BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi speaks in Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday said the allegations made by the party on the U.S. State Department with regard to the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) was based on a report by French publication *Mediapart* and that it was up to the U.S. State Department to clarify.

"In this context, during our presser on this issue, we had quoted a media report by a French publication, published in Sarajevo, in which it was made clear that the OCCRP project was funded partially by the U.S. State Department and by George Soros. It is, therefore, incumbent on them [U.S. State Department] to clarify whether what has been said in the report is correct or not," Rajya Sabha member Sudhanshu Trivedi said.

"Therefore, the U.S. State Department should clarify whether or not they are involved in such activities and if they are not, then they should withdraw their support from such OCCRP organisations," he said.

He added that "the last

election was the only election in the history of India, where for the first time a foreign government had alleged interference in our electoral process, it was the Russian government that had made those allegations, in the middle of our Lok Sabha polls."

The BJP has been raising the issue of deep state and other actors trying to destabilise the Modi government after a media report on the OCCRP and its activities was published by *Mediapart*.

Response statement
The U.S. State Department on Saturday issued a statement as a response to the BJP's allegations.

"It is disappointing that the ruling party in India would make these kinds of accusations," said the State Department as a response to BJP's accusations.

Though the Opposition has been mulling about such a move for the last several months, the immediate provocation was the decision by the Chair to disallow Opposition leader Mallikarjun Kharge to speak soon after Leader of the House J.P. Nadda spoke accusing the Congress of destabilising the country with the help of U.S. billionaire George Soros.

The constitutional provision provides for the removal of Vice-President, also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, from his office "by a resolution of the Council of States passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council and agreed to by the House of the People.

Centre may introduce simultaneous election Bill

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Keen to hold wider consultations on the proposed Bills to implement simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, Assemblies and local bodies, the Union government may bring these Bills as early as the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, a government source said on Monday.

The source said once the Bill, or a set of Bills, is introduced in Parliament, it is likely to be referred to a joint committee of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha for extensive consultations.

The government is keen to consult the Speakers of various Assemblies through parliamentary committees.

Though the Union Cabinet had accepted the recommendations of former President Ram Nath Kovind-led high-level committee to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner, the Cabinet is yet to approve the proposed Bills.

INDIA leaders protest over Manipur, demand Shah's resignation, Biren's sacking

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI



Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi addresses a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Monday, demanding peace in Manipur. ANI

The leaders from Manipur included senior office-bearers, MLAs, and MPs of the Congress in the State. Joining them were office-bearers of the Aam Aadmi Party, Shiv Sena (UBT), and Nationalist Congress Party (SP).

Most leaders at Monday's protest belonged to the Meitei community.

Alfred Kanngam Arthur, Lok Sabha member for Outer Manipur of the Congress, was not able to attend the protest because of "health reasons", Th. Lokeshwar Singh, the party's chief whip in Manipur said.

No Kuki-Zomi-Hmar leader was present.

Several other Opposition leaders from across the country also attended the protests, including Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi and Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D. Raja.

In a statement by the INDIA bloc on Manipur, the leaders said they "solemnly declare" to work together "irrespective of caste, creed, community, and ethnicity to strengthen the bond of love and unity and integrity of Manipur for peaceful coexistence without enmity and hatred".

BJP spreading 'fake news', says French media house

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Days after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused the U.S. State Department of fomenting disaffection against the Government of India, the French news outlet *Mediapart*, which the ruling party had cited while making the allegations, said on Sunday that the party was spreading "fake news" using its reports.

In a statement, the publisher and director of *Mediapart*, Carine Fouteau, said, "Mediapart firmly condemns the instrumentalisation of its recently published investigative article about OCCRP by the Bharatiya Janata Party of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in order to serve BJP's political agenda and attack press freedom."

"There are no facts available supporting the conspiracy theory promoted by the BJP," the director of *Mediapart* said while expressing solidarity with "courageous Indian and international journalists who report and investigate in India."

Rahul interviews 'Adani' and 'Modi' as Congress presses on with collusion charge

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with Opposition MPs during a protest at the Parliament premises on Monday. ANI

Rejecting the Bharatiya Janata Party's allegations that its leadership is colluding with U.S. investor George Soros to destabilise India, the Congress on Monday targeted the Narendra Modi government for "protecting" industrialist Gautam Adani even at the cost of risking relations with another country.

Outside the Makar Dwar of Parliament, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi conducted a mock interview with two of his Lok Sabha and party colleagues, who wore masks and impersonated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Adani.

Latur MP Shivaji B. Kalge wore a mask of Mr. Modi, and Virudhunagar MP Manickam Tagore

among those who raised slogans and demanded a discussion and a probe on the Adani Group.

Asked by Mr. Gandhi about the relationship between the two, the Congress MPs wearing the masks said, "We are together."

Mr. Tagore said, "He [Mr. Modi] does whatever I say and want... be it airport or anything else."

Devendra Fadnavis govt. wins vote of confidence in House

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

The Devendra Fadnavis-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra, which came to power on December 5, comfortably won its first test of strength in the Assembly on Monday by winning the vote of confidence.

The confidence motion, moved by Shiv Sena MLA Uday Samant, Sanjay Kute of the BJP, NCP leader Dilip Walse Patil and Independent MLA and Fadnavis loyalist Ravi Rana, was passed by a voice vote on

Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar re-elected unopposed for the second consecutive term

the final day of a special three-day Assembly session.

Speaker Rahul Narwekar, who was re-elected unopposed for the second consecutive term earlier in the day, declared the motion approved by the newly constituted 15th Assembly.

The vote was symbolic

as the ruling Mahayuti coalition, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP, has a substantial majority with 230 seats in the 288-member Assembly, well above the 145-seat majority threshold.

Mr. Narwekar, an advocate, who served as the Speaker of the 14th Assembly for two and a half years, had filed his nomination papers on Sunday. His election followed the decision of the Opposition alliance, Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), not to field a candidate, ensuring an uncontested process.

| GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PD:- LAXMIPOLI DIST:- MAYURBHANJ Mail Id :- cebmsbb2019@gmail.com Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No.- 04 /24/25 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmipoli | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Name of Work | A. Renovation of Black Topping Service Road of Haladia Right Main Distributary (HRD) from RD2290m to RD 7316m and Jambhiral Minor from RD 645m to RD 1520m and Andhari S/M from RD 00m to RD 710m; |
| 2. Estimated Cost | A. Rs.519.75 Lakh ; B. Rs.691.76 Lakh ; C. Rs.696.09 Lakh |
| 3. Bid Security / EMD | A. Rs.19,000/- ; B. Rs.6,91,800/- ; C. Rs.6,96,100/- |
| 4. Period of Completion | For Sl. No. A, B & C - 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months |
| 5. Class of Contractor | For Sl. No. A - "A" Class, For Sl. No. B & C - "A" Class and "Special" Class, |
| 6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal | 12.12.2024 at 10.00 AM |
| 7. Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal | 02.01.2025 up to 5.00 PM |
| 8. Date of Opening of bid | 03.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M. |
| 9. Name & Address of the O.I.T. | Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmipoli, Mayurbhanj OIPR-32429/11/0004/2425 |

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmipoli, Mayurbhanj
OIPR-32429/11/0004/2425

A-688:

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA ENERGY DEPARTMENT ADVERTISEMENT

ENG-FE_I-ELST-0657-2014/14701, dt. 07.12.2024
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Director (Finance & Corporate Affairs)

in GRIDCO Limited, a PSU functioning under Energy Department, Government of Odisha. Last date of receipt of application is 10.01.2025. For further details please visit

<https://energy.odisha.gov.in> and <https://gridco.co.in>.

OIPR-04056/11/0008/2425

| WATCO OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, WATCO Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India Telefax: +91-674-2571444; E-mail – mdwatco@odisha@gmail.com | |
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| INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) - Bid Identification No. WATCO/W-17/2024-25, Dtd.07.12.2024 | |

IN BRIEF

**Hindutva is a 'disease' that has afflicted millions: Iltija Mufti**

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti on Monday said Hindutva was a "disease", triggering sharp reactions from right wing parties in Jammu. Posting an undated video of a school where children are apparently beaten up and asked to chant Jai Shri Ram on X, Ms. Mufti said, "Ram, the deity, must hang his head in shame and watch helplessly as minor Muslim boys are whacked with chappals only because they refuse to chant his name. Hindutva is a disease that has afflicted millions of Indians and sullied a God's name." Ms. Mufti's post has evoked sharp criticism from Hindu groups.

Crude bomb explosion kills three in Murshidabad district

Three people died after crude bombs exploded inside a house in the Khairtala area of Sagarpara in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. The explosion occurred on Sunday night in the house of Mamun Mollah. According to reports, crude bombs were being assembled in the house when the explosion occurred, bringing the roof of the house down. There was a deployment of a large police contingent near the site of the explosion. Murshidabad is a hot spot of political violence and there have been several deaths due to crude bomb explosions over the past few years.

Lawyers' body demands action against Allahabad HC judge for speech at VHP event

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The All India Lawyers Union on Monday wrote to the President and the Chief Justice of India seeking action against an Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, for his speech at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) event. The union said the speech "amounted to hate speech against the Muslim minority".

Stressing the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Justice Yadav, in his speech on Sunday, said India would run as per the wishes of the majority community. He had also praised the work of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and said there was "no excuse" for practices such as polygamy, triple talaq or Halala.

"The widely reported speech of Justice Shekhar Yadav, sitting judge of Alla-



Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav

habad HC from the platform of VHP is against the Constitution, its ethos and a direct affront to its basic structure - secularism and independence of judiciary. It tantamounts to sabotaging of independence of judiciary from within," the letter from the AILU read.

It said the tone and tenor of the speech amounted to hate speech against the Muslim minority in the name of Hindu religion.

"His imputations, allegations and expressions against the Muslim minori-

ty are of vicious, vitriolic and venomous nature; most unbecoming of a sitting judge of a constitutional court - violation of constitutional oath of office of a judge of the HC," the AILU said, adding that democracy was neither majoritarianism nor religious majoritarianism, and that his expression and concept of democracy was that of a "Hindutwa Rashtra".

Brinda Karat, CPI(M) Polit Bureau member, in a letter to the CJI, said the speech was a violation of the oath of the Constitution. She demanded action against him. "This speech is a hate speech. This speech is an assault on the Constitution. This speech is an affront to the collective conscience of a secular and democratic country. That it should have been made by a justice of the Allahabad High Court is also an assault on the processes of justice," Ms. Karat said.

- To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ <https://qrgo.page.link/ijpTn>
- CROSSWORD** (set by Arden)
- 14352**
- Across**
- American city in the past (7)
 - Ruffian holds aliens, releases (4,3)
 - Root of a plant embryo said to be progressive (7)
 - Apathy for Maoist's involvement in blast (7)
 - Napoleon's skeleton - keeping away from each other (9)
 - Left in a primitive accommodation to give birth (5)
 - Envoy to a lesser degree (7)
 - Hector and you close to the capital (7)
 - Fight to catch river fish (5)
 - Elation when you're on it (5,4)
 - Herb is in a shortage (7)
 - Play a role - is it a part of your face? (7)
 - Bengali became European (7)
 - Arden is perhaps a swimmer (7)
 - Extremely symbolic horse beetle (6)
 - Called POTUS to protect democrats (6)
 - Clatter raising some powdery stuff (4)
 - Question about you - finally he is affected (6)
 - Fat novice stops by (8)
 - Impending danger gets slum doctor worried (5,5)
 - "Died in building lobby" - one wrote a song (3,5)
 - Frank readies regular flight (8)
 - Experts' treatise on the addition of a sound or syllable at the beginning of a word (10)
 - Danube winding around quietly in the capital (8)
 - It's tiny parking, clear it somehow (8)
 - Stress involving mind - it's regular tragedy (8)
 - Songs on South American port (6)
 - Famous and active - essentially nice at the top and bottom (6)
 - Cricket team will stay in the hotel eventually (6)
 - Capital is half-half, that's uncommon (4)
- Down**
- Left in a primitive accommodation to give birth (5)
 - Envoy to a lesser degree (7)
 - Hector and you close to the capital (7)
 - Fight to catch river fish (5)
 - Elation when you're on it (5,4)
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 - Cricket team will stay in the hotel eventually (6)
 - Capital is half-half, that's uncommon (4)

Soldier killed in mine blast in Jammu's Poonch

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A soldier was killed in a mine blast during patrolling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

An Army spokesperson said Havaldar V. Subbaiah Varikunta of the 25 Rashtriya Rifles was part of an area domination patrol in Thanedar Tekri when he accidentally stepped on the mine, resulting in the blast.

The Army expressed its deepest condolences to the bereaved family. We stand steadfastly with them in this hour of grief.

IED defused

An improvised explosive device was defused in Baramulla district's Pattan.

A joint patrolling party of the police and Army found a suspicious object by the roadside on the highway at Palhallan in the Pattan area of Baramulla district.

A bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot and the object taken to an isolated place. The squad destroyed the object in a controlled explosion, the officials said.

(With PTI inputs)

One lakh talented youth will be urged to join politics: Modi

PM says 2,000 selected youth will attend Young Leaders' Dialogue in person and crores will join the event with the help of technology

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said efforts were being made to bring youth into politics because it could not be left to those who only believed in dynastic politics and considered it a family property.

Virtually addressing an event organised by the Ramakrishna Math at Lekhamba village near Sanand town in Gujarat, the Prime Minister said a Young Leaders' Dialogue would be organised in Delhi on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda to "make a new beginning" towards this aim.

In his address, Mr. Modi said spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda, the founder of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, was of the opinion that participation of youth would be crucial for the development of the nation.



It is needed that our youngsters lead our country in politics too because we cannot leave it to those who believe only in dynastic politics

NARENDRA MODI

Prime Minister

"Along with technology and other sectors, it is needed that our youngsters lead our country in politics too because we cannot leave it to those who believe only in dynastic politics. We cannot hand over politics to those who consider politics as their family's property" the Prime Minister said.

"That is why we are going to make a new beginning. On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, we are organising Young Leaders' Dialogue in Delhi. While 2,000 selected youth will remain present in person, crores of youth will join the

event with the help of technology," Mr. Modi said. At the event, youth will discuss India's resolve to turn the country into a developed one, he said, adding that a road map will be prepared on how youth participation in politics can be increased.

"It is our resolve to bring nearly one lakh talented and energetic youth into politics. These youngsters will become the country's future and the new face of India's politics. Our country is marching ahead in the direction of realising the dreams of Swami Vivekananda," the Prime Minister said.



The police have sought to know who purchased the Internet device used by the smugglers.

value of 360 billion rupees.

The incident has set off alarm bells as it is the first time Starlink's device has been used to navigate and reach Indian waters in a major drug haul.

The investigation comes just as the Musk-owned company is trying to address any potential security concerns before it is given a green light to launch its satellite broadband services in India.

Starlink recently won a lobbying battle after a bitter face-off with billionaire Mukesh Ambani over how exactly New Delhi should allocate satellite spectrum to companies.

Andaman police seek clues from Starlink over meth seizure

Reuters
BENGALURU

The Andaman police have sent a legal notice to Starlink, a company owned by Elon Musk that offers satellite broadband services, seeking details of who purchased its Internet device that helped in sea navigation of smugglers who were caught with \$4.2 billion worth of meth in the biggest such Indian seizure.

Two people with direct knowledge of the notice said Starlink had been asked for the purchaser's name and payment method, registration details and where the Internet device was used when smugglers travelled in international waters from Myanmar to India.

The police seized more than 6,000 kg of meth in late November on a Myanmar boat carrying sacks of the suspected contraband, and found that the Starlink Mini Internet device had been used.

Starlink and the Andaman police did not respond to a request for comment. The police estimated that the seized meth had a retail market

UGC finalises draft guidelines promoting access to 'life-long' learning and education

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

and other febrile illnesses.

The AVVC provides health cover of ₹5 lakh free, irrespective of socio-economic status.

Eligible senior citizens belonging to families already covered under the AB PM-JAY get an additional top-up cover of up to ₹5 lakh a year.

The card covers treatment for nearly 2,000 medical procedures and includes all pre-existing diseases from the first day, without any waiting period.

Eligible senior citizens can register through multiple channels. They can visit the nearest empanelled hospital for registration.

For self-registration, download the Ayushman app (from Google Play) or visit www.beneficiary.nha.gov.in.

To know more about the AVVC, citizens can also call on 14555 (toll-free) or leave a missed call on 1800110770.



M. Jagadesh Kumar

dials to gain formal recognition for skills and competencies acquired through informal, non-formal, or experiential learning.

UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said the guidelines are to address the challenges faced by India's large informal workforce, which requires formal education and career progression opportunities.

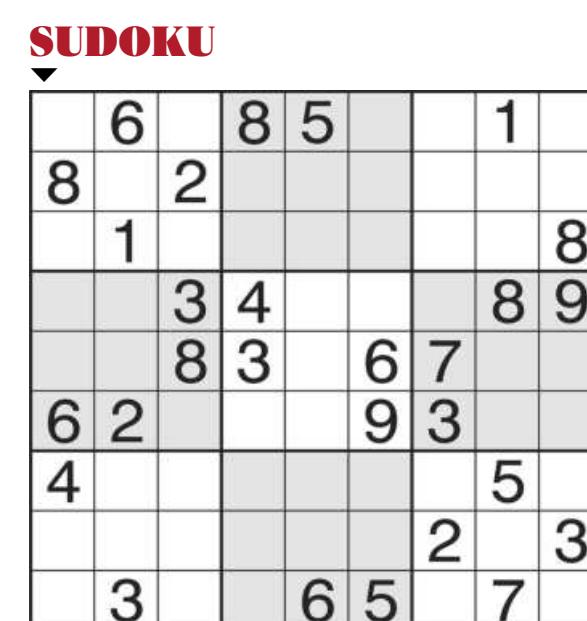
He said RPL is integral to the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. "RPL allows individ-

uals, and experiential, he said.

"To enable individuals to convert their skills into qualifications, RPL helps bridge the gap between real-world experience and formal education and enhance career prospects. RPL contributes to economic growth, social inclusion, and a more skilled workforce," Mr. Kumar said.

The guidelines emphasise robust governance, quality assurance, and collaboration among policymakers, educational institutions, employers, and informal learning providers to ensure fairness, consistency, and inclusivity while implementing RPL.

The objectives of RPL guidelines include enabling individuals who have acquired competencies through non-formal and informal learning methods to access higher education forms – academic, voca-

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

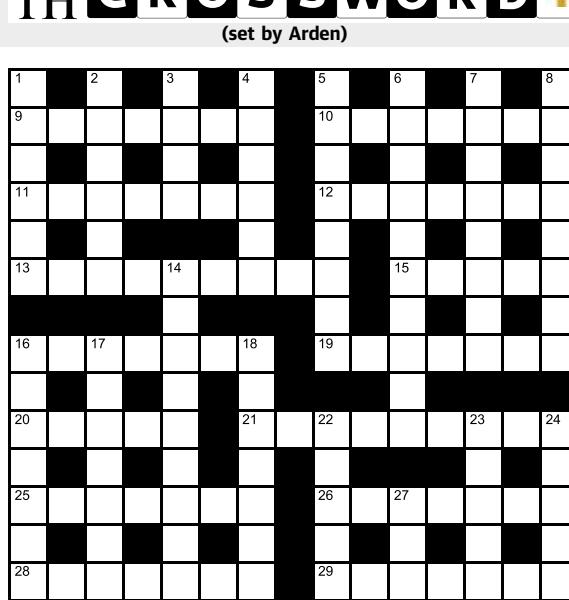
Solution to previous puzzle

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

FAITH**Sacred Thiruchengode**

In the sacred kshetra Thiruchengode, Lord Siva is called Madhorubagan – the One who has His Consort as one half of His body. The Thiruchengode hill resembles a snake, and is therefore called Nagachala, Nagagiri and Sarpagiri, said T. Rajarathinam in a discourse. Once a quarrel broke out between Vayu and Adi Sesha, the serpent, about who was the stronger of the two of them. They decided to test their strength. The challenge was that Adi Sesha should hold the Meru mountain tightly. Vayu was to try to break his grasp. Vayu, the wind god, blew so hard that a chunk of the mountain broke and was carried off by the wind. The place where this broken piece landed was Thiruchengode. Adi Sesha had been holding on to the mountain in a tight grip, and when a piece of the mountain broke, the serpent's mouth was injured, and his mouth began to bleed. So the broken piece was red in colour because of Adi Sesha's blood.

When Thirugnanasambandar visited Thiruchengode, some of the devotees of Lord Siva were afflicted by a fever. He sang the Thiruneelakanta Padhigam, and the devotees were cured of their illness. The Madhorubagan vighra is five feet in height. It is white. Ardhanareeswara is believed to be the oldest form of Lord Siva. Manickavachagar describes Ardhanareeswara. The right side represents Siva. On this side, Ardhanareeswara is seen with a tiger skin draped over Him. In His ears are kundalas that are worn by men. In His hand is a trident, and on His forehead one sees sacred ash. On the left side is the Goddess Uma. Siva giving darshan as Ardhanareeswara, and not as a linga, is one of the unique features of the Thiruchengode temple.



Across

- American city in the past (7)
- Ruffian holds aliens, releases (4,3)
- Root of a plant embryo said to be progressive (7)
- Apathy for Maoist's involvement in blast (7)
- Napoleon's skeleton - keeping away from each other (9)
- Left in a primitive accommodation to give birth (5)
- Envoy to a lesser degree (7)
- Hector and you close to the capital (7)
- Fight to catch river fish (5)
- Elation when you're on it (5,4)
- Herb is in a shortage (7)
- Play a role - is it a part of your face? (7)
- Bengali became European (7)
- Arden is perhaps a swimmer (7)
- Extremely symbolic horse beetle (6)
- Called POTUS to protect democrats (6)
- Clatter raising some powdery stuff (4)
- Question about you - finally he is affected (6)
- Fat novice stops by (8)
- Impending danger gets slum doctor worried (5,5)
- "Died in building lobby" - one wrote a song (3,5)
- Frank readies regular flight (8)
- Experts' treatise on the addition of a sound or syllable at the beginning of a word (10)
- Danube winding around quietly in the capital (8)
- It's tiny parking, clear it somehow (8)
- Stress

IN BRIEF



Tata Motors to raise prices of passenger vehicles by up to 3%

Tata Motors has announced that it will increase prices of its passenger vehicles, including those of electric vehicles (EVs), by up to 3%. "Effective January 2025, the price increase will vary depending on the model and variant, and is being taken to partially offset the rise in input costs and inflation," the auto major said in a statement. The move follows the decision of almost all automakers to raise prices of their vehicles to pass on the burden of increased cost of materials and logistics to buyers.

Biocon gets U.S. FDA report after inspection of API facility

Biocon on Monday said it had received an establishment inspection report (EIR) with voluntary action indicated (VAI) status from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), for its active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) facility (site 2) located at the special economic zone plot no. 2,3,4 and 5 on Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The action was based on a surveillance inspection conducted by the agency between September 23 and 27, the biopharmaceutical company said.

International Gemmological Institute IPO to open on Dec. 13

The International Gemmological Institute (IGI) will open bids for its ₹4,225-crore initial public offering (IPO) between December 13 and 17. The IPO will consist of a fresh issue of ₹1,475 crore and a ₹2,750-crore offer for sale. The promoters intend to use most of the proceeds of the offer to acquire the Belgium and Netherlands businesses of the group, according to the company's prospectus. The offer for sale is also expected to dilute 23.5% of their stake in the business. After the acquisition, the promoter will hold just IGI India, which in turn will have 100% stake in IGI Netherlands and Belgium in addition to IGI Turkey which it already holds.

AI to add 100 Airbus planes

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India (AI) confirmed it placed an order to buy 100 more Airbus aircraft, including 10 widebody A350

and 90 narrow-body A320 family of aircraft. AI didn't disclose the delivery timeline. The aircraft are in addition to orders for 470 aircraft AI placed with Airbus and Boeing last year.

Development economist Natraj passes away

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Prof. V.K. Natraj (85), a retired professor and former director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Mysore and former director, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai, passed away at a hospital here on Monday after a brief illness.



He is survived by two daughters.

A leading academician specialising in development economics, Prof. Natraj's career spanned over three decades at the University of Mysore. He was also its registrar before his appointment as the director of MIDS, Chennai where he served from 2000 to 2005.

After studies at the University of Mysore, Prof. Natraj obtained his masters from Oxford and joined the IDS in Mysuru in 1972, and was a professor of development studies.

His areas of interest spanned panchayati raj institutions and decentralisation. He was a visiting fellow at the IDS, University

of Sussex and headed a research study initiated by it into panchayats in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and West Bengal. He was a member of the Expert Committee on Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka in 1996 and authored many papers on decentralisation.

As a social activist, he encouraged dialogue between farmers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on the Cauvery river issue.

His close associates said the body will be placed at his residence at Jayalakshmiapuram till December 10 morning to enable relatives, friends and well-wishers to pay their respects. His body will be donated to JSS Hospital.

Retail auto sales rise 11% in Nov. but PVs, CVs lag: FADA

Rural demand offered limited support, particularly in the 2W segment, but failed to provide a substantial lift for PV and CV categories, says auto dealer association FADA's president

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Automobile retail sales in November increased by 11.21% to 32,08,719 units compared with 28,85,317 units in November 2023.

While two-wheelers (2W), three-wheelers (3W) and tractors posted year-on-year (YoY) sales growth of 15.8%, 4.23%, and 29.88% respectively, passenger vehicles (PV) and commercial vehicles (CV) logged declines of 13.72% and 6.08%, as per Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) data.

Month-on-month comparison also reflected un-



Slippery track: Neither rural demand nor the marriage season could lift the sales of passenger vehicles, says FADA. PTI

even results with 2W retail sales growing 26.67% while PVs and CVs shrank 33.37% and 15.85% respectively.

"The late timing of *Diwali* in October led to festive registrations spilling

over into November, slightly boosting numbers but not sufficiently offsetting weaker marriage-season demand," it said.

"Rural demand offered limited support, particu-

larly in the 2W segment, but failed to provide a substantial lift for PV and CV categories," it added.

While November was expected to build on its prior momentum, particularly due to the marriage season, dealer feedback suggests this segment underperformed overall expectations," said C. S. Vigeshwar, president, FADA.

PV dealers cited weak market sentiment, limited product variety and insufficient new products, compounded by the shift of festive demand into October, the FADA chief said.

CV sales was hit by restricted product choice and limited financial support.

Lumina Datamatics to buy TNQ Tech

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Lumina Datamatics Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Datamatics Global Services Ltd., will acquire 100% stake in TNQ Tech Pvt. Ltd., for cash consideration in two tranches.

Lumina Datamatics will be signing the share purchase, shareholders' and other agreements to acquire shares from existing shareholders. The transaction is expected to be completed by July 2026.

Post acquisition, TNQ will become a step-down subsidiary of Datamatics Global Services, the latter said in a regulatory filing.

In the first tranche, Lumina will acquire 80% stake for ₹336 crore and the balance shares over a period of 19 months based on EBITDA multiple applied to the audited financials of FY26 and other parameters, it said.

TNQTech, a Chennai-based digital publishing technology and services company, has presence in India, Europe and North America. The firm posted a turnover of ₹289 crore for the October 2023-September 2024 period.

This acquisition will establish us among dominant service providers in the world of digital content," Datamatics said.

PM launches LIC's 'Bima Sakhi Yojana'

Press Trust of India
PANIPAT

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' of LIC here under which two lakh woman insurance agents will be appointed over the next three years.

'Bima Sakhi Yojana', an initiative of State-owned LIC, is designed to empower women aged 18-70 years who are Class X pass.

The women agents will receive specialised training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.

Under the scheme, the woman agents will also get

a stipend of ₹7,000 per month for the first year, ₹6,000 per month in the second year and ₹5,000 per month in the third year. Bima Sakhis will also get the benefit of commission.

The plan is to appoint two lakh Bima Sakhi over a period of three years.

World needs supply chains strong enough to weather any crisis: PM

Lalatendu Mishra
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the world needs a system that could function "unhindered and uninterrupted even during the biggest crisis." He said this in the context of continuing challenges pertaining to the global supply and value chain.

"It is imperative to have a large manufacturing base in India, which is not only necessary for India, but also for the world economy," the PM said, addressing delegates at the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit in Jaipur.

"Understanding this responsibility, India has taken a pledge for self-reliance in manufacturing," he said.

"India is laying emphasis on low-cost manufacturing under the 'Make in India' programme, and its petroleum products, medicines and vaccines, electronic goods, and record manufacturing have benefited the world," the PM emphasised.

Mr. Modi pointed to the increase in upgrades in electronics, specialty steel, automobiles and auto components, solar PVs and pharmaceuticals among the sectors avidly seeking support from the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

"The PLI scheme has led to an investment of about ₹1.25 lakh crore. Products worth about ₹11 lakh crore had been made and exports have increased by ₹4 lakh crore," the Prime Minister said.

(This writer is in Jaipur at the invitation of the Rajasthan Government)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

| | MONDAY | % CHANGE |
|-----------|--------|----------|
| Sensex | 81,508 | -0.25 |
| US Dollar | 84.86 | -0.23 |
| Gold | 78,960 | -0.24 |
| Brent oil | 72.29 | - |

NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|
| Adani Enter | 2495.85 | 10.55 |
| Adani Ports | 1266.85 | 7.80 |
| Apollo Fin | 7193.85 | 39.45 |
| Asian Paints | 2391.85 | 37.85 |
| Axis Bank | 1163.25 | 21.30 |
| Bajaj Auto | 9077.45 | -22.45 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1637.05 | 1.85 |
| Bajaj Finance | 6868.35 | 18.05 |
| Bharat Elect | 314.60 | 0.95 |
| Bharti Airtel | 1602.55 | 4.70 |
| BPCL | 303.45 | 3.10 |
| Britannia Ind | 4793.00 | 77.85 |
| Cipla | 1469.00 | -8.40 |
| Coal India | 414.00 | -3.15 |
| Dr Reddy's Lab | 1255.15 | 1.45 |
| Eicher Motors | 4842.10 | 34.95 |
| Grasim Ind | 2681.40 | 20.50 |
| HCL Tech | 1090.90 | 12.80 |
| HDFC Bank | 1870.00 | 14.15 |
| HDFC Life | 641.80 | 5.30 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 4595.95 | 33.65 |
| Hindalco | 670.90 | 0.75 |
| Hindustan Unilever | 2400.75 | 83.05 |
| ICICI Bank | 1322.30 | -6.45 |
| IndusInd Bank | 982.60 | -7.75 |
| Infosys | 1923.65 | 1.25 |
| ITC | 464.95 | -6.20 |
| JSW Steel | 1011.90 | 8.10 |
| Kotak Bank | 1786.25 | 9.30 |
| L&T | 3947.00 | 80.60 |
| M&M | 3051.25 | 21.75 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 11279.80 | 38.15 |
| NestleIndia | 2228.85 | 38.95 |
| NTPC | 369.85 | 0.35 |
| ONGC | 258.90 | -1.15 |
| Powergrid Corp | 329.10 | 0.20 |
| Reliance Ind | 1295.15 | 16.40 |
| SBI Life | 1469.30 | 20.75 |
| State Bank | 856.05 | -5.60 |
| Shriram Finance | 3106.90 | 19.45 |
| Tata Consumer Product | 933.95 | -40.50 |
| Tata Motors | 798.75 | 18.05 |
| Tata Steel | 149.88 | 1.59 |
| TCS | 4452.15 | 6.65 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1777.85 | -4.95 |
| Titan | 3468.20 | -1.90 |
| Trent Ltd | 6940.70 | 50.25 |
| UltraTech Cement | 11814.80 | 33.70 |
| Wipro | 303.75 | 6.40 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|--------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 84.53 | 84.85 |
| Euro | 89.44 | 89.78 |
| British Pound | 108.01 | 108.43 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 56.19 | 56.41 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.63 | 11.68 |
| Swiss Franc | 96.17 | 96.55 |
| Singapore Dollar | 63.13 | 63.38 |
| Canadian Dollar | 59.80 | 60.03 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 19.09 | 19.18 |
| Australian Dollar | 54.50 | 54.71 |

Source: Indian Bank

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BEAWAR

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

Request for proposals are invited through e-procurement platform for procurement and supply of 1.Utensils 2. Electronics to all the 352 types - III and 210 type - IV KGBVs in the State.

RFB downloading starts from : 10-12-2024 @ 05.00 PM

Last date for receipt of RFB : 31-12-2024 @ 05.00 PM

Note: Further details can be viewed at <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>

ILLINOIS

Indian-Americans protest against attacks on Bangladesh Hindus



Indian-Americans from Chicago and its suburbs held a protest meeting against recent attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, urging the U.S. to step in for their protection. In a message to the meeting at a Chicago suburb, Congressman Shri Thanedar said he is raising the issue with the U.S. State Department. PTI

SEOUL

South Korea imposes travel ban on President Yoon over martial law



South Korea's Justice Ministry on Monday imposed an overseas travel ban on President Yoon Suk Yeol as authorities investigate allegations of rebellion and other charges in connection with his short-lived declaration of martial law last week. Mr. Yoon had avoided an opposition-led bid to impeach him on Saturday. AP

VIENNA

Bulgaria, Romania to become full members of Schengen travel zone



Austria is dropping its veto on Romania and Bulgaria becoming full members of Europe's Schengen free-travel area, its interior ministry said, paving the way for EU Interior Ministers to approve the move at a meeting on Thursday. Romania and Bulgaria, both EU and NATO members, partly joined Schengen in March. REUTERS

MELBOURNE

Nauru to give Australia veto over a range of pacts with other nations



Australia announced a multimillion-dollar agreement with Nauru on Monday that gives Australia a veto right over a range of pacts the tiny Pacific atoll might want to enter with third countries including China. Australia offered \$89 million over five years to the remote nation under the treaty to be implemented next year. AP

U.K. mulls removal of ban on HTS militants

Sriram Lakshman

LONDON

The U.K. could lift a ban on the militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which led the overthrow of the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria. The group had been proscribed in 2017 for its links with al-Qaeda.

U.K. Cabinet Office Minister Pat McFadden told BBC Radio 4 that the government would make a "relatively swift decision" about lifting the ban, if the situation in Syria stabilised. The HTS is also a designated terrorist organisation in the U.S.

"A lot will depend on whether the statements about the protection of minorities and citizens are backed up," Mr. McFadden said.

"It's a very fluid situation. No one is certain about what will happen," he added.

Mr. McFadden also told Times Radio that the U.K. "can consider" lifting the ban, if HTS ends up "taking over" Syria.

Earlier U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer had welcomed the overthrow of the "barbaric" Assad regime. "Our focus is now on ensuring a political solution prevails, and peace and stability is restored," Mr. Starmer said on Sunday while he was in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on an unrelated trip to the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Starmer called for the protection of civilians and minorities, and for aid to reach those in need.

The British wife of Mr. Assad, Asma al-Assad, had not requested to return to the U.K., according to Mr. McFadden.

Damascus limps back to normalcy after militants force Assad to flee

Militants mill about in the centre of the Syrian capital while heavy traffic returned to the streets and people ventured out after a curfew; however, most shops remain shut; Jolani meets Syrian PM, Vice-President to discuss transitional government

Reuters
DAMASCUS



Dire straits: Syrians were ruled by the Assad family for more than 50 years and ravaged by a civil war that has spanned 13 years. AFP

better known as Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, met overnight with Mr. Assad's Prime Minister Mohammed Jalali and Vice-

President Faisal Mekdad to discuss arrangements for a transitional government, a source familiar with the discussions said.

Al Jazeera television reported that the transitional authority would be headed by Mohamed Al-Bashir, who ran the administration in a small pocket of rebel-held territory before the 12-day lightning offensive that swept into Damascus.

Syria's banks would reopen on Tuesday and staff had been asked to return to offices, according to a Syrian central bank source and two commercial bankers. Syria's currency would continue to be used, they said.

Militants from the remote countryside milled about in the capital, clus-

tering in the central Umayyad Square before Damascus's great eight-century mosque.

"We had a purpose and a goal and now we are done with it. We want the state and security forces to be in charge," said Firdous Omar, who said he had been battling the Assad government since 2011 and was now looking forward to laying down his weapon and returning to his job as a farmer in provincial Idlib.

The advance of a militia alliance spearheaded by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a former al-Qaeda affiliate, was a turning point for West Asia.

Beijing's anticipated military drills are in response to Taiwan President Lai Ching-te's U.S. visits

ponse to Mr. Lai's trip to the Pacific last week which included stopovers in Hawaii and Guam.

"In response to these actions by the PLA, the MND has initiated combat readiness drills, factoring in enemy threats, weather conditions, and tactical positioning," the Ministry of National Defense in Taipei said. It added that military units were on "high" alert and those on outlying islands had "heightened their vigilance".

Son's illness prompts Haiti gang leader to go on a killing spree of 184 people

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA



Mounting toll: The latest killings bring the death toll from gang violence just this year in Haiti to a staggering 5,000 people. REUTERS

Close to 200 people were killed in brutal weekend violence in Haiti's capital, the United Nations said on Monday, with reports that a gang boss orchestrated the slaughter of voodoo practitioners.

The killings were overseen by a "powerful gang leader" convinced that his son's illness was caused by followers of the religion, according to civil organisation the Committee for Peace and Development (CPD).

"He decided to cruelly punish all elderly people and voodoo practitioners

who, in his imagination, would be capable of sending a bad spell on his son," a statement from the Haiti-based group said. "The gang's soldiers were res-

ponsible for identifying victims in their homes to take them to the chief's stronghold to be executed," it added.

"These latest killings

bring the death toll just this year in Haiti to a staggering 5,000 people," UN rights commissioner Volker Turk told reporters in Geneva.

The massacre took place in the capital's western coastal neighbourhood of Cite Soleil.

The CPD said that most of the victims of the violence waged on Friday and Saturday were over 60, but that some young people who tried to rescue others were also among the casualties.

Voodoo was brought to Haiti by African slaves. It was banned during French colonial rule and only recognised as an official religion in 2003.

Bangladesh ex-PM Hasina terms Yunus regime 'fascist'

Press Trust of India
DHAKA/KOLKATA



Sheikh Hasina

of worship of Hindus, Christians and Buddhists have been rampant. We condemn it. The Jamaat and terrorists are having a free run under the new regime," she said.

'Clemency to terrorists' Ms. Hasina accused the Yunus government of providing clemency to terrorists and criminals, including those involved in arson and murders.

"The release of convicted criminals and terrorists, including those responsible for attacks on the Bangladesh Parliament and other atrocities, proves the complicity of this government," she alleged.

Sport

Kiran rewrites his 110m hurdles record

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Seventeen-year-old Kiran bettered his own National record in the under-18 men's 110m hurdles semifinals in the morning before cruising to the title in the evening in the National junior athletics championships at the Kalinga Stadium here on Monday.

Kiran erased his 13.52 mark set in the National youth championships in June by clocking 13.47 in the semifinals, almost jogging in the last five meters.

In the final, the Palakkad boy produced another dominant show. "The morning was pleasant. Later, my body became tight and the weather was humid in the evening. It might have affected my time in the final," said Kiran, whose time was better than that of the U-20



At a canter: Kiran won with ease. BISWARANJAN ROUT

winner Sandeep Gond.

Pooja, who narrowly missed a new National record due to a lower-back issue while attempting 1.85m in high jump overnight, showed his grit and achieved the mark in heptathlon.

Jay Kumar smashed Amoj Jacob's seven-year-old U-20 men's 400m meet record with a time of 46.29. The Delhi lad, who saw off Astik Pradhan's challenge

despite the local favourite clocking his personal best (46.97), missed the National mark by 0.03 seconds. **The results (winners only):**

Under-20: Men: 400m: Jay Kumar (Del) 46.29 (NMR, Old, 46.59, Amoj Jacob, 2017); **3000m:** Mohit Yadav (MP) 8:16.84; **110m hurdles:** Sandeep Gond (Mah) 14.02; **1000m race walk:** Amit Kumar (Cht) 42:18.13; **High jump:** Sagar Roy (WB) 2.04m; **Shot put:** Siddharth Chaudhary (Raj) 19.16m;

Under-16: Boys: 80m hurdles: Sanaga Tharun Teja (AP) 10.36 (NR, Old, 10.55, K. Shyam Sundar Saha, 2023); **High jump:** Zubin Gohain (Asm) 1.76m; **Javelin:** Dhairya Bhanderi (Guj) 70.12m (NR, Old, 64.24m, Dhairya Bhanderi, 2024); **Girls: 80m hurdles:** Shourya Ambure (Mah) 11.55; **Javelin:** Muskan (Har) 46.87m (NR, Old, 40.01m, Shivani Patel, 2024).

Rutherford's hundred guides WI home in first ODI

Associated Press
BASSETERRE

Sherfane Rutherford smashed 113 runs in 80 balls as West Indies secured a five-wicket win over Bangladesh with 14 balls remaining in the first ODI in Basseterre on Sunday.

Rutherford struck eight sixes and seven boundaries at Basseterre's Warner Park. **The scores:** Bangladesh 294/6 in 50 overs (Mehidy 29, Tanizid 60, Mahmudullah 50, Jaker 48, Shepherd 3/51) lost to West Indies 295/5 in 47.4 overs (Rutherford 113, Hope 86, Greaves 41 n.o.); **Toss:** Bangladesh; **Power:** Rutherford.

Dali's Destiny clinches the Chaitanya Chakram Cup

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer Laxman Singh's ward Dali's Destiny, ridden by P. Sai Kumar, won the Chaitanya Chakram Cup, the main event of Monday's (Dec. 9) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. N. Adil Mirza, Ms. Nimra Mirza & Mr. Mohd. Sohrab Mirza.

I. NIRMAL PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m): TORCHBEARER (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Calista Girl (Gaurav) 2, Kenaf (Shivansh) 3 and Rival (P. Sai K) 4.

II. NIRMAL PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m): KNIGHT CRUSADE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Great Giver (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 2, Golden Gazelle (H.M. Akshay) 3 and Darling's Boy (Akshay K) 4.

III. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM CUP (Div. I) (1,400m): DALI'S DESTINY (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Windsor (Afroz K) 2, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

IV. CYNDY PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m):

ONE N ONLY (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1,

Gatim (Mukesh) 2, Winning Attitude (Akshay K) 3 and Assured Success (Akshay K) 4.

V. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM CUP (Div. I) (1,400m): CHAR IC CHAR (Mohit Singh) 1,

Nityasundara (B. Nikhil) 2, Reining Queen (P. Ajeeb K) 3 and Taalifyah (B.R. Kumar) 4.

VI. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

7. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM CUP (1,400m):

DALI'S DESTINY (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Windsor (Afroz K) 2, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

8. STARRY SCENE PLATE (1,100m):

CHAR IC CHAR (Mohit Singh) 1,

Nityasundara (B. Nikhil) 2, Reining Queen (P. Ajeeb K) 3 and Taalifyah (B.R. Kumar) 4.

9. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

10. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

11. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

12. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

13. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

14. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

15. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

16. SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

BOUNCING BACK

Ding says his mother and Rapport helped him recover from defeat



Ding Liren revealed how his mother and second Richard Rapport helped him recover from his loss to D. Gukesh. "My mother gave me confidence. She reminded that I had done it last time (in the World championship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi), so I could do it again...And sometimes I perform very well after a loss."

DOWNCAST

Bad games happen, says Gukesh after the reverse in Game 12



Gukesh said the 6-6 scoreline was fair. "But since I was leading after Game 11, it is a bit disappointing to lose this game," he said. "In the second half, I had chances in many of the games. Today was obviously a bad game, but I wouldn't draw too much from it. Bad games happen. I think we are both playing better than the first half."

HEAT OF THE MOMENT

Siraj penalised 20% of match fee, Head reprimanded for face-off



Mohammed Siraj was penalised 20% of his match fee while Travis Head was reprimanded by the ICC following their angry face-off during the second Test at the Adelaide Oval. The two players received one demerit point each. According to the ICC note, both admitted to their offences and accepted the sanctions.

GOING BIG

Steelers too strong for Titans; Dabang edges out Paltan



Haryana Steelers scored a massive 46-25 win over Telugu Titans in a PKL match in Pune on Monday. Shivam Patare with 12 points, was the star for Steelers. In the day's other match, Dabang Delhi defeated Puneri Paltan 30-26. **Sunday's results:** Gujarat Giants bt U Mumba 34-33; Patna Pirates bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 38-28.



Game on: Ding is back on level terms after his first victory with white. FIDE

King Ding strikes back in Game 12

Chinese GM aces an almost must-win game in 39 moves to draw level with Gukesh; the score is 6-6 with two games to go; Tuesday is a rest day

P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

King Ding is chilling. Again. Ding Liren used all his experience and showed his class and resilience to storm back into the World championship match in style. In an almost must-win game, he prevailed over D. Gukesh at World Resorts Sentosa on Monday.

The score is now 6-6 after Game 12. The two men head into the last rest day with every scenario possible, including a tie-breaker.

What we know for sure is that the match will go the distance as far as the classical games are concerned. Neither player can now win the crown with a game to spare. One needs 7.5 points for that.

A draw would have suited Gukesh on this day.

After scoring a crucial win in the last game and thus taking the lead for the first time in the match, he could have consolidated his position with half-a-point.

But, Ding was in no mood to oblige.

He opted for the English Opening, and also ensured

GAME 12: MOVES

Ding vs Gukesh

1. c4 e6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. Nf3 d4 5. O-O Nc6 6. e3 Be7 7. d3 dx e 8. Bxe3 e5 9. Nc3 O-O 10. Re1 h6 11. a3 a5 12. h3 Be6 13. Kh2 Rb8 14. Qc2 Re8 15. Nb5 Bf5 16. Rad1 Nd7 17. Qd2 Bg6 18. d4 e4 19. Ng1 Nb6 20. Qc3 Bf6 21. Qc2 a4 22. Ne2 Bg5 23. Nf4



23... Bfx4 24. Bxf4 Rcb 25. Qc3 Nb8 26. d5 Qd7 27. d6 c5 28. Nc7 Rf8 29. Bxe4 Nc6 30. Bg2 Rcd8 31. Nd5 Nxd5 32. cxd5 Nb8 33. Qxc5 Rcb 34. Qd4 Na6 35. Re7 Qb5 36. rd7 Rca 37. Qe3 Rc2 38. Bd6 f6 39. Rg7+

Black resigned

that he was in no time trouble, as he had been here for much of the match.

He was able to get a better position out of the opening.

He continued to build on that, and came up with the right move whenever it mattered most. The same cannot be said of Gukesh.

For once, the precise calculation – a major

strength of his – deserted him. Against a Ding who was playing at his best, it was going to be costly. So it turned out.

He erred on the 16th and 17th moves with his knight and bishop and White's position began to look menacing. Ding continued to put pressure with the perfect pawn push in the centre.

After his 22nd move with the dark-squared bishop, Gukesh's already precarious position became very difficult, or almost impossible, to defend. Ding went on to capture a couple of pawns and advanced his 'd' pawn all the way to the seventh rank.

The end was hastened by Gukesh's 'f' pawn push on the 38th move. Ding then finished with a flourish, sacrificing his rook for a pawn.

Gukesh resigned with checkmate not far away. It was the first win for Ding with white. He could not have timed it better.

After his defeat on Sunday, he had pointed out at the press conference that he had won Game 12 in last year's World championship against Ian Nepomniachtchi – with white pieces – after being in a similar situation.

Much to his delight, history repeated itself.

India batters' pink ball travails continue

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

India's travails with the pink ball under Adelaide skies got a second episode over the weekend. If the 2020 outing and the meagre score of 36 are inextricably linked, the second Test of the current Border-Gavaskar Trophy series moved towards another sobering defeat.

The highs gained from the Perth Test were shattered away in the City of Churches and even if Rohit Sharma hinted at keeping the faith, the teams will start level at 1-1 in the third Test at Brisbane from December 14. Perhaps, the latest bout of oscillating fortunes is in tune with the competitive zeal often seen when India and Australia lock horns in the cricketing universe.

However, Rohit's men

WTC Points Table

| | P | W | L | D | DED* | PTS | PCT |
|----------------|----|----|---|---|------|-----|-------|
| 1 South Africa | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 76 | 63.33 |
| 2 Australia | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 102 | 60.71 |
| 3 India | 16 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 110 | 57.29 |
| 4 Sri Lanka | 11 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 45.45 |
| 5 England | 21 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 22 | 114 | 45.24 |
| 6 New Zealand | 13 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 69 | 44.23 |
| 7 Pakistan | 10 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 40 | 33.33 |
| 8 Bangladesh | 12 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 45 | 31.25 |
| 9 West Indies | 11 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 32 | 24.24 |

Points system: 12 for a win, 6 for a tie, 4 for a draw

The teams are ranked according to the percentage of points won and the top two progress to the final at Lord's in 2025

*Deductions: Points are deducted for slow over rates

had the better of fortunes if the toss factor is taken into account. The Indian skipper called right, elected to bat and it meant that his batters had enough time under the afternoon sun before facing the pink ball under lights. It was all about digging in deep before finding their fruits of labour over the course of

the Test. Instead, a 180 was mustered while Mitchell Starc grabbed six wickets. K.L. Rahul and Shubman Gill were the initial anchors but they failed to convert promise into potential. The veterans, Virat Kohli and Rohit, too fell cheaply, and it was too much to expect the others to chip in, even if Rishabh

Pant, Nitish Kumar and R. Ashwin added some runs.

Even as the bowlers tried to pull back from the second day despite Harshit Rana's expensive overs, Travis Head's superb 140 meant that Australia was truly ahead. A 157-run deficit and another middling second innings left India on the edge. It didn't need much for the Australian openers Usman Khawaja and Nathan McSweeney to nudge the visitors towards the abyss.

To hope that Bumrah will deliver all the time is a fallacy, and he too needs the cover of runs to make his stints attacks from the bowling crease more effective.

"You cannot expect Bumrah to bowl from both ends," Rohit wryly said. As the Indians look ahead towards the third Test, one relief is that it was at Brisbane's Gabba that Pant ushered in a miracle while India won the 2020-21 series 2-1.

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

Past the Don Bradman statue frozen in an evocative drive, the Adelaide Oval remains a hallowed territory. Inside the ground, there is a surface layered with history and perhaps fortified with the sweat of a quintessential Aussie hero.

Nathan Lyon, champion spinner, naughty raconteur, knew the pitch in a rather intimate way, many years ago.

This was back in 2010, when he was part of the ground staff here, and it is no surprise that the present head curator, Damian Hough, is all warmth and wonder about all things Lyon.

"He was the first employee I employed. He

came from the Manuka Oval in Canberra. Had a bit of a chat with him, told him what the role was and soon he was playing for South Australia, Australia A, and the next minute he is playing for Australia in Sri Lanka," Damian recalled.

Tending to the pitch and

outfield while also finding time to sneak in a club game and some practice sessions, Lyon must have had his hands full. "He would work hard but in the end he had to choose between cricket and being a groundsman. Once Darren Berry found him, there was no turning back. Nath-

an was a good curator, he was just good energy, always a team member, quite cheeky, so good banter, good humour," Damian said.

Did the cricket ever affect his duties allied with the surface? Damian was quick to react: "He was so professional. I knew he played cricket but I didn't know how good he was. He looked after the ground on his own. Worked really hard. In fact, he cut the outfield during the 2010 Ashes Test. Back then he used to go to the Karen Rolton Oval, bowl in the nets."

Soon the transition to full-time playing happened and Damian recalled: "One day he came back and said 'sorry I have been picked for the first squad for the South Australian team.' His

parents are lovely country-side people and they brought him up well."

Does knowing the pitch help Lyon in anyway? Damian had his views: "I am not sure. He has interest in surfaces, don't know if it helps you in the way you play the game. But he has also been out of this for long."

Lyon's kinship with surfaces may have changed but his friendship with Damian is set in stone: "We are pretty close, we don't see each other a lot but we slip in a message from time to time. He has seen my kids grow up. We also have this professional equation between a curator and a player. His is an all-time great story and he has stayed really humble and down to earth."

Ghosh holds his nerve to snatch it for Bengal

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

An excellent spell from Sayan Ghosh (four for 30) helped Bengal edge out Chandigarh by three runs in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy pre-quarterfinal at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

The pacer, who bowls with a slinger action, prised out the Chandigarh middle-order, and returned to complete the job in the final over.

With Chandigarh needing 11 to win in the last over, Ghosh displayed steady nerves to concede only se-



ven runs. Batting first, Bengal ran the risk of being bowled out for a cheap score after falling to 114 for eight.

Chandigarh pacer Jagjit

invaluable cameo from tailender Mohammed Shami, who slammed an unbeaten 17-ball 32. Shami's big hits pushed Bengal to a competitive 159 for nine.

Karan Lal (33), Writtick Chatterjee (28) and Pradipta Pramanik (30) chipped in with the bat, while Jagjit returned impressive figures of four for 21.

Chandigarh stayed on track in the chase through a 45-run fifth-wicket partnership between Raj Bawa (32, 20b) and Pardeep Yadav (27, 19b).

The duo guided Chandigarh to 101 for four, before a spate of wickets derailed the team.

In the other pre-quarterfinal, Uttar Pradesh took

out Andhra by four wickets.

Chasing a modest target of 157, the equation came down to 48 runs needed from four overs.

Young Vipraj Nigam stepped up with a blistering unbeaten eight-ball 27 to take Uttar Pradesh home with an over to spare.

The scores:

Bengal 159/9 in 20 overs (Karan Lal 33, Writtick Chatterjee 28, Pradipta Pramanik 30, Mohammed Shami 32 n.o., Jagjit Singh 4/21) bt Chandigarh 156/9 in 20 overs (Raj Bawa 32, Pardeep Yadav 27, Sayan Ghosh 4/30). Andhra 156/6 in 20 overs (S.D.N.V. Prasad 34 6/6) lost to Uttar Pradesh 157/6 in 19 overs (Karan Sharma 48, Rinku Singh 27 n.o., Vipraj Nigam 27 n.o., K. Sudharsan 3/22).

Shami on the prowl

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Mohammed Shami checked all the boxes as he put on a good show for Bengal against Chandigarh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy pre-quarterfinal here on Monday. Shami shone with bat and ball here, even as speculation grew surrounding a call-up to the Indian Test squad.

Shami smashed an unbeaten 17-ball 32. There were no visible fitness concerns, as Shami ran at full tilt between the wickets.

Shami bowled three overs on the trot with the new ball, returning figures of 3-0-13-1. He kept a tight length at a brisk pace, near-



ly breaching the 14

IN BRIEF



Griezmann's winner stuns Sevilla in seven-goal thriller

Antoine Griezmann struck a 94th-minute winner to snatch Atletico Madrid a 4-3 victory over Sevilla on Sunday in LaLiga. Diego Simeone's side, third, has won nine matches straight across all competitions and the win pulled it a point behind second-placed title holder Real Madrid and three behind leader Barcelona.

The results: LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 4 (De Paul 10, Griezmann 62, 90+4, Lino 79) bt Sevilla 3 (Lukebakio 12, Romero 32, Sanchez 57). Serie A: Napoli 0 lost to Lazio 1 (Isaksen 79).

Kush Maini's Invicta Racing wins F2 Constructors' title

Indian driver Kush Maini finished 13th in the drivers' standings in his second Formula 2 season while his Invicta Racing teammate Gabriel Bortoleto won the championship. Invicta Racing also won the team championship. Bortoleto aggregated 214.5 points over the course of the season while Maini collected 74 points. The Indian driver had finished 11th in his rookie season. Maini played a pivotal role in Invicta Racing's success, securing five podiums, including a race win in Hungary. "Not the year I wanted it to be given how we started, but still a lot of positives to take away including a Constructors Championship. Thank you to everyone at Invicta Racing for a good run and wish them all the luck for the future," said Maini.

LIVE TELECAST

West Indies vs Bangladesh: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
South Africa vs Pakistan: 1st T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Scheffler wins title at Hero World Challenge

World No. 1 comes up with bogey-free final round to emerge on top of the heap; debutant Indian-American Akshay finishes fourth



Winning feeling! Champion Scheffler, with Woods, the tournament host. AP

GOLF

V. V. Ramanan
NASSAU

A champion is what a champion does! Scottie Scheffler was relentless as the World No.1 conjured up a scintillating, bogey-free final round to claim the Hero World Challenge title with ease at the Albany course on Sunday.

The ninth triumph of the year not only made the American richer by \$1 million but he also became the third player — after tournament host Tiger Woods (2006 & 2007) and Viktor Hovland (2021 & 2022) — to retain the beautiful trophy.

Starting the day a stroke behind Justin Thomas, the 28-year-old drove with aplomb and putted with precision, returning a card of 63 for a four-round total of 25 under 263 and win by a whopping six strokes ahead of Tom Kim who continued his good work from Saturday with a 68, despite two bogeys to go with six birdies.

Close misses

Thomas kept pace with Scheffler initially, but some close misses for birdies and four bogeys scuttled his chances of breaking his winless drought. He signed off with a 270 for a third-place finish.

Debutant Indian-American Akshay Bhatia (69) was fourth with a 15-under

while Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley (71) rounded up the top five, a further stroke behind.

"It's been a great year, it's been a fun year. I've been fortunate to get some wins out of some really good golf. This was another week where I played really solid and was able to see some nice results from that," said Scheffler as he signed off the season on a high.

Final scores (top five):

263: Scottie Scheffler (67, 64, 69, 63); **269:** Tom Kim (74, 65, 62, 68); **270:** Justin Thomas (66, 67, 66, 71);

273: Akshay Bhatia (67, 66, 71, 69); **274:** Keegan Bradley (68, 67, 68, 71).

(The correspondent is in Nassau at the invitation of Hero MotoCorp)

Sarthak finishes third overall in FIM-ARRC

Sports Bureau

India's Sarthak Chavan finished third overall in the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC), TVS One Make Category with 127 points on Sunday. He became the first Indian to the feat in the championship. Sarthak said: "It's an incredible feeling to represent India and achieve something historic in such a competitive championship."

Atiq shines

Atiq Mir created history by becoming the only Indian to finish on the podium in the mini under-10 category in the Champions of the Future Academy Programme in Al Forsan, UAE, recently.

Atiq secured the beat by finishing third in the mini u-10 category in the sixth round of the global championship.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Tuesday: Dinamo vs Celtic, Girona vs Liverpool (11:15 pm); Atalanta vs Real Madrid, Leverkusen vs Inter Milan, Brest vs PSV Eindhoven, Club Brugge vs Sporting CP, RB Leipzig vs Aston Villa, RB Salzburg vs Paris Saint-Germain, Shakhtar Donetsk vs Bayern Munich (1:30 am Wednesday).

Wednesday: Atletico Madrid vs Slovan Bratislava, Lille vs SK Sturm Graz (11:15 pm); AC Milan vs Red Star Belgrade, Arsenal vs AS Monaco, Benfica vs Bologna, Borussia Dortmund vs Barcelona, Feyenoord Rotterdam vs Sparta Prague, Juventus vs Manchester City, VfB Stuttgart vs Young Boys (1:30 am Thursday).



En route the big league: The Vishwa Samudra Open will feature leading Indians, apart from international names. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kapil Dev promises to drive Indian golf to a different level

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) president and legendary cricketer Kapil Dev presents the Vishwa Samudra Open golf championship, featuring some of the best players and offering a purse of ₹2 crore, to be played the Delhi Golf Club from Tuesday.

"The overall prize money of PGTI has been ₹24.58 crore this year. I am confident that it will be ₹50 crore within in the next three years. Indian golf will be at a different level soon," said Kapil on Monday. "When I started playing golf, only Roger Binny used to play among the cricketers. I wish I had started golf earlier. This game teaches so much on how to concentrate on the ball," said Kapil. He pointed out that if dates were confirmed early, a lot of Indian players would opt to play in the country.

He hoped that golf would become so popular in the next few years that the younger generation

will opt for golf if it cannot make it in cricket.

S.P. Chawrasia said "the course is fantastic," after having played 18 holes in training with Ajitesh Sandhu on Monday.

The field will have other leading players like Rahil Gangjee, Gaurav Ghei, Rashid Khan, Khalin Joshi, S. Chikkarangappa, and Yuvraj Sandhu, apart from Om Prakash Chouhan, Udayan Mane, Veer Ahlawat, Karandeep Kochhar and Manu Gandas.

There will be 12 foreigners in the 126-strong field, including Stepan Danek of Czech Republic, Sukhraj Singh Gill of Canada, Makoto Iwasaki of Japan, Americans Dominic Piccirillo and Digraj Singh Gill, apart from a few from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Managing Director of Vishwa Samudra Engineering, an infrastructure company based in Hyderabad, said that his organisation was committed to golf for the last few years.

The champion will get ₹30 lakh, and the runner-up ₹20 lakh.

Sports Minister felicitates India's Asia-Pacific Deaf Games contingent



A day to remember: Mandaviya with the Indian squad that finished fifth in Kuala Lumpur, winning eight gold and 55 medals overall.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the Indian contingent that won 55 medals including eight gold in the Asia-Pacific Deaf Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Meeting the athletes, coaches and support staff at his residence, the Minister congratulated them for making a quantum leap in performance after having won five medals in the last

edition in 2015.

"In 2015, we had sent a smaller team and returned with lesser number of medals. But it gives me immense pleasure to state that 68 players competed in seven different disciplines this time and have won 55 medals.

"I feel proud that a positive change is happening in the country and it is moving forward in the sports sector," said the Minister.

"The government is taking a number of initiatives

to improve sports infrastructure, governance and specialised coaching. When you compete internationally, you don't win for yourself, the nation also wins with you," he said.

Camps

Sports Authority of India (SAI) had organised training camps for the contingent in different centres in Delhi, Sonepat and Lucknow.

It also took care of the travel and accommodation

cost of the entire contingent.

The Indian team won 28 medals in athletics (five gold, 12 silver, 11 bronze), six in badminton (three silver, three bronze), three in chess (one silver, two bronze), seven in judo (two gold, five bronze), three in table tennis (one silver, two bronze) and eight medals in wrestling (one gold, one silver, six bronze).

India finished fifth with eight gold, 18 silver and 29 bronze medals.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launches Khel Pratibha Khoj Pratiyogita

Sports Bureau

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launched the Bihar Khel Pratibha Khoj Pratiyogita, the largest talent search competition in the world of sports, lighting the torch at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna on Monday.

The competition will have about 60 lakh children from 40 thousand government secondary and higher secondary schools, with a prize pool of ₹10 crore. It will also allow children from outside schools to compete at the Games.

Bihar recently hosted the Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey, as India successfully defended the title in Rajbir last month, and this programme aims to take a step further in nurturing a sporting ecosystem in the state.

One of the long-term goals of the competition is to create potential medal prospects for the 2032 and



Let the Games begin: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar lights the lamp to formally launch the world's largest talent search competition.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

600 and 400, with the amount increasing at every higher level.

The district-level winners will get ₹2500, 1500 and 100 while that at the state level will be ₹5000, 3000 and 2000.

Athletics, kabaddi, football and volleyball will be the main disciplines in the competition and winners will be given sports kits and certificates as incentives.

Indian men start on a winning note in World team squash

Sports Bureau

India defeated Ireland in its opening men's Group-F match of the World team squash championships in Hong Kong on Monday. In the women's section, India had a mixed day in Group-C, beating Colombia 2-1 and losing to Belgium 3-0.

The results: Men: Group-F: India bt Ireland 2-1 (Abhay Singh lost to Sam Beckley 3-1, 9-11, 6-11; S. Velavan bt Conor Moran 11-9, 11-6, 11-3; J. Veer Chotraani bt Oisin Logan 11-4, 11-3, 11-8).

Women: Group-C: India bt Colombia 2-1 (Anahat Singh bt Lucia Bautista Sarmiento 11-8, 11-3, 11-4; Akanksha Salunkhe 11-6, 5-11, 11-2; Catalina Pelaes 11-6, 5-11, 11-2; Nirupama Dubey bt Laura Tovar 4-11, 5-11, 11-3, 14-12, 5-11; Belgium bt India 3-0 (Nele Gilis bt Anahat Singh 7-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8; Tinne Gilis bt Akansha Salunkhe 11-2, 11-7, 11-6; Chloe Crabbe bt Anjali Sermal 9-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-5, 12-10).

Mehranchvee Tokas adjudged best swimmer

Sports Bureau

NEW DELHI

Mehranchvee Tokas, a second standard student of DPS (Vasant Kunj) was adjudged the best swimmer in his age group in the inter-school swimming at Eicher School, Faridabad, on Sunday.

Mehranchvee, son of international swimmer Tarun Tokas, won four golds in the championship in freestyle and breaststroke. This year, Mehranchvee has won more than 20



Mehranchvee.
golds in various competitions in NCR and has been adjudged the best swimmer in his age group.

Priyanuj sails into under-17 quarterfinals

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Top seed Priyanuj Bhattacharya (Assam) breezed into the under-17 boys' quarterfinals of the UTT National-ranking table tennis tournament here on Monday.

Priyanuj made short work of Debraj Bhattacharjee (Bengal) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7 in the pre-quarterfinals. Second seed Abhinand of Tamil Nadu also had it easy against Rajveer Singh

Bhatia (Punjab) as he won 11-6, 11-5, 11-5 to enter the quarterfinals.

Top-ranked Syndrella Das (Bengal) crushed teammate Aolika Sen 11-1, 11-3, 11-9 to enter the girls pre-quarterfinals.

Player suspended

Rajdip Dey (PSPBA) was suspended from the tournament for racquet abuse. Rajdip, who lost the qualification round to S. Sreejith (Kerala), threw away his racquet in anger and it narrowly missed hitting the guests sitting on the dias. The incident was reported

to the referee Mangesh Mopkar, who suspended the player from the entire tournament.

The results: U-17: Pre-quarterfinals: Boys: Priyanuj Bhattacharya (Asm) bt Debraj Bhattacharjee (Ben) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7; Abhinand (TN) bt Rajveer Singh Bhatia (Pun) 11-6, 11-5, 11-5; Punit Biswas (Ben) bt Rupam Sardar (Ben) 11-6, 13-11, 11-13, 11-8; Sudhanshu Maini (AAI) bt Rushikesh Jagtap (PSPB) 11-9, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8; Athvera Gupta (Del) bt Aarav Acharya (TTFI) 11-5, 11-6, 11-6; Umesh Kumar (TN) bt Arya Kataria (Gu) 11-8, 8-11, 11-9, 14-12; Ayush Tanna (Gu) bt Bhushan Akshay (TN) 11-7, 11-9.

TATA STEEL WORLD 25K

Sports Bureau

KOLKATA

Gulveer Singh, the national record holder in 5,000m and 10,000m, will lead the challenge in the men's section of the Tata Steel World 25K race, which announced the Indian elite runners' field on Monday. Sanjeevani Jadhav will be

favourite among women. The Indian elite athlete field:

Men: Gulveer Singh, Sawan Barwal, Abhishek Pal, Kalidas Hirve, Kiran Matre, Lovepreet Singh, Manoj Kumar, Deepak Bapu Kumbhar, Sarvesh Kumar, Sandeep Singh, Hemant Singh, Ankit Deshwal, Manoj Kumar. <b

Pink ball charm – darling of the masses, villain for willow wielders

Day-Night Tests have been by far the most challenging of the twirls that international cricket has seen in terms of preparation, the condition under lights, the depth perception and the mental scars on the batters for an experience which usually is short-lived but enthralling in equal measure



GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

Much like life itself, sport is all about innovation. Unlike life, it is also about making things more interesting, if not always better. Changing times demand adaptations, flexibility, the willingness to think out of the box and the courage to take a punt, even if it means displeasing the pundits and the connoisseurs, the traditionalists who frown upon modernism.

International cricket has embarked on a journey of twirls, if not twists, since the early 1970s. Until then, the only format in which countries clashed with each other was in the longer version. Timeless Tests were in vogue until 1939 and the start of World War II. In fact, between 1877, when the first Test was played, and 1939, there were 99 timeless Tests, of which two ended in draws owing to visiting teams having to catch a ship back home. The longest Test lasted eight days, Australia defeating England by five wickets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1929.

It's impossible now to even imagine a Test match lasting that long. Most games finish on day three, occasionally, a game drifts into the fourth day. Five-day finishes are a rarity and batathons even less so, maybe because batting techniques have transformed, maybe because the bowlers have become smarter, maybe because the influence of the limited-overs versions is a deterrent towards batting time and a pronounced onus on defence, which was the norm when not losing was considered more important than seeking victory.

The first limited-overs international was born out of necessity when the opening three days of the Australia-England Test at the MCG in January 1971 were washed out. The match was played across 40 overs per side, the hosts winning by five wickets.

Soon, these games became more frequent and the first men's World Cup was played in England in 1975, across 60 overs. By then, the women had already contested a World Cup, also in England, in 1973. It took a decade for the matches to be standardised to 50 overs per side, and the one-day version was quickly assimilated into the cricketing ecosystem until the early 2000s, when the need for instant gratification and dwindling attendances at domestic matches in England led to the birth of the T20 revolution.

Instant appeal

The guarantee of a result in a little over three hours, the sight of the ball disappearing deep into the stands, of zing balls and flashing stumps, appealed instantly to the masses. Men and women, boys and girls, young and old, all thronged the venues and before long, the

20-over game spread its wings until finding a flourishing nesting place in India through the Indian Premier League. Soon, other variants surfaced - the T10, The Hundred in England...

Test cricket retained its core shape until November 2015, when Australia and New Zealand played the first day-night Test at the Adelaide Oval. The match was an unqualified hit. The prospect of a Test starting at 2.30 in the afternoon and going deep into the evening, with the final session played entirely under floodlights, appealed to the masses. The fast bowlers were energised, seeing as how much help there was for them in the last two hours. The batters were challenged, no longer able to just plonk their front foot down the track and hit through the line, an offshoot of the T20 diktat. And the fans loved it, the shiny pink ball with its pronounced black seam an instant object of attraction, mystery, intrigue.

Even at that early stage, it was evident that the day-night Test wouldn't be a permanent stop on the calendar, it wouldn't replace the red-ball, day game by any stretch of the imagination. Too many factors were stacked against that possibility, not least the prevalence of dew in many parts of the world and the fear that a distinct bias towards the ball would eventually put audiences off. And that's how it has panned out, unsurprisingly.

In the last nine years, only 23 Tests have been played with a pink ball, the colour chosen because the authorities felt it was the closest variation of red they could arrive at without compromising on visibility issues.

The pink ball is harder than its red or white counterpart. It retains its shine for longer, because it has multiple layers of lacquer to ensure it doesn't get discoloured easily or quickly. It therefore has a different feel to it and those who don't play day-night Tests even once a year on an average find it a greater puzzle than those who do. Australia have played the most number of pink-ball Tests, 13, of which eight have been staged at the Adelaide Oval. With good reason, too.

Perfect record

Sunday's 10-wicket defeat of India extended Australia's perfect record in day-night Tests at the Oval, where they have hardly been stretched. For India, it was their fifth tryst with the pink ball and only the second overseas. The previous too had been in Adelaide, in December 2020 when they were shot out for 36 in their second innings in natural light on the third morning, their lowest total in Test cricket but also the springboard for their astonishing fightback that earned them an epochal series triumph.

This particular Test lasted a little over 14 and a half hours and ended before the

first long break on the third afternoon, yet it smashed several crowd records. Saturday's day two attracted 51,642 fans, the third highest for a single day of Test cricket at the ground, this on the back of an official attendance of 50,186 the previous day. In all, the total match attendance was 135,012, comfortably the most for a match involving India at the Adelaide Oval, smashing the previous record of 113,009 in 2014-15 when, in his first game as Test captain in a stand-in capacity, Virat Kohli almost took India to a historic win with his second hundred of the game.

"It is clearly the most popular Test of our summer, the day-night game," Greg Chappell, the former Australia captain and India coach, observed during a conversation with this writer on Saturday. "Just look at the number of people, the spectacle. It also challenges the batters more than other Tests, which isn't necessarily a bad thing."

The atmosphere in Adelaide in the lead-up to and during each day's play - a pity that it only lasted two and a quarter days - was electric, to say the least. Fans trooped in from different parts of the country, a Friday start ensuring that the weekend party could begin organically.

The beeline towards the various stands was organised but purposeful, families trooping in alongside other demographic groups, kids doing their thing between watching the action, the elders helping themselves to beverages of various strength and hue throughout the afternoon and evening and getting more and more boisterous as the night skies darkened.

For India's players, used to such atmospheres largely in T20 games, this must have been a fabulous experience



even if they ended up on the wrong side of the result. For once, the support for the home team outnumbered that for the Indians - a far cry from even Perth and first Test, when it appeared as if the Indians were the hosts - which must have been an unusual situation to be in for most of the players.

Too much prep work

The pink ball doesn't come without its challenges for the protagonists. It entails too much prep work for what generally is three or at best four days of play - only five of the 23 Tests have spilled over to day five - once a year in Australia's case, and once in much longer for the Indians. Australian wicketkeeper Alex Carey, who played his maiden day-night Test, spoke of depth perception issues, Rohit Sharma alluded to the difficulties of sighting the pink ball against a white screens without using it as an excuse for India's batting collapses.

Two days before the Test, K.L. Rahul held forth on the difficulties several Indian batters encountered at the nets trying to pick the ball from the bowlers' hand. None of them game-changing because, as Rohit pithily pointed out, professional cricketers are expected to adapt to various situations and asks from time to time, but not ideal from the players' perspective. But no one was complaining - not the Indians, and certainly not the victorious Australians, who are quite the masters now of the pink-ball skirmish.

Wicked pleasure

Even the most harried batter will acknowledge, though, that there is a kind of wicked pleasure to be derived in the night session when the ball seems around as if possessed, transforming the most accomplished willow-wielder into a jumpy, sometimes nervy bundle of uncertainty, especially when the said harried batter is in the field watching his bowlers inflicting the damage.

In some ways, each day of the pink-ball Test is a day of two halves - the first sort of three hours or so when, in natural light, the ball doesn't misbehave prodigiously, and then the twilight period segueing into the night when pink triggers the blues.

It's enthralling, entrancing, mesmeric. It's something that is hard to imagine unless you are at the ground, savouring the thrill, enjoying the atmosphere, soaking in the ambience, becoming one with the audience.

Its greatest charm lies in its novelty and that's how it must remain. Test cricket exclusively under lights and only with a pink ball will be a stretch, but when it comes around once a year, sit back, relax and cherish it. After all, it truly is one of a kind.

THE GIST

▼ Test cricket retained its core shape until November 2015, when Australia and New Zealand played the first day-night Test at the Adelaide Oval

▼ The atmosphere in Adelaide in the lead-up to and during each day's play - a pity that it only lasted two and a quarter days - was electric

▼ The pink ball doesn't come without its challenges for the protagonists

SCIENCE

Antimatter idea offers scientists clue to cracking cosmic mystery

If the universe started off with equal amounts of matter and antimatter, where has all the antimatter gone? Nobody knows for certain and the best current theory to explain the world fell woefully short of satisfying three crucial conditions, until a new study pointed out a caveat

Nirmal Raj

Ione of the most astonishing facts about the natural world is the existence of antiparticles. Theorised by the English physicist Paul A.M. Dirac in 1928 and observed in cosmic rays by American physicist Carl Anderson in 1932, an antiparticle is a 'partner' of a particle type that has the same mass but opposite charge. For example, the antielectron is the antiparticle of the electron; it has the same mass and is positively charged.

Antiparticles are an inevitable consequence of describing the world in terms of quantum mechanics and special relativity.

An antiparticle is a particle travelling backward in time. This is not an oversimplification. If it sounds eerie, that's because it is.

O antimatter, where art thou?

But where is all the antimatter made of antiparticles? It is certainly scarce, or we would have discovered it a long time ago. Still, antiparticles are detectably numerous. Our own bodies make one antielectron every 20 seconds from the decay of potassium-40. Cosmic rays raining down on us supply antiprotons, antielectrons, and even antinuclei. Every proton and neutron – constituents of the nuclei that make up all the matter we can touch – is teeming with antiquarks.

But it is when we look out at the universe as a whole that antimatter's scarcity becomes clear. All galaxies are made of matter, not antimatter. Even in the infant universe, there had to have been a small dissimilarity between the populations of protons and antiprotons for our predictions about the outcomes of the synthesis of nuclei in the early universe and the features of the cosmic microwave background (radiation leftover from the Big Bang) to hold.

That is, for every 1.7 billion proton-antiproton pairs, there should have been an extra unpaired proton.

Presumably the universe started out with equal amounts of matter and antimatter before something happened to distort this symmetry. That's a good thing: otherwise matter and antimatter would have mutually annihilated to fill the universe with nothing but a fog of radiation – no raw material to make stars, planets or us.

But what spoiled the symmetry? Put differently, why is there something around us rather than nothing (but that fog)? Nobody knows for certain. What we do know is that any theory attempting to explain it must satisfy three conditions, called the Sakharov conditions. The best current theory to explain the world, the Standard Model of particle physics, falls woefully short of meeting all of them.

At least this was the lore until the authors of an August 2024 preprint paper pointed out an interesting caveat.

They showed that one of the conditions can be satisfied by the Standard Model alone, provided some new particle species helps with the process of making matter.

An unsettling discovery

Look at the world in a mirror. Does it look the same? Apples would still fall and moons would circle planets because gravity would be unchanged. Protons and neutrons would cling to form nuclei



Cosmic puzzle: This composite image pieced together by data from multiple telescopes shows a part of the Milky Way galaxy's central region. The bright white portion hosts a supermassive black hole as well as energetic particle reactions that produce antimatter. PUBLIC DOMAIN

because the strong nuclear force would be preserved. But atomic nuclei won't undergo radioactive fission because that happens via the weak force. And the weak force, like a vampire, vanishes in the mirror-world.

The discovery of this fact in 1957 was profoundly unsettling because it struck at cherished notions of symmetry in nature. A parity transformation (denoted P) – the act of swapping left and right – appeared to eliminate the weak force. But soon physicists found that if they replaced a particle with its antiparticle in the mirror-world, the weak force reappeared. This action is called charge conjugation (C). It seems the universe didn't conserve P and C separately but did so when they happened together. This is called CP symmetry.

But in 1964, American physicists James Cronin and Val Fitch found that even CP symmetry is violated. And it wasn't

violated all the time – which made it more nagging. They found that it was violated around once for every thousand times a process involving the weak force happened in nature. Nine years later, Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa in Japan found that if there were at least three variants of every quark species – with all properties the same except for the mass – CP symmetry violation is unavoidable. And all fermion particles do come in three variants, a.k.a. generations. For instance, the up quark has two other variants: the charm and top quarks. (Around the same time, physicists also found that the strong nuclear force – involved in fission and fusion – ought to violate CP symmetry strongly but doesn't. This is called the strong CP puzzle.)

Now, as soon as CP symmetry violation was confirmed, the Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov realised it's actually an essential condition to create a

matter-antimatter asymmetry in the early universe. Unfortunately, the amount of CP symmetry violation the Standard Model allowed for (the -1 in 1,000 rate) proved insufficient to explain the magnitude of the asymmetry. This is where the authors of the August paper have pointed out a loophole. We have known for some time that processes involving mesons – particles made of quark-antiquark pairs – violate CP symmetry, which is just how Cronin and Fitch made their discovery. Now, if a meson could decay to particles not contained in the Standard Model, the matter-antimatter asymmetry could be controlled by the product of two quantities: the amount of standard CP violation and the fraction of decays into the non-standard particles. This fraction can't be too large: otherwise we would have detected the non-standard particles in particle colliders.

The study's conceit, then, is to introduce a mechanism that ensured this fraction was large just in the early universe but evolved to a smaller number today. This can be done if the masses of the new particles vary over time, which is possible to arrange in quantum field theory.

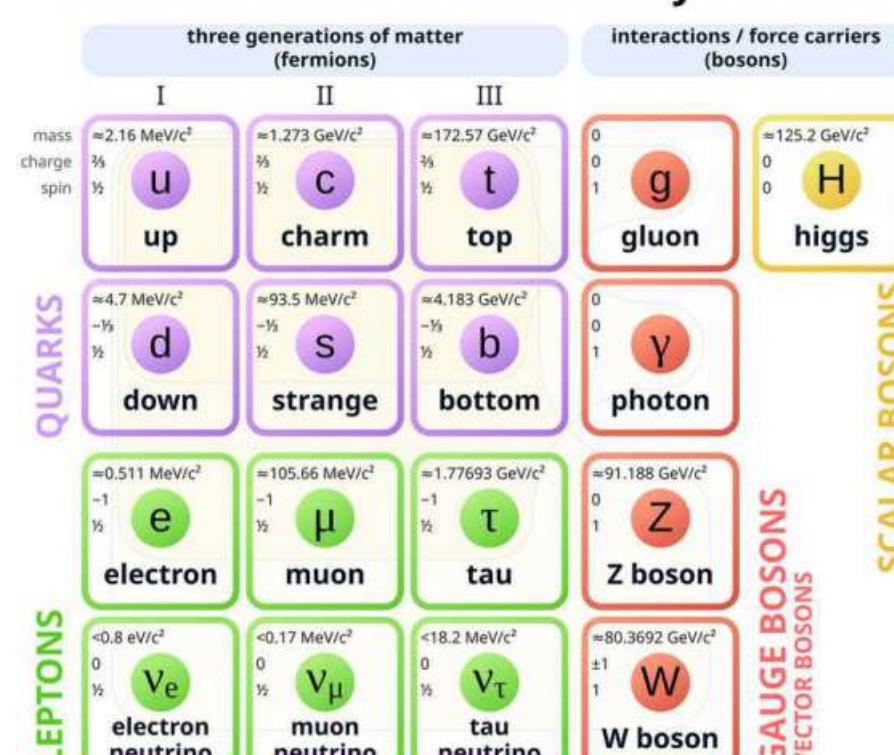
Hard-won progress

This mechanism has thus brought one of the three Sakharov conditions within the reach of the Standard Model five decades since these conditions came to light.

The other two conditions are: (i) A large violation in a type of charge carried by particles, called the baryon number. For example, protons and neutrons have a baryon number of 1 and their antiparticles carry a value of -1. (ii) Interactions must occur out of thermal equilibrium, meaning that particle processes in the forward and backward directions do not occur at the same rate.

While the Standard Model does not meet these conditions adequately, the work discussed here serves as an important step towards understanding why matter overwhelmingly dominates over antimatter in our universe today. (Nirmal Raj is an assistant professor of theoretical physics at the Centre for High Energy Physics in the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. nraj@iisc.ac.in)

Standard Model of Elementary Particles



The (current) crop of fundamental particles making up matter as we know it and the different ways they can interact. The W and Z bosons mediate the weak force. PUBLIC DOMAIN

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The storied lives of hormones

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

On December 10, 1907, the Brown Dog riots in London saw around a thousand medical students clash with police over what the students perceived to be a threat to their ability to conduct _____, a procedure in which a live animal is dissected. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

The Brown Dog riots were a part of the overarching Brown Dog affair, which began when two people in the audience complained that a dog being dissected (as in Q1) by X didn't seem to be sufficiently anaesthetised. Name X, who is credited with the discovery of hormones using one such procedure.

QUESTION 3

Hormones are molecules that are transmitted across a body, like messengers, to regulate physiological changes. Name the plant hormone that was also the first known gaseous hormone used to control when flowers open, when fruits ripen, and when leaves are shed.

QUESTION 4

When a hormone reaches a target cell, it binds to a receptor and launches a series of reactions that allow a signal borne by the hormone to reach the cell's protein-making facility. What is the technical term for this series of reactions?

QUESTION 5

There are four broad ways in which a hormone can transmit its effects: endocrine (released into the blood and acts on cells), paracrine (acts on nearby cells), _____ (acts on the cells that secrete it), and intracrine (acts within a cell without exiting). Fill in the blank.



A 3D model of the hormone melatonin. GETTY IMAGES

Answers to December 3 quiz:

- Gas responsible for Bhopal disaster – Ans: Methyl isocyanate
- Chemical ingredient used to manufacture Sevin – Ans: 1-Naphthol
- Compound France used as a chemical weapon in World War I – Ans: Phosgene
- Property of methyl isocyanate that makes eyes water – Ans: Lachrymal
- Substance added to methyl isocyanate leading to disaster – Ans: Water

Visual: 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko

First contact:

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Answers to Decembr 6 quiz:

- Year when WHO embraced primary healthcare as the basis of universal care – Ans: 1978
- Year when British National Health Service was launched – Ans: 1948

3. US president who tried twice to establish universal care – Ans: Franklin D. Roosevelt

4. US medical insurance schemes – Ans: Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, Children's Health Insurance Program

5. Second component of Ayushman Bharat scheme – Ans: PMJAY

Visual: Launched Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare)

First contact:

K.N. Viswanathan | Basavaraj Meti | Jose Joji



More than three-quarters of the world's land experienced drier conditions from 1970 to 2020 than the previous thirty-year period AFP

UN talks in Riyadh keep focus on land degradation

Associated Press

Much of the earth's lands are drying out and damaging the ability of plant and animal life to survive, according to a United Nations report released Monday at talks where countries are working to address the problem.

The report was released at the UN summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on combating desertification – once-fertile lands turning into deserts because of hotter temperatures from human-caused climate change, lack of water and deforestation. It found that more than three-quarters of the world's land experienced drier conditions from 1970 to 2020 than the previous thirty-year period.

"The drier climates now affecting vast lands across the globe will not return to how they were," said Ibrahim Thiaw, chief of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which is facilitating the Riyadh talks. "This change is redefining life on earth."

At the talks, which started last week and are set to end on Friday, nations are discussing how better they can help the world deal with droughts – a more urgent lack of water over shorter periods – and the more permanent problem of degrading land.

If global warming trends continue, nearly five billion people – including in most of Europe, parts of the western U.S.,

Farming is particularly at risk, with drier land being less productive and hurting both yields and the availability of food for livestock, the report said

Brazil, eastern Asia and central Africa – will be affected by the drying by the end of the century, up from a quarter of the world's population today, the report warned. UNCCD's chief scientist Barron Orr warned drier land could lead to "potentially catastrophic impacts affecting access to water that could push people and nature even closer to disastrous tipping points," where humans are no longer able to reverse damaging effects of climate change.

Sergio Vicente-Serrano, one of the lead authors of the report, said that as the atmosphere heats up because the burning of coal, oil and gas spews planet-warming emissions, it leads to more evaporation on the ground. That makes water less available for humans, plants and animals, making it harder to survive.

Farming is particularly at risk, with drier land being less productive and hurting both yields and the availability of food for livestock, the report said. That can lead to food insecurity for communities worldwide.

Aridity also leads to more migration, because erratic rainfall, degrading land and frequent water shortages make it harder for regions or nations to develop economically, the report said. It said the trend is especially noticeable in some of the world's driest areas such as southern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and southern Asia. Negotiators in Riyadh are mainly discussing how best the world can respond to more frequent and damaging droughts.

Jes Weigelt, of European climate thinktank TMG, said it's still a sticking point because countries can't agree on whether rich nations should be forking out funds for drought responses around the world. Any money pledged would go towards better forecasting and monitoring systems as well as creating reservoirs and other water-management structures.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'