



Inauguration & Keynote Address by Chief Guest

### Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

In the presence of

### Thiru. Duraimurugan

Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Government of Tamil Nadu

### Thiru. R Gandhi

Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu

### Thiru. Ma Subramanian

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu

### Dr G V Sampath

Founder & Chairman, Naruvi Hospitals

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# Your Guide to Wellness and Preventive Health

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On-Ground Panel Discussion (2:30 PM - 3:30 PM)

## Stress and Sleep - The Twin Burdens That Deter Humans From Achieving Full Potential



**Dr Prince James**

MBBS, MD (Pulmonary Medicine)  
Head, Interventional Pulmonology,  
Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore  
Organizer of Bronchovcon 2017  
and expert in thoracic care



**Dr Sathish Kumar M**

MBBS, MD (Respiratory Medicine)  
Senior Specialist, Interventional  
Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine,  
Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore



**Dr Maria Antony**

MBBS, Diploma in Psychological  
Medicine, Post-Graduate Certificate  
Course in Child and  
Adolescent Mental Health



**Dr Mary Kurien**

MBBS, DLO, MS (Otorhinolaryngology)  
Senior Consultant & Head of ENT,  
Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore



**Ramya Kannan**

Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu),  
The Hindu (Moderator)

## 15-PART WEBINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Schedule	Doctor	Department	Topic
22-12-2024	Webinar 1	Dr Nitin Kekre Dr Rohit Sethi	Urology	Recurrent Urinary Tract Infection in Women - Management & Prevention
05-01-2025	Webinar 2	Dr Seshadri Dr Sai Krishna Chaitanya	Endocrinology	Prevention of Osteoporosis - Emphasis on diet and exercise
26-01-2025	Webinar 3	Dr Aravindan Nair Dr Tushar Yeswanth Sonnavae	General Surgery	Thyroid Disorders - what the common man needs to know about prevention and early detection
09-02-2025	Webinar 4	Dr Abraham Peedicayil Dr Santosh Thomas Samuel	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Management of heavy menstrual bleeding
23-02-2025	Webinar 5	Dr Raja	Rheumatology	Early diagnosis prevention and treatment of arthritis
09-03-2025	Webinar 6	Dr Jacob Jose Dr Suresh Kumar	Cardiac Sciences	Blood pressure what you need to know?
23-03-2025	Webinar 7	Dr Mammen Chandy Dr Madhumithra	Hematology	Iron deficiency: the importance of iron in nutrition
06-04-2025	Webinar 8	Dr Kurien Thomas Dr Pranita Roy	General Medicine	Vitamin D Deficiency myth or reality
20-04-2025	Webinar 9	Dr Dilip Mathai Dr Kurien Thomas	Academics	Prevention of illness: Immunizing the Elderly
04-05-2025	Webinar 10	Dr Vinayak Shukla Dr Ray George	Cardiac Sciences	Stress - Silent Killer for One's Heart
18-05-2025	Webinar 11	Dr Mary Kurien Dr Vikram	ENT	Gadget - Induced Hearing Loss
01-06-2025	Webinar 12	Dr Ashok Chacko Dr Rabindranath	Gastroenterology	Lifestyle modifications in prevention and treatment of Metabolic Dysfunction Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD)
15-06-2025	Webinar 13	Dr Sonia Mary Kurien Dr Nagaraj	Paediatrics	Raising a Healthy Child
29-06-2025	Webinar 14	Dr Backiyaraj Dr Boopesh	Neurosciences	Prevention of spine trauma in accidents and workplaces
13-07-2025	Webinar 15	Dr Ashok Chacko Dr Rabindranath	Gastroenterology	Is Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) a lifestyle disease?



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Jaipur	Admissions Open	एडमिशन आरंभ
Indore	Admissions Open	एडमिशन आरंभ



**Drishti IAS**



NEWS » PAGE 10

**DISTRESS ZONE**  
*The cyclone that wreaked havoc in Tamil Nadu*

*Slow-moving Fengal posed many challenges*

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 9



**ROW IN RAJYA SABHA**  
Currency notes found on Congress member's seat

NEWS » PAGE 11

## Amid high inflation, RBI retains repo rate at 6.5%

Monetary Policy Committee takes note of slowdown in growth momentum, downgrades growth and inflation estimates for 2024-25; persistent inflation deflates consumption and growth, says Das

**Lalatendu Mishra**  
MUMBAI

**T**he Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday held steadfast in its battle against inflation amid weakening growth momentum, with four of six members voting to keep policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for the 11th bi-monthly review in a row.

However, acknowledging that the economy is facing tight liquidity conditions that are likely to persist for a few months, it cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) for banks by 50 basis points to 4%, after a gap of two and half years, in a bid to support growth.

While divisions within the MPC on a *status quo* on rates expanded from the 5:1 vote in October, the pa-

### Balancing act

The RBI on Friday tried to find a balance between inflation management and supporting economic growth

- The RBI kept the repo rate **unchanged** at 6.5% for a record 11th meeting in a row
- The Cash Reserve Ratio – the proportion of deposits that banks must set aside with the central bank – has been cut by 50 basis points to 4%
- The cut will infuse ₹1.16 lakh crore into the banking system and will soften short-term interest rates and enhance capacity of banks to extend credit

nel was unanimous on sticking to a 'neutral' stance and remaining unambiguously focused on a durable alignment of inflation with its 4% target, while supporting growth. Inflation had spiked to a 14-month high of 6.2% in October, the last available price rise number.

"The MPC took note of the recent slowdown in the growth momentum, which

growth, he said persistently high inflation reduced the disposable income of consumers and dented private consumption which negatively impacted the real GDP growth.

Real GDP growth in the July to September quarter fell to a seven-quarter low of 5.4%, compared to RBI's 7% projection, and the MPC has now downgraded the growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.6% from 7.2%.

Similarly, with inflation increasing sharply in September and October led by an unanticipated increase in food prices, the retail inflation for 2024-25 has now been projected at 4.8% compared to the 4.5% average projected till October.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10  
**STAYING THE COURSE**  
» PAGE 8

Noting the RBI's mandate is to ensure price stability while supporting

Vikram Misri to visit Dhaka on Monday as tensions mount

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI



In India's first high-level diplomatic outreach to Bangladesh since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led regime, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will visit Dhaka on December 9, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Friday. His visit is part of "structured interactions" with Bangladesh, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Mr. Misri's day-long visit comes against the backdrop of a heated war of words between the two countries that has escalated in recent weeks, especially regarding attacks against the Hindu minority in Bangladesh.

On Friday, Bangladesh called back its Acting Deputy High Commissioner Shikdar Mohammad Ashrafur Rahman in Kolkata, and Arif Mohammad, As-

sistant High Commissioner in its Agartala mission, for "urgent consultation", after a Hindu group committed an act of vandalism at the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Tripura's capital Agartala.

Bangladesh condemned the incident and India expressed "regret" but the Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka, Pranay Verma, was still summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka on Wednesday.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10

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Government of Haryana



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- नरेन्द्र मोदी



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CM YK

It's time to do other things:  
Dilip Pandey ahead of poll

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Timarpur and chief whip in the Assembly Dilip Pandey on Friday hinted that he may not contest the upcoming Assembly election and that it is time for him "to do something else". Later in the day, a former two-time MLA from Timarpur, Surendra Pal Singh Bittu, joined AAP in the presence of senior party leader Manish Sisodia.

In a post on X, Mr. Pandey wrote, "After fulfilling the responsibility of building an organisation in politics and then contesting elections in politics, now it's time to do something else while staying in AAP."

Mr. Bittu had earlier represented the north Delhi seat as a Congress MLA and then as a legislator of AAP, which he joined in 2017. He switched over to the BJP before the 2020 poll and lost to Mr. Pandey.

# BJP conspiring to erase AAP supporters' names from electoral roll, says Kejriwal

AAP chief claims BJP has sent over 11,000 applications to EC seeking removal of voters in Shahdara; District Magistrate refutes charges, says only 494 such pleas have been received; Kejriwal is scared of 'fake votes getting exposed', says Sachdeva; shocking to learn that EC acting at BJP's behest: Cong.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**A**am Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Friday accused the BJP of hatching a conspiracy to get his party supporters' names deleted from the electoral roll for the Assembly election due in February 2025. The former Delhi Chief Minister also accused the Election Commission (EC) of "ignoring due process" for the vote deletion.

At a press conference, Mr. Kejriwal referred to "irregularities" in the Shahdara Assembly constituency. "In the past month, the BJP has filed applications to delete the names of 11,018 voters. All these applications are signed by BJP's booth-level agents. We couldn't check all, so we randomly selected 500

voters and found that 372 still live there. That means 75% of people still live there but their names could be deleted from the electoral roll," he said.

**Totally misleading**  
However, the District Magistrate of Shahdara rejected the claim in a post on X, stating, "Only 494 Form 7 (applications) are received for Shahdara Assembly constituency since October 29. Hence, the claim that 11,018 Form 7s were filed by the BJP in the last one month is factually incorrect."

According to the rules, Form 7 is required to be filled for objecting to the proposed inclusion of a voter in the electoral list or deletion of a name.

Mr. Kejriwal termed the DM's statement "totally misleading", stating that "all applications for voter's



Former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with party leader Manish Sisodia addressing a press conference on Friday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

name deletion are not in the public domain".

"The EC is supposed to upload all applications on voter's name deletion on the website daily. But till yesterday (December 5), the applications by the BJP were not on the website. The website is showing only 487 applications," the AAP leader said.

He underscored that his party had won the Shahda-

ra seat in the 2020 Assembly poll by a little over 5,000 votes and claimed that it was the reason behind the bid to get the names of around 11,000 voters in the constituency removed from the roll.

Furthering AAP's allegations, Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said his party has made numerous complaints to the Chief Electoral Officer regarding

the removal of duplicate names from the electoral roll, but "no action has been taken". "It was shocking to learn that the EC was acting at the behest of the BJP to favour it in the upcoming Delhi Assembly election by adding and deleting voters' names selectively. It will defeat the very purpose of holding the election freely and fairly," he alleged.

**Transparent process?**

BJP's New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj said removing a person's name from the electoral roll is a legal process, which involves submitting Form 7 and that an individual can submit up to six forms. "To get a vote deleted, an application is submitted along with documents. In this process, the Assistant Returning Officer issues a notice to the concerned individual and

conducts personal verification. It is a lengthy legal process and entirely transparent," she said.

Responding to AAP's allegations, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said Mr. Kejriwal is scared of "fake votes of Rohingya and Bangladeshis getting exposed".

"Settling illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya in Delhi and granting them voting rights is a deliberate strategy of AAP," he alleged.

Claiming that there are "errors in the existing electoral roll", Mr. Sachdeva said, "In Moti Nagar, there is a case of entries showing names and addresses of places where there is neither a house nor any resident living. In that area, 24 votes are registered against a newly installed electricity meter on a roadside wall."

**Naresh Balyan remanded in police custody till Dec. 13**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday remanded Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Naresh Balyan, arrested under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), in police custody till December 13.

Special Public Prosecutor Akhand Pratap Singh, representing the Delhi police, told the court that the interrogation is at "a crucial point". Mr. Balyan's counsel, however, termed the arrest "politically motivated".

The two-time Uttam Nagar MLA was arrested in an extortion case on November 30. On December 4, the police booked him under MCOCA, which allows a suspect to be incarcerated for up to 180 days without trial, soon after he was granted bail in the extortion case. The police have accused Mr. Balyan of having "close links with gangster Kapil Sangwan".

**Timings**  
**DELHI**

SATURDAY, DEC. 07
RISE 07:01 SET 17:25
RISE 11:55 SET 23:15
SUNDAY, DEC. 08
RISE 07:02 SET 17:25
RISE 12:28 SET 00:00
MONDAY, DEC. 09
RISE 07:03 SET 17:25
RISE 13:00 SET 00:18

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 25 08  
Safdarjung 25 08  
Palam 23 11

**Delhi Palam Today**  
26°C The dry weather to continue. Mist and haze will occur in very cool morning and night. Day will be comfortable with light to moderate breeze.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
25°C Morning will be cool with shallow fog and mist. Day will be comfortable. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

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**REWIND 2024 TRIVIA QUIZ**

DAY 07

- On November 15, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a commemorative stamp and coin to mark the 150th birth anniversary of which tribal icon and freedom fighter, celebrated annually as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas?
- Which Nordic country set aside decades of post-World War II neutrality when it formally joined NATO on March 7, 2024?
- Which Indian chess player, ranked World No. 2 as of December 1, 2024, achieved an Elo rating of over 2800 in October 2024?

Scan QR code or visit [newsth.live/RTQPA](http://newsth.live/RTQPA) take the quiz. Top 3 winners\* every day win gift vouchers.

**Answer to yesterday's quiz:**

- Maharishi Valmiki
- Waves
- Ravichandran Ashwin

Yesterday's Winners:  
1. K.Sreedevi, Chittoor | 2. Anagha M, Bengaluru | 3. Magesh Sekar, Chennai

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ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-07(SBD) / 2024-25 जिसकी सूचना पर्यंत जिसमें विभाग, विवर प्रकाशित किया गया है। जिसमें निम्नलिखित संशोधन किया जाता है-

- ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-07(SBD) / 2024-25 में अंकित क्रमांक संख्या-04 में निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक की तिथि-21.11.2024 के बाद तारीख पर दिनांक-03.12.2024 पढ़ा जाए।
- ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-07(SBD) / 2024-25 में अंकित क्रमांक संख्या-05 में निविदा आपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि-28.11.2024 के बाद तारीख पर दिनांक-08.12.2024 पढ़ा जाए।
- ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-07(SBD) / 2024-25 में अंकित क्रमांक संख्या-06 में तिकीको बीड़ खोलने की तिथि-30.11.2024 के बाद तारीख पर दिनांक-11.12.2024 पढ़ा जाए।

ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-07(SBD) / 2024-25 में अंकित क्रमांक संख्या-06 में तिकीको बीड़ खोलने की तिथि-30.11.2024 के बाद तारीख पर दिनांक-11.12.2024 पढ़ा जाए।

प्र. No.014005 (Planning) 2024-25

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“2014 के बाद से भारत नई सोच और अप्रोच के साथ TB के खिलाफ संघर्ष में Trace, Test, Track, Treat और Technology की स्ट्रेटजी के साथ काम कर रहा है जिसमें जनभागीदारी की भी अहम भूमिका है। भारत के प्रयास TB के खिलाफ वैश्विक लड़ाई का एक नया मॉडल है।”  
**-नरेन्द्र मोदी**



## Under National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP)

### TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

#### Launch of 100 Days TB Elimination Campaign

Chief Guest

### Sh. J.P. Nadda

Union Minister, Health & Family Welfare

7 December, 2024

Indradhanush  
Auditorium,  
Panchkula

Time: 12 pm

August Presence

### Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

and

### Ms. Arti Singh Rao

Health Minister, Haryana

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# JAN-JAN KA RAKHE DHYAAN TB-MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN



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2  
साल बैगिसाल

# व्यावस्था परिवर्तन से आत्मनिर्भर बनाता हिमाचल



## हिमाचल बनने जा रहा देश का पहला हरित ऊर्जा राज्य

- पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में क्रांतिकारी पहल से 31 मार्च, 2026 तक हिमाचल बनेगा हरित ऊर्जा राज्य।
- प्रदेश में 6 ग्रीन कोरिडोर स्थापित किए गए।
- ऊना जिला के पेखूबेला में 32 मेगावट सौर ऊर्जा परियोजना रिकॉर्ड समय में पूरी। सालाना 19.17 करोड़ रुपये का राजस्व लाभ होगा।
- अद्यलौर में 10 मेगावट और भंजाल में पांच मेगावट क्षमता वाली सौर ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं का निर्माण पूरा होने पर प्रदेश को 11 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक राजस्व प्राप्त होगा।
- राजीव गांधी स्टार्ट-अप योजना के अंतर्गत 50 प्रतिशत सल्सिडी पर ई-टैक्सी चलाने के लिए 10 हजार परमिट दिए जा रहे हैं।
- चम्बा में स्थापित किया जा रहा प्रदेश का पहला ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन आधारित मोबिलिटी स्टेशन।
- सोलन जिले के नालागढ़ में ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन गैस के उत्पादन के लिए एक मेगावट क्षमता का प्लांट स्थापित करने का कार्य शुरू।
- परिवहन विभाग में इलैक्ट्रिकल वाहनों की शुरुआत।
- मुख्यमंत्री वन विस्तार योजना के अंतर्गत लगभग 600 हैक्टेयर बंजर पहाड़ियों पर होगा पौधरोपण।

ठाकुर सुखविन्द्र सिंह सुख्ख  
मुख्यमंत्री, हिमाचल प्रदेश

## IN BRIEF



## Ayodhya turns into fortress on Babri demolition anniversary

The holy city of Ayodhya was turned into a virtual fortress on the 32nd anniversary of the Babri mosque demolition on Friday with police deploying drones for surveillance, patrolling the Saryu River in boats, and conducting multiple flag marches. This year's anniversary was particularly significant as it was first after the consecration of the Ram temple earlier this year. To ensure that the day passed off without any untoward incident, the local administration bolstered security measures at every entry checkpoint in the city. Access to the Ram temple vicinity remained restricted throughout the day. PTI

## Principal shot dead by Class 12 student after being scolded

A Class 12 student allegedly shot dead the principal of his school in Madhya Pradesh's Chhattarpur district on Friday afternoon after being admonished for coming late, police said. The 17-year-old boy fled on the principal's scooter after the incident that took place around 1.30 p.m. but was nabbed within a few hours, said Inspector Pushpendra Yadav of Orchha Road police station. He was traced near the district's border with Uttar Pradesh, the officer said, adding that the accused was known for wayward behaviour. The weapon used for the killing was also seized from him, Mr. Yadav added. PTI

## Bomb threat to flights: 16 cases registered in Delhi likely to be transferred to NIA

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

At least 16 cases registered in connection with threats to flights of different airlines operating from Delhi are likely to be transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), officials sources said on Friday.

It has been learnt that the Delhi Police has written to the city government's Home Department to transfer the cases to the NIA, they said, adding that it would be further sent to the Union Home Ministry for final approval.

"The matter is related to national security and it has an international ramifications. All these 16 cases were registered under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation (SUA SCA) Act with BNS sections and they

## Cases were filed in response to threats to more than 150 domestic and international flights operating from the national capital

needed deeper probe," an official source said.

In the last two weeks of October, more than 510 domestic and international flights received bomb threats that later turned out to be hoaxes, causing major operational and financial distress for the airlines across the country. Most of the threats were issued through social media.

Police sources said 16 cases were registered in response to the threats to more than 150 domestic or international flights operating from Delhi.

## 'No card, no work': MGNREGS deletions hit rural workers hard

Ashna Butani  
NEW DELHI

Rinku Devi, 38, and her husband have been struggling to find work since last year. The daily wagers from Muzaffarpur in Bihar were left in a state of utter dejection after they found their names deleted from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which guarantees 100 days of work to rural households.

Ms. Devi's case is not an exception. Between April and September this year, as per a study released by Lib Tech, a consortium of academics and activists, 84.8 lakh workers registered under MGNREGS found their names deleted from the programme. At the same time, 45.4 lakh new workers have been added, with net deletion of workers standing at 39.3 lakh.

## Religious and caste fanatics could never achieve their aims in Tamil Nadu, says CM

I am not denying that there are some obstacles on our ambitious path. Some people are trying to blow them out of proportion for political ends, the CM says, vowing to create an egalitarian society

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

In a message to those "spreading rumours" against his government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Friday that religious and caste fanatics could never achieve their aims in Tamil Nadu.

"I am not denying the fact that there are some obstacles on our ambitious path. Some people are trying to blow them out of proportion for political ends," he said, adding that those individuals were even questioning whether the State was indeed the land of 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy or of Ambedkar.

**'Spreading rumours'**  
Mr. Stalin called out those who were "intentionally spreading rumours" to bring the Dravidian model of governance into disrepute, without understanding an incident that occurred in a location. "My message to them is: Your religious and caste fanati-



Lending a hand: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin distributing aid to a beneficiary in Chennai on Friday.

cism would not succeed in this land of 'Periyar' and Ambedkar. You could not achieve your aims as long as this Stalin exists," he said.

His government would "remove the obstacles in society, expose the divisive forces, uphold the ideal of social justice, and create an egalitarian society," he added.

Speaking at a function, Mr. Stalin said his government was taking steps to

empower the Adi Dravidars and the Scheduled Tribes. He recalled the affinity the late 'Periyar' and former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi had for Dr. Ambedkar.

## Loans handed over

He launched the distribution of new vehicles under an initiative to make conservancy workers entrepreneurs. He also handed over loans under the Anna Ambedkar Business Cham-

pions Scheme. He gave away insurance cards to conservancy workers and aid for building houses to some beneficiaries of the Narikorava community.

Ministers K.N. Nehru, S. Regupathy, Ma. Subramanian, P.K. Sekarbabu, and M. Mathiventhan; Chennai Mayor R. Priya; legislators K. Selvaperumthagi and I. Paranthamen; Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam; and senior officials were also present.

## Union Cabinet gives nod for new corridor of metro in Capital

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)'s 26.46-km Rithala-Narela-Nathupur (Kundli) corridor.

The cost of the corridor, which is expected to enhance connectivity between Ghaziabad, Delhi, and Haryana, is ₹6,230 crore and is scheduled to be completed in four years from the date of its sanction. The stretch, part of the DMRC's Phase-IV project, will have 21 stations, all of which will be elevated. The new corridor will be an extension of the presently operational Shaheed Sthal New Bus Adda (Ghaziabad) - Rithala (Delhi) Red Line.

It will expand the metro's network in the national capital's north-west areas, including Narela, Bawana, and parts of Rohini.

After completion, the Rithala-Narela-Nathupur corridor will connect Ghaziabad with Nathupur in Haryana via Delhi, which will improve connectivity in the entire National Capital Region (NCR), read a Union Cabinet statement.

"This new corridor of



The new corridor will connect Ghaziabad in U.P. with Kundli in Haryana via Delhi. FILE PHOTO

the Phase-IV project will expand the reach of the Delhi Metro network in the NCR, thereby boosting the economy. This extension of the Red Line will reduce congestion on the roads, helping reduce the pollution by motor vehicles," it added.

## Forays in Haryana

The corridor will be the DMRC's fourth extension into Haryana. Presently, the Delhi Metro operates up to Gurugram, Ballabhgarh, and Bahadurgarh in Haryana.

The new corridor will be implemented by the DMRC, the existing 50:50 special purpose vehicle of the Centre and the Delhi government.

## NCB gets conviction of accused in 6 drug cases

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The first case was registered on October 16 following a bomb threat received via X targeting a Bengaluru-bound Akasa Air flight. The aircraft, carrying over 180 passengers, was forced to return to the national capital, they said. The Indira Gandhi International Airport police, along with the Delhi Police's Cyber Cell, conducted the probe into the matter but they have not got any lead into any of the cases as of now.

**'Difficult to locate'**  
"The threat messages were sent via VPN due to which the agencies are not able to get its exact domain or server. In some cases, the servers from which these messages were routed were located in European countries like the United Kingdom and Germany," another official source said.

In August 2022, the NCB Indore intercepted a truck on National Highway 69 in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, and seized 206 kg of ganja. The four arrested persons were convicted by a court and sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment.

In another case, the NCB Indore seized 63.115 kg of

ganja at Allonia Toll Plaza, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, from a vehicle driven by Mohammed Rafi Khan and his aide Krutibasa Sathua. On November 22, 2024, both the accused were convicted and sentenced to 15 years of rigorous imprisonment.

**10-year jail term**  
On September 8, 2021, the NCB Mumbai team conducted a raid at the residence of one Arif Rashid Shaikh and seized 52.3 gm of mephedrone. Following a trial, on December 3, 2024, the court convicted and sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment.

The NCB Patna had intercepted a car at Zero Mile Bypass, Gaya-Masaurhi Road, Patna, and seized 96 kg of ganja on February 13, 2021.

"On November 21, 2024, the trial court convicted the two accused, sentencing them to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment," said the NCB.

## No let-up in protests over Bangladesh issue

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

There is no let-up in protests in Kolkata over the developments in Bangladesh, with Hindutva groups and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders hitting the streets calling for economic blockade of the neighbouring country.

Monks of several Hindutva groups along with Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari on Friday participated in a rally from Shyambazar to Sonthi crossing in north Kolkata.

**'India will benefit'**  
Mr. Adhikari said India will benefit if trade with Bangladesh is called off. "Rizvi (BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi) is burning Indian sarees. If Bangladesh has the guts then they should ban Indian sarees. This will only benefit our artisans of Katwa, Kalna, Shantipur and Phulia," the BJP leader said.



BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari at a protest rally over Bangladesh issue in Kolkata on Friday. ANI

Ever since the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a monk of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) on November 25 in Bangladesh, several Hindutva organisations and BJP leadership have organised protests in Kolkata.

Meanwhile, a Hindutva outfit calling for boycott of Bangladeshi goods, burnt products from the neighbouring country in city's Maniktala area on Friday.

## Slap-accused U.P. teacher surrenders, gets bail

The Hindu Bureau  
LUCKNOW

Tripta Tyagi, a teacher who asked other students to slap a Muslim boy at a private school in U.P.'s Muzaffarnagar, surrendered before a POCSO court on Friday and was released on bail, an official said. Additional District Judge (POCSO) Alka Bharti granted the accused bail and ordered her to furnish two sureties of ₹25,000 each. The matter was posted for further hearing on November 7.

Ms. Tyagi has been booked under charges of voluntarily causing hurt, insult, malicious acts, and intending to outrage religious feelings after a video went viral. On November 23, the Allahabad High Court had rejected her petition for anticipatory bail and directed her to surrender within two weeks.



Workers at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

of job card deletions.

The protesting workers at Jantar Mantar, minutes away from Parliament, said most of them are in the dark about the reason for deletion, and what to do in order to sustain their families.

## Unable to sustain

"We have a family of six and only my wife and I are working. We are both dependent on MNREGS. There are hardly any other jobs available," Mr. Mayanand said.

In January, Ms. Devi said she and her husband re-applied for a job card, but to no avail. While several workers said it takes months, Chakradhar Buddha of LibTech India pointed out that in order to make a new job card and link it to Aadhaar, the Aadhaar number/s must also be de-linked from the older job card. NREGA Sangharsh

Morcha activists said various primary surveys, testimonies of officials and government's own data reveal how job cards of living and willing workers have been deleted owing to pressure for 100% Aadhaar seeding. The workers are also demanding the revocation of app-based attendance due to which, many said, they are not paid for days when Internet connectivity is an issue.

## No attendance, no pay

"Whenever the network is down, we cannot help workers mark their attendance online. As a result, they do not receive payments. This happens at least once or twice a week," said Neha Salvi, who works as a helper to aid workers with their attendance. She and Premlata, a block coordinator in Rajasthan's Bhilwara, were in the Capital in solidarity with the workers.

## ₹944 cr. released to T.N. for cyclone relief

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the release of ₹944.80 crore to Tamil Nadu from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for providing relief to the people affected by Cyclone Fennel, even as Chief Minister M.K. Stalin sought ₹6,675 crore towards relief and restoration in the affected districts.

An inter-ministerial central team (IMCT) was sent to Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry for assessing the damage, the Ministry said. "After the assessment reports are received, additional assistance from NDRF [the National Disaster Response Fund] will be approved," it said.

Mr. Stalin handed over a memorandum to the team, which arrived in Chennai on Friday evening. The team will survey Villupuram, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri districts from Saturday.

## Presentation made

The team, led by Rajesh Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, met Mr. Stalin at the Secretariat, where a presentation was made.

The team had a meeting with senior officials of the State government and discussed the sites to be inspected. About 14 districts were affected by the cyclone last month. The Chief Minister had earlier requested ₹2,000 crore in interim relief.

Karnataka govt. relaxes norm to grant minority tag to institutions

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

In a major decision, the Karnataka government on Friday scrapped the criterion of a minimum number of students required from a minority community to grant the religious minority tag to higher education institutions.

At present, institutions offering higher education and technical education have to provide admission to 50% of students belonging to the minority religion to get the religious minority institution tag. The relaxation would increase the number of non-minority students in the institutions run by minorities.

The Cabinet scrapped the criterion as institutions run by Christians, Jains, Sikhs, and Parsis have been finding it difficult to admit 50% students from their respective communities in order to retain their minority institution status.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the decision was taken in accordance with Article 30 and the recommendation of the National Minority Commission.

The Cabinet approved a ₹1,750-crore loan from the World Bank for the Higher Education Department to strengthen the infrastructure and quality of education in government colleges, diploma-granting institutions, and universities. The cost would be ₹2,500 crore and the State's share ₹750 crore.

# Shah slams Kerala govt. for delay in giving report on Wayanad disaster

Responding to Wayanad MP, Home Minister noted that Kerala govt. took over three months to submit necessary details following the landslides; according to report, State has estimated recovery and reconstruction costs at ₹2,219 crore

The Hindu Bureau  
KALPETTA



Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra meets Amit Shah in New Delhi, urging him to release financial aid to the district. X/@INCINDIA

₹2,219 crore.

Mr. Shah said the Union government is 'committed' to supporting the affected population.

To facilitate immediate relief, the Centre released the first instalment of ₹145.60 crore on July 31,

followed by another ₹145.60 crore on October 1. Furthermore, the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) holds ₹782.99 crore for relief operations.

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) was formed on August 2 to as-

## High Court seeks details of SDRF funds and utilisation

The Hindu Bureau  
KOCHI

The Kerala HC on Friday asked the State government to file a statement regarding the details of the funds available in the SDRF and its utilisation. It The court

made the observations when a *suo motu* case relating to the prevention and management of natural disasters in the State came up for hearing.

The court orally observed that "a lot of bickering" was happening on the allocation of funds.

cess the damage without waiting for the State's memorandum. The IMCT visited the affected areas from August 8 to 10. The Kerala government submitted its formal memorandum on August 19, requesting an additional ₹214.68

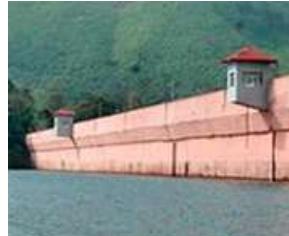
crore from the NDRF for immediate relief.

However, Ms. Vadra posted on X that disasters should not be about politics. Efforts to support the victims of such disasters must prioritise humanity and compassion, she said.

## SC to hear plea to reduce water level at Mullaperiyar

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

in person in court.



A view of Mullaperiyar dam near Idukki.

**Wayanad landslides**  
The petition filed by Mr. Nedumpara referred to the recent landslides in Wayanad, which claimed over 220 lives, making it one of the worst natural disasters in recent times. "You have raised several constitutional issues. It is better you come to court and argue the case," Justice Kant told Mr. Nedumpara.

"In view of the recent tragedy in Wayanad, the water level of the dam has

to be brought below 120 ft as many experts have opined," it said.

Mr. Nedumpara had red-flagged that if Mullaperiyar dam was breached,

"lives and properties of five million people of Kerala would be at grave risk".

The petition has said the limestone-and-surkhi dam was commissioned in 1895 and had an estimated lifespan of only 50 years.

**Dam breach fears**

"People of Kerala fear that the dam may break. If it happens, it is said that the districts of Idukki, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Kottayam will be completely washed away," the petition has claimed.

The plea has argued that two judgments of the Supreme Court, in 2006 and 2014, had prevented the decommissioning of the Mullaperiyar dam and the construction of a new dam in its place.

It said the judgments were erroneous. The plea said in the event of Mullaperiyar dam breaking, the flood waters would be absorbed by the Idukki dam. According to Mr. Nedumpara, the two judgments found the dam "eternally safe".

## What is the basis for making me accused in Delhi riots case, Umar Khalid asks in court

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Umar Khalid on Friday asked the police, during a hearing in the Delhi High Court, the basis on which he had been named an accused in an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case related to the "larger conspiracy" behind the February 2020 north-east Delhi riots.



The former JNU student leader has been booked under UAPA in a February 2020 riots case.

Khalid was not even in north-east Delhi when the violence took place.

"There is no recovery from me or at my instance. There is no physical evidence to show my complicity. There is no allegation of procurement or raising of funds. There is no allegation of a terrorist act," Mr. Khalid said.

Apart from hearing arguments on behalf of Mr. Khalid, the court also heard submissions of the counsel appearing for Rashtriya Janata Dal youth wing leader and Jamia Millia Islamia student Meenakshi Haider.

Mr. Khalid, Mr. Imam, and several others have been booked under the provisions of UAPA and IPC for being the "masterminds" of the riots, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

After the dismissal of his bail plea in October 2022, Mr. Khalid moved the court for the second time seeking bail in the case.

## Darshan misused interim bail granted to him: police to HC

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

the murder of Renukaswamy, and other accused.

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) P. Prasanna Kumar told the court that actor Darshan was not entitled for continuation of interim bail granted to him to undergo surgery for his back pain and that he should be directed to surrender, while alleging that the film star had misused the interim bail as he had not yet undergone surgery.

These submissions were made on behalf of the police during the hearing on the petitions filed by Mr. Darshan, who is accused in

The Bengaluru City Police on Friday told the Karnataka High Court that actor Darshan was not entitled for continuation of interim bail granted to him to undergo surgery for his back pain and that he should be directed to surrender, while alleging that the film star had misused the interim bail as he had not yet undergone surgery.

Pointing out that the court had given six weeks for Darshan to undergo surgery and treatment, the SPP said that there was no indication on conduct of surgery even though it was already five weeks since his release on interim bail.

### Setting the stage



In sync: Tribal women performing dhimsa, a folk dance in Andhra Pradesh, at the opening ceremony of the All India Public Bus Transport Athletic Meet on the Police Parade Ground in Visakhapatnam on Friday. V. RAJU

## European Space Agency to support Gaganyaan mission

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) has signed a Technical Implementing Plan (TIP) document for ground tracking support for India's Gaganyaan missions.

The TIP, inked at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on Wednesday, enables the ESA to provide ground station support for the space missions, which will ensure continuity in data flow and communication with the orbital module for monitoring and orbital operations.

ISRO said it had a long-standing system of cooperation with the ESA. They had been collaboratively

supporting each other in successful accomplishment of several space missions in the past. The TIP was another step forward in the cooperation between the agencies, ISRO said.

The TIP was signed by Anil Kumar A.K., Director, ISTRAC, on behalf of ISRO, and by Dietmar Pilz, Director of Technology, Engineering and Quality and Director of ESTEC, Netherlands, from the ESA.

The Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members into an orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission and bringing them back to earth by landing in Indian sea waters.

## Nicobarese have ancestral connection with Austroasiatic populations: study

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

The 25,000-strong Nicobarese population appears to have a significant ancestral connection with Austroasiatic populations across South and Southeast Asia and, they could have settled in the region only about 5,000 years ago, according to a new genetic research by scientists from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and others.

The study highlighted the common genetic affinity of the 'Htin Mal', a population in the mainland of Southeast Asia, who speak an Austroasiatic language, with the Nicobarese. The 'Htin Mal' community has maintained remarkable ethnic distinctness over time, exhibiting a pro-



An aerial view of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. GETTY IMAGES

nounced genetic drift from the Nicobarese, said CCMB's top scientist Kumaramassey Thangaraj.

Gyaneshwar Chaubey from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) led the group of researchers from nine institutions for a detailed genetic analysis, using DNA markers inherited exclusively from mothers and fathers respectively,

and those from both the parents from among the Nicobarese people. This is to explore their ancestry and genetic affinities with the South and Southeast Asian populations.

Nicobar Islands are situated in the eastern Indian Ocean and south of the Andaman Islands. The archipelago consists of seven large islands, including Car-

## Naveen Babu death case: HC to take a call on CBI probe

The Kerala High Court on Friday orally observed that it would take a call on the plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe made by the widow of former Kannur Additional District Magistrate K. Naveen Babu into his death after ascertaining from the case diary whether the present investigation was going in the right direction. Justice Kauser Edappagath made the observation when a petition filed by Manjusha came up for hearing. The court granted the State public prosecutor time to produce the case diary and file a statement in response to the plea.

## Actor Siddique held, released on bail as per top court order

The Kerala Police on Friday arrested actor Siddique, who is facing the charge of raping an aspiring actor in a hotel room in Thiruvananthapuram in 2016. Mr. Siddique, protected from judicial remand by a Supreme Court order, was later released on bail by a court. Mr. Siddique appeared before investigating officer Aji Chandran Nair, Deputy SP (Narcotic Cell), in the City police commissionerate as directed by the top court. A team of officers questioned him on camera for hours.



## Staying the course

The RBI has done well to stay focused on inflation amid rate cut clamour

**T**he Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its latest bi-monthly review, has decided to maintain status quo on the benchmark interest rate of 6.50% for the eleventh consecutive time. As the panel's chairman RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasised, the last mile of disinflation is turning out to be prolonged and arduous for emerging and developed economies. India's retail inflation, after trending below the median 4% target, for the first time in five years, for two months, spiked over September and October, with food prices leading the price pinch. At its October meet, the six-member MPC had voted 5:1 to hold interest rates, stating the inflation-growth balance was 'well-poised'. That poise has been shattered, with the economic ground shifting dramatically in the intervening period – while inflation has surged, the deleterious growth numbers for the second quarter have compounded the mix with GDP rising just 5.4% as opposed to the 7% estimated by the RBI. The government has sought to paint the growth blip as a transient occurrence rather than as a sign of an enduring slowdown, but Ministers had called for interest rate cuts from Mint Street even before the GDP print.

It is, perhaps, not a surprise then that the vote of the MPC, which includes three external members, on holding interest rates this time around, has changed to 4:2. Governor Das acknowledged that the near-term inflation and growth outcomes have turned somewhat adverse. He also effectively scotched the clamour for the MPC to look through food inflation, noting that the RBI is bound by the flexible inflation targeting framework laid down in the law that requires headline inflation to be addressed. The central bank's mandate is to maintain price stability while supporting growth but growth is also impacted by persistently high inflation that cramps households' spending power, as he pointed out, and this is already visible in urban spends. Both the trajectories warrant closer monitoring for now, and it is not as if a 0.25 percentage point rate cut would tangibly shift consumption or investment impulses in the short run. The RBI remains hopeful of GDP growth recovering and inflation cooling in the second half of the year, even as it revised its 2024-25 projections for the former to 6.6% from 7.2%, and for the latter to 4.8% from 4.5%. Some consider even these downgraded projections as optimistic, but if the Centre takes some fresh steps to cool prices, such as rolling back the import duty hike on edible oils, and spur consumption, it would be able to hasten the interest rate cuts it desires.

## Silica scars

Mine workers need early diagnosis and treatment of silicosis

**I**ndia's growth aspirations have spurred the national mining industry to extract more minerals for use in construction. One such mineral is silicon dioxide, or silica, an important component of sand and stone. Mine workers exposed to silica dust for many years have a heightened risk of developing silicosis, wherein microscopic silica particles are lodged in lung tissue, hampering their normal function. The risk of silicosis is age-agnostic and determined by exposure, and is chronic after onset. Thus it threatens millions of workers, many of them young. In 1999, the Indian Council of Medical Research reported that more than eight million people in the country were highly exposed to silica dust; this population could only have increased since the national government has opened new mines and expanded old ones. On November 29, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Central Pollution Control Board to draft new guidelines vis-à-vis "granting permission for [silica] mining and washing plants", and the Uttar Pradesh government and Pollution Control Board to set up health-care facilities in areas with silica mines. The NGT is well-intentioned but mine workers are desperate for action.

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 requires mine workers' employers to notify threats of bodily harm to workers and workers developing specific diseases, including silicosis. But operators often do not notify the Directorate General of Mines Safety, preventing the state from developing an actionable awareness of mine operators' workplace practices; nor have States of their own initiative strived to collect this data. The potential for special hospitals to ameliorate this situation is also unclear: the Code obligates qualified medical practitioners to notify silicosis cases to the Chief Inspector-cum-Facilitator, yet it already required operators to provide free annual health check-ups, which have failed to reveal silicosis cases. Health-care providers have even been known to misrecord silicosis as tuberculosis. The NGT also noted that "concerned authorities" are not living up to the law. The state's passivity is thus the principal roadblock to mine workers' welfare, which guidelines are unlikely to surmount. The passivity also flies in the face of climate justice, an idea India has ironically wielded in multilateral fora to demand concessions on emissions and adaptation financing. The nation's mineral resources are concentrated in 'resource frontier' States that have low literacy and health-care coverage, a disorganised labour force, and where mining provides crucial revenue. When the state diverts the concessions to suppliers of cheap silica, workers tolerate bad working conditions and delay seeking medical or legal recourse until the silicosis has become life-threatening.

# Public health – insights from the 1896 Bombay Plague

**U**nderstanding how public health crises intersect with surveillance, control, and governance is crucial for addressing modern challenges. Historical epidemics, such as the 1896 Bombay Plague, reveal how authorities have navigated these issues. In colonial India, mapping and policing were not just disease management tools; they served as instruments of surveillance and control. Examining these strategies offers insights relevant to contemporary public health policy and practice.

**The colonial state's response**  
The Bombay Plague of 1896-97 devastated colonial India. Introduced into Bombay through Far Eastern trade networks, it quickly spread throughout the subcontinent, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths by 1899. It exposed the inadequacies of the existing public health infrastructure. In response, the colonial administration created the Indian Plague Commission in 1898, led by T.R. Fraser of the University of Edinburgh, to investigate the outbreak. The Commission conducted extensive inquiries, recording testimonies and producing voluminous documentation. Yet, it struggled to identify the plague's precise origin or the nature of its transmission. This difficulty emerged partly because the colonial authorities saw the plague less as a communal health issue and more as a problem of maintaining order through surveillance and control.

Unlike John Snow's 1854 cholera map in London that pinpointed affected individuals and led to epidemiological breakthroughs, the Indian Plague Commission's maps focused on railways, inspection points, camps, and police cordon rather than the homes of plague victims. These maps highlighted where people could be stopped, inspected, or confined. They used unusual colour and detail, suggesting a desire to project efficiency and obscure the epidemic's severity. By emphasising where the disease could infiltrate rather than who was affected, these maps reframed the epidemic. Instead of illuminating the distribution of cases, they underscored the colonial state's need to monitor and restrict movement, reflecting the belief that control of mobility equalled control of the disease.

Policing lay at the heart of plague

**Philip Jagesar**  
a researcher based in King's College London

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formerly taught at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai

This historical episode offers insights for the present as contemporary public health strategies should be rooted in empathy, equity, and evidence

management. Quarantine measures, inspections, and confinements relied on police enforcement rather than on community trust or public health education. Observation camps near railway stations became key sites where populations were scrutinised. Military ward orderlies were introduced into hospitals and municipalities, legitimising the idea that force would curb disease.

Police stations, not just medical establishments, were primary data nodes, with local watchmen reporting deaths to the police, who then relayed them to higher authorities. This integration of policing into the health apparatus solidified the notion that health crises demanded a top-down, coercive response. Over time, professionalisation gradually shifted such duties toward medical professionals, but the historical precedent reminds us how policing once defined the architecture of disease surveillance.

**Plague maps and power dynamics**  
The design of the plague maps and their emphasis on railway lines, inspection stations, and cordons influenced both perception and action. Vibrant colours and meticulous detail conveyed a sense of order and efficacy, directing attention to the state's interventions rather than the epidemic's victims. The maps downplayed the suffering of communities and masked the real scale of the crisis by focusing on surveillance infrastructure. They thus reinforced power dynamics, showing how data and its representation can serve dominant interests. Instead of illustrating the human toll, the maps suggested that proper control would triumph over chaos, reinforcing the colonial narrative that disease was best managed through discipline rather than empathy.

This historical episode offers insights for the present. The legacy of integrating policing and surveillance into public health efforts persists, though it now takes different forms. Modern systems often rely on medical professionals for data collection and patient tracking, reflecting shifting ethical standards and professional practices.

Yet, the question remains of how public health measures are framed. The 1896 plague response shows that framing can reshape policy, determining whether the emphasis lies on caring for individuals or exercising authority over them.

Recognising this dynamic helps ensure that today's health policies do not uncritically reproduce the inequities or heavy-handed tactics of the past.

### The issue of oversight and ethics

Ethical considerations arise when public health responses privilege control over community well-being. The history of the Bombay Plague exemplifies how data collection and mapping techniques, if guided by oppressive frameworks, can become tools for enforcing power rather than improving health. The past invites us to consider more humane and participatory approaches, ensuring transparency and respect for individual rights. Authorities must resist the temptation to treat populations as objects of surveillance rather than partners in safeguarding public health. Balancing effective oversight with ethical obligations remains a core challenge, as does acknowledging that representation – be it in maps or databases – shapes how problems are understood and addressed.

This episode also signals that while surveillance mechanisms have evolved, their underlying logic may still influence decision-making. Today, advanced data collection methods can render entire populations visible to the state, raising critical questions about privacy, trust, and the fair distribution of resources. Reflecting on the colonial response to the plague helps us understand that data should be a means to enhance health and safety rather than to reinforce existing hierarchies or curtail freedoms. We must remain vigilant that new technologies and methodologies serve the collective good.

In learning from the Bombay Plague's history, we see that health crises often lay bare existing power structures. The authorities in the late 19th century chose to rely on policing and surveillance, shaping the way the epidemic was understood and managed. By studying these choices, we can recognise the importance of framing health challenges in ways that affirm human dignity. We can strive to ensure that contemporary public health strategies, while leveraging sophisticated tools, remain rooted in empathy, equity, and evidence. Awareness of past missteps can guide future governance, inspiring policies that foster cooperation rather than fear, and that earn the trust and collaboration of the communities they are meant to protect.

# Building on the revival of the manufacturing sector

**I**ndia's journey to becoming a global manufacturing hub has gained momentum with the government's strategic policy initiatives, particularly the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. This scheme has been instrumental in transforming the manufacturing landscape in sectors such as mobile manufacturing, electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobile, and textiles, among others, through enhanced production, exports and job creation.

The scheme's impressive performance has been mirrored by the results of the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-23, released recently, which reveals a positive correlation between PLI scheme incentives and sectoral performance. In the ASI data, manufacturing output registered a robust growth rate of 21.5%, while gross value added (GVA) grew by 7.3%. This expansion comes on the back of the PLI scheme's success, showcasing that many sectors benefiting from the scheme have performed particularly well. Basic metal manufacturing, coke and refined petroleum products, food products, chemicals and chemical products, and motor vehicles – many of which are covered under the PLI scheme – collectively contributed 58% to the total manufacturing output and registered an output growth of 24.5% in 2022-23.

**Recovery of the manufacturing sector**  
ASI surveys are a vital source of data on the registered, organised manufacturing sector in the economy. They include factories with 10 or more workers using power, and those with 20 or more workers, without power. The results of the ASI 2022-23 show a healthy double-digit expansion in the growth rate of manufacturing sector output – at 21.5% – despite a high base of 2021-22 which saw a sharp rebound as the economy emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic-induced slump. The impressive growth in output and value added in 2022-23, as compared to the pre-pandemic period, indicates that the manufacturing sector is slowly but steadily turning the corner after the disruptions in recent years.

The performance of the manufacturing sector shows that the stage is set for India to become a



**Chandrajit Banerjee**

Director General,  
The Confederation  
of Indian Industry

global manufacturing powerhouse. However, strong reforms are needed to fully capitalise on the manufacturing potential.

The success of the PLI scheme underscores the need to expand its scope beyond the traditional industries where manufacturing activity is concentrated. Extending PLI incentives to labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, leather, footwear and furniture, as well as sunrise industries such as aerospace, space technology and MRO could unlock new growth frontiers. There are also sectors with high import dependency but untapped domestic capabilities such as capital goods. This can help in reducing vulnerability to global demand fluctuations and supply chain disruptions. Promoting green manufacturing and incentivising research and development in advanced manufacturing technologies can further enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

The striking gap between manufacturing output growth (21.5%) and GVA growth (7.3%) – as the ASI data show – is largely driven by soaring input prices, which surged by 24.4% in 2022-23. This divergence suggests that while production volumes are rising, industries are grappling with elevated input prices, which have eroded their value addition. With bulk of the inputs being imported, it is pivotal to bring down their landing costs in the country. To bring this to fruition, a more streamlined import regime that simplifies tariffs into a three-tier system, with 0–2.5% for raw materials, 2.5%–5% for intermediates, and 5%–7.5% for finished goods, could help mitigate these input costs, enhance competitiveness, and improve India's integration into global value chains.

### A concentration of industrial activity

The regional imbalance in manufacturing activity, with Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh, collectively accounting for over 54% of total manufacturing GVA and 55% of employment, highlights the concentration of industrial activity in a few States. This regional imbalance not only hinders equitable development across the country but

also limits the sector's overall growth potential. For India to fully capitalise on its manufacturing capacity, it is essential for States to be an active participant in India's growth story by implementing the fundamental factor market reforms in areas such as land, labour and power in addition to developing infrastructure, and promoting investments.

### Focus must move to MSMEs and women

For manufacturing to serve as a true catalyst for inclusive growth, special attention must be given to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and increasing women's participation in the workforce. MSMEs contribute around 45% of India's manufacturing GDP and employ about 60 million people. Tailoring PLI incentives to accommodate MSMEs, by lowering capital investment thresholds and reducing production targets, would empower these enterprises to scale up, innovate and integrate more effectively into value chains.

Enhancing female workforce participation is an untapped opportunity for boosting manufacturing growth. The World Bank's latest South Asia Development Update estimates that India's manufacturing output could rise by 9% if more women join the workforce. Developing supportive infrastructure such as hostels, dormitories, and childcare facilities near factories could significantly boost women's participation in manufacturing, driving output and inclusive development.

To transform the Indian economy into a developed economy by 2047, the manufacturing sector ought to play a critical role. As in the CII's own estimations, its share in the GVA has a potential to rise from the current 17% to over 25% by 2030-31, and to 27% by 2047-48 if sustained efforts to boost domestic manufacturing capabilities and domestic value addition continue. Apart from boosting its competitiveness by improving ease of doing business and bringing down cost of doing business, seizing the current moment by leveraging on the slew of policy measures will be imperative for the manufacturing sector.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bills and their names

Going by the grotesque and unintelligible names being given to new laws and central government sponsored programmes, the BJP-led government at the Centre appears to be totally insensitive to the impact in non-Hindi speaking States ("Uproar in House over Hindi names for Bills", December 6). Proceedings in Parliament are conducted as if the south does not exist. The government would do well to understand that it could be sowing the seeds of

alienation with its insensitive acts.

**Manohar Alembath,**  
Kannur, Kerala

The knock of the current dispensation to christen Bills in Hindi is unwarranted and misplaced. The non-Hindi speaking States have rightly raised their opposition, when such names are difficult to pronounce for even a Hindi speaker. The government ought not to use this as a subterfuge to aggravate the linguistic divide. It is advisable that the primary

medium of naming Bills be in English for easier understanding across the country. Hindi can be used as the secondary medium.

**Aanya Singh,**  
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

The Centre's language push is nothing but imposition. It is bizarre to be having the Centre defending the move as a "reflection of Indian culture and legacy". Bona fide Indian culture and legacy lie in unity in diversity and inclusiveness.

**S. Seshadri,**  
Chennai

The government of the day is an alliance government. It is baffling how its allies have agreed to "Hindi imposition", which is violative of constitutional requirements and anti-people.

**D. Sethuraman,**  
Chennai

**"Traitor" barb**

The BJP draws a false equivalence between the Opposition's demand for a JPC probe into the Adani issue as derailing India's growth story. Does it mean to say that it is okay having

unethical and illegal business practices as a driver of the economy? Corruption cannot be condoned in the name of "wealth creation" or "infrastructural development" by a tycoon. The BJP is trying the use of ploys such as "India-baiters" and the "foreign hand" to deflect attention from the Adani issue.

**G. David Milton,**  
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

**E-pass issuance**

There are some 'computer

**mayams** (centres) in Coimbatore that are charging exorbitant rates to issue an e-pass for travel to the Nilgiris and other places. The Tamil Nadu Government can fix a rate for this pass to be issued. It was exasperating to pay ₹130 for an e-pass recently. There are **mayams** that charge the pass holder between ₹30-₹50 for the pass and printout.

**Vivek Vincent John,**  
Coimbatore

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

# GROUND ZERO



A landslide killed seven people in VOC Nagar in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. The rescue operation involved 170 personnel, including members of the National Disaster Response Force. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

## The cyclone that battered Tamil Nadu

Cyclone Fennal has wreaked havoc in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, claiming 12 lives and affecting 14 districts. While the Tamil Nadu government says it was prepared for heavy rainfall, the complex and slow-moving cyclone posed a challenge to weather experts and the administration alike. K. Lakshmi and D. Madhavan report on how the cyclone changed course, leaving a trail of destruction

**D**in the evening of December 1, a family of four and three of their neighbours huddled together under a metal roofed single-room house, in VOC Nagar, a residential area at the foot of the Arunachala hill in Tiruvannamalai district. They listened as torrential rains brought by Cyclone Fennal pounded the district in interior Tamil Nadu.

S. Meenakshi, 27, who lives opposite the house, recalls the tragedy that occurred shortly after. Her sister, R. Meena, 26, and Meena's husband, N. Rajkumar, 32, both brick kiln workers, had returned home the previous evening as their workplace, located 20 kilometres from the temple town, had flooded. Meenakshi says the couple had been working in the brick kiln for a few years and had often stayed there for weeks to complete tasks before returning to VOC Nagar.

That Sunday was special for Rajkumar as he had come back to his children – 9-year-old Goutham and 7-year-old Iniya – after working tirelessly for a month at the kiln, she says. Meenakshi's daughter, Ramya, 13, had also gone to Rajkumar's house along with two neighbours – Vinothini, 14, and Maha, 10.

"Around 4.30 p.m., we heard a deafening sound. Meena called out to me and I rushed out," says Meenakshi. "The next few moments were a blur. A heap of mud, boulders, and debris came rolling down the hill. Meena rushed inside to bring the children out but it was too late. My sister's home was buried," she says, sobbing.

All the seven occupants were instantly killed. Other houses in the neighbourhood were completely or partially destroyed. Relatives searched for loved ones in the slush amid relentless rains until a rescue team, led by Tiruvannamalai Collector D. Baskara Pandian, reached the site. They evacuated nearly 250 families from the hills, moved them to community halls in Tiruvannamalai town, and gave them food and medicines.

The seven bodies were recovered after a nearly 20-hour operation by a 170-member team, including 35 personnel of the National Disaster Response Force, and a sniffer dog the next evening. "When the team retrieved two bodies from the spot, they saw that Rajkumar had been holding Iniya tightly," recalls a senior official.

### A trail of destruction

While heavy rainfall during the northeast monsoon is common at this time of the year in Tamil Nadu, the State and the Union Territory of Puducherry did not expect Cyclone Fennal to cause such widespread devastation when it crossed the eastern coast on the night of November 30. On December 1, unusually heavy rainfall (40 cm to 50 cm) was recorded in many places in Puducherry and the northern and northwestern parts of Tamil Nadu. Among the coastal districts, Chennai was less affected.

The cyclone then slowly drifted westward, dumping rains, causing floods, submerging acres

We need to map landslide susceptibility in all the districts so that we are better prepared for such disasters

G. SUNDARARAJAN  
Poovulangin Nanbargal

of crops, damaging civic infrastructure, and displacing thousands of people. When it later moved inland, it pummeled several districts. Mailam in Villupuram district received 51 cm of rainfall on December 1 and Uthangarai in Krishnagiri district received 50 cm on December 2. Some areas of Villupuram such as Kedar and Soorappattu received more than 33 cm of rainfall on a single day.

D. Vasanthkumar, 51, of Muthu Nagar in Nelliukuppam, Cuddalore district, spent an entire night on the stairway leading to his terrace as floodwater had entered his house. "Local officials gave us flood alerts at 8 p.m. asking us to evacuate the street. But the water level rose rapidly in the area and a few of us were stranded. It took two days for the floodwater to recede," he says. While Vasanthkumar managed to salvage important documents that were lying in his loft, he lost most of his electronic devices.

In his letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said 12 lives were lost in the cyclonic storm that had wreaked havoc in 14 districts. Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, and Kallakurichi received more than 50 cm of rainfall in a single day, which was equal to an entire season's share. He noted that more than 2.11 lakh hectares of agricultural and horticultural land had been inundated and nearly 963 cattle had died. About 9,500 km of roads, 1,847 culverts, and 417 tanks had been damaged. Stalin said that the cyclone had overwhelmed the State's resources and requested the Centre to release ₹2,000 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund to assist rehabilitation efforts.

Besides compensation for damaged crops, the Tamil Nadu government announced relief of ₹2,000 per family in the districts of Villupuram, Cuddalore, and Kallakurichi on December 3. Sta-

lin also donated one month's salary towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to execute relief measures in the six worst-affected districts. On December 6, the Union Home Ministry approved the release of ₹944.80 crore to the Tamil Nadu government as the Central share from the State Disaster Response Fund to help the people affected by the cyclone.

Puducherry Chief Minister N. Rangaswamy announced relief assistance of ₹5,000 to all ration cardholders affected by the cyclone in the UT and ₹30,000 per hectare to affected farmers.

### Crops under water

Four days after the rains subsided, Villupuram, a predominant agricultural district, is struggling to return to regular life. Nearly 80,520 hectares of crops are damaged, many lakes have breached their banks, and the Malattaru and Then Pennai rivers are brimming with floodwater.

V. Tamilarasi, 64, of Pillur village in Villupuram taluk, is searching for someone to help her clear the deposits of sludge that cover her agricultural land. Flash floods in the Then Pennai river submerged crops. She has also lost two goats.

"I cultivated black gram and casuarina plantations in three acres. The crop is submerged under six feet of water. I spent ₹2 lakh for cultivation. I don't know how I am going to manage the loss," she worries.

Villages such as Pillaiyarkuppam and Arasamangalam have become small islands. They did not have power and communication networks for three days, which left many stranded or confined to their houses without water or food.

"The district previously experienced such large-scale floods in 1972. This time, I was caught unawares. While village administrative officers helped us, officials and elected representatives came much later," Tamilarasi says.

The situation was no different in the urban stretches of Villupuram. S. Neela, 55, of Ashakulam, spent nearly a day cleaning the muck and waste that floodwater had brought into her house on December 1.

"Our street had waist-deep water. My family of four managed with 20 litres of packaged water for three days. We had to put up with the sewage that had mixed with the stagnant water for three days. We all worked together to drain the water as we didn't get immediate help," she says.

R.T. Murugan, district secretary, Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam (All India Kisan Sabha), says, "Crops in various parts were on the verge of drying for want of water until the downpour. We have not seen such water flow in the Malattaru and Then Pennai rivers in December. I was preparing for paddy harvest for Pongal and recently



Flood warnings did not reach the villages close to the riverbanks. Residents assumed it would be another normal rain spell. Many left behind their belongings and cattle to save their lives

**G.JAYAKUMAR**  
Panahuppan, Villupuram district

sowed black gram in an acre. I face a loss of ₹50,000 as floodwater marooned my land. Poorly maintained water bodies in villages too led to quick damage."

Several residents say they want Villupuram to be declared as a disaster-affected district.

### Floodwaters in Puducherry

Puducherry heaved a sigh of relief after the storm passed through the region on December 1, but was hit by another disaster when water was discharged from the brimming dams of Tamil Nadu, particularly the Sathanur dam in Tiruvannamalai on December 2.

The discharge of 1.68 lakh cubic feet per second (cusecs) of floodwater from the Sathanur dam sparked a political debate. The Opposition parties blamed the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government for the deluge in the northern districts without prior notice. Refuting the claims of a self-created disaster, Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan noted that sufficient flood warnings had been given and flood discharge was planned considering the safety of the dam and the lives of the people.

The Water Resources Department noted that uncontrolled Then Pennai river catchment worsened the flood situation. Record-breaking rainfall in Krishnagiri and flash flood in tributaries such as Koraiyar and Kallar accelerated flow in the river that was already in spate. There is no mechanism to gauge rainfall or the floodwater generated in the Then Pennai's tributaries.

A senior Water Resources Department official says Sathanur reservoir received an inflow of 40,000 cusecs within four hours from December 1 night. The reservoir did not have sufficient storage capacity to store the entire inflow, the official adds. "We adhered to the rules and there was no lag in flood warning. After 1972, when the dam discharged nearly 2.57 lakh cusecs, this is the second time that such a high quantum of surplus water was released," the official says.

However, G. Jayakumar of Panahuppan, Villupuram district, who helped people reach relief camps, says, "Flood warnings did not reach the villages (A.K. Kuchipalayam and Kallipattu) close to the riverbanks. Residents assumed it would be another normal rain spell. Many left behind their belongings and cattle to save their lives."

When the Water Resources Department team visited Villupuram, they were aghast at the damage. "We could not identify boundaries of water bodies and roads. The district is generally mostly dry in December. The teams are now assessing the damage," the official says.

In Sathanur village, S. Arul, president of the village panchayat, rescued several elderly residents from huts that were submerged in floodwater and shifted them to a school. "They also lost important documents in the floods," he says.

### Predicting the path of a cyclone

Many officials say it is difficult to be fully prepared for a cyclone that causes such extensive damage. This is especially because it is difficult for weather models to pick up extreme weather events at a particular place, according to meteorologists.

Cyclone Fennal remained a low-pressure system after forming in the far eastern Indian Ocean on November 14 and became a depression in the Bay of Bengal only after 10 days. It moved relatively slowly for another week before the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said it had become a cyclone. On November 28, the IMD announced that Cyclone Fennal would cross the north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts on the morning of November 30. The cyclone moved at a leisurely pace. While fast-moving cyclones tend to retreat quickly, slow-moving ones weaken into a deep depression, dumping unprecedented amounts of rainfall.

S. Balachandran, Additional Director General of Meteorology, Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, says the cyclone had undergone changes in its intensity over the ocean due to multiple factors. "The Regional Meteorological Centre had given sufficient forecasts and rainfall alerts for north Tamil Nadu on November 30 and December 1. Most of the forecasts were accurate. But in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri, the prediction on rainfall intensity went off the mark," he says.

The storm remained stalled over the ocean for six hours. It moved slowly towards the north and then slightly towards the east before moving towards the west and crossing the coast.

"The reason for the cyclone remaining stationary is a bit obscure and there are no immediate explanations for it," says Y.E.A. Raj, former Deputy Director General of Meteorology, Chennai. "Though the clouds associated with the cyclonic storm were floating over the land, the centre of the cyclonic storm was close to the ocean and was able to draw a lot of moisture from the ocean. Since it got fed with all that moisture, it retained its intensity. This triggered a high amount of rainfall."

Pointing out that the global warming and climate variability are likely to increase such unpredictable local weather patterns, G. Sundararajan of Poovulangin Nanbargal, a group advocating environmental protection in Tamil Nadu, says, "There is an urgent need to bridge gaps in last mile communication on flood warnings and weather alerts. We also need to map landslide susceptibility in all the districts so that we are better prepared for such disasters."



Vehicles in the Uthangarai area of Krishnagiri following heavy rainfall on December 2. PTI

**From Page One****Amid high inflation, RBI retains repo rate at 6.5%**

"Food inflation pressures are likely to linger in the third quarter (Q3) of this financial year, and start easing only from Q4 of 2024-25, backed by seasonal correction in vegetable prices, kharif harvest arrivals, likely good rabi output and adequate cereal buffer stocks," Mr. Das said.

**Adverse weather events**

The Governor also said the increasing incidence of adverse weather events, heightened geo-political uncertainties and financial market volatility posed upside risks to inflation. "The MPC believes that only with durable price stability can strong foundations be secured for high growth. The MPC remains committed to restoring the inflation growth balance in the overall interest of the economy," he said.

Terming the current growth-inflation flux a "critical juncture", the Governor said "prudence and practicality demand that we remain careful and sensitive to the dynamically evolving situation with all its complexities and ramifications". A *status quo* in monetary policy had thus become appropriate and essential, he reasoned, deftly sidestepping calls for interest rate cuts to support growth from some quarters of the government.

To ease the potential liquidity stress in the system as more cash could be required to pay direct taxes and GST, the RBI has decided to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of all banks to 4% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in two equal tranches of 25 bps each with effect from the fortnight beginning December 14, 2024 and December 28, 2024.

"This reduction in the CRR is consistent with the neutral policy stance and would release primary liquidity of about ₹1.16 lakh crore to the banking system," he said.

To attract more capital inflows, the RBI has decided to increase the interest rate ceiling on FCNR (B) deposits. Accordingly, effective from Friday, banks are permitted to raise fresh FCNR(B) deposits of 1 year to less than 3 years maturity at rates not exceeding the ceiling of overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) plus 400 bps as against 250 bps at present.

Similarly, for deposits of 3 to 5 years maturity, the ceiling has been increased to overnight ARR plus 500 bps as against 350 bps at present. This relaxation will be available till March 31, 2025.

**Misri to visit Dhaka on Dec. 9 as tensions mount**

Earlier this week, Bangladesh had suspended all "visa and consular" work in the mission in Agartala in view of the security breach.

"Ashraf Rahman was called for urgent consultations following ongoing protests outside our mission in Kolkata. Additionally, he will be part of the delegation during the Foreign Secretary-level talks between the two countries slated for next week. He will be back by the middle of this month," a senior official of the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata told news agency PTI on condition of anonymity.

Bilateral ties had nosedived on November 25 when Vaishnav monk Chinmoy Das was arrested in Chittagong. India expressed "deep concern" when Mr. Das was denied bail and sent to police custody amidst communal clashes. On Friday, Mr. Jaiswal reiterated expectation that relevant legal processes underway in Bangladesh are executed in a fair, just and transparent manner.

(With inputs from PTI)

Cong. urges PM to speak to protesting farmers

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi should invite farmers for talks, accept their demand for a legal backing to minimum support price (MSP) of agriculture produce and enact a law in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, the Congress said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said the Modi government is "anti-farmer" as it is not willing to listen to the voice of farmers. "The PM has time to see movies but not meet farmers," he said, adding that the farmers should be allowed to come to Delhi.

"Is there a ban on people coming to Delhi? Is this the new normal in new India that they cannot come to Delhi, the country's capital? Anyone should be allowed to come to Delhi" he said.

On Friday, the group of 101 farmers had started their march from Shambhu in Punjab towards Ambala in Haryana. They were intercepted by

**Farmers postpone march to Delhi after Haryana police use tear gas****The Hindu Bureau**  
CHANDIGARH

Farmers disperse after police fired tear gas to prevent them from marching towards Delhi on Friday. AFP

Haryana Police in the wake of prohibitory orders issued in the area under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagar Suraksha Sanhita (BNS).

Kisan Mazdoor Morcha coordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher told mediapersons at Shambhu, "Our group of 101 farmers came back today following injuries to about a dozen of them when tear gas was used. We will wait for the government to talk, otherwise on December 8, we

will start our march again."

Mr. Pandher also condemned the use of force by the police to stop the farmers from marching. He said they were not carrying any weapons and maintained discipline.

Elaborate security arrangements with multi-layered barricades were in place in the wake of the proposed march.

The Haryana government has suspended mobile Internet services as well as bulk SMS and don-

gle services in parts of Ambala district till December 9.

In Greater Noida, Roopesh Varma, president of the All India Kisan Sabha, Gautam Buddha Nagar Committee, was arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Earlier this week, the U.P. Police arrested nearly 200 farmers when they assembled in Greater Noida for a protest.

"Authorities were prepared with anti-rioting gear to stop us. We knew we would not be successful in the march, but we just wanted to show how they would be stopping us. The government was not treating us like citizens, they were treating us like enemies of the nation," Mr. Pandher said.

The Delhi Police had also tightened security at borders ahead of the farmers' march.

Several Opposition bloc leaders expressed alarm over the treatment of the protesting farmers.

**Bengal court awards capital punishment to accused in Kultali rape and murder case****Shrabana Chatterjee**  
KOLKATA

A court in West Bengal on Friday awarded the death sentence to the accused in the rape and murder of a minor at Kultali in South 24 Parganas district. The sentence came within 62 days of the crime.

The man, accused of raping and murdering the 10-year-old girl at Jaynagar in Kultali, was found guilty under Sections 103 (murder), 65 (rape), and 66 (punishment for causing death or leaving the victim in a vegetative state) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), as well as provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

The girl's body was discovered on October 4, the chargesheet was filed on October 30, and the judgment was passed on Friday at the POCSO court in Barrupur town. Chief Minis-

Agusta scam: SC agrees to hear bail plea of middleman

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a plea for regular bail filed by Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland chopper scam.

A Bench of Vikram Nath and P.B. Varale issued a notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation returnable in four weeks.

The court had refused Michel relief in February last year, advising him to approach the trial court for regular bail. On Friday, Justice Nath asked Michel's counsel, advocates Aljo Joseph, Sriram Parakkat and Vishnu Shankar, how the Bench could give any relief to his client when his earlier pleas had been denied.

**Health issues**  
Mr. Joseph said Michel had already spent six years behind bars and was suffering from health issues.

The court assured Mr. Joseph that the case would come up in January.



Promoting dialogue: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the India-Japan Forum inaugural session in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

**T**he Trump administration deserves a "lot of the credit" for the take-off of the Quad in its second iteration, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday. He said the U.S. President-elect's concerns on alliances and burden-sharing do not apply to the quadrilateral grouping as everyone contributes a "fair share".

Mr. Jaishankar said the stand-off with China impacted the relationship between the two countries, and following the disengagement, there is a need for de-escalation because "there's still a very large number of forces" at the border areas.

The Quad consists of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S., and since its revival in 2017 has gone to the level of annual summit meetings between leaders.

"So, if I were to go by the past record, in fact, I would argue that the Trump administration deserves a lot of the credit for the take-off of the Quad in its second incarnation and the fact that the Quad has since advanced would only validate their judgment," Mr. Jaishankar said on Friday while speaking at the third edition of the India-Japan Forum organised by the Ministry of External Af-

fairs and Ananta Centre.

"Now those concerns (raised by Donald Trump) and those arguments actually don't apply to the Quad at all. Because Quad is a kind of where everybody pays their fair share. So, it's like everybody goes for dinner and you split the bill, and everybody thinks it's the right thing to do. So, if one looks at some of the concerns which President Trump has articulated in

that," he said, noting that in 2020, the Chinese brought a lot of forces to the border areas and India responded, leading to the clash at Galwan where soldiers were killed, which subsequently affected the relationship.

To a question on the perception in Japan that India was the weak link in the Quad, Mr. Jaishankar referred to different perceptions among various partners at different times and said there is "no weak link" in the grouping. On India-Japan ties, Mr. Jaishankar said the two countries never had problems, but that did not mean everything always worked well.

On India's ties with China, he said that India had a stable relationship with China. In terms of trade, it was very substantial though there are issues like huge trade imbalance.

"Our entire relationship with China was predicated on the fact that the border areas would remain peaceful and stable, and we had agreements to ensure

that," he said, noting that in 2020, the Chinese brought a lot of forces to the border areas and India responded, leading to the clash at Galwan where soldiers were killed, which subsequently affected the relationship.

Following the disengagement in Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points of the 2020 stand-off in Eastern Ladakh, and the resumption of patrolling and access to grazing areas, the two countries are preparing for talks at the level of Special Representatives very soon as agreed during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of BRICS summit last month.

On Thursday, both sides held the 32nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.

**Health issues**  
Mr. Joseph said Michel had already spent six years behind bars and was suffering from health issues.

The court assured Mr. Joseph that the case would come up in January.

**Indira Gandhi Peace Prize to be conferred on Michelle Bachelet****The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Michelle Bachelet

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 will be conferred on former Chilean President and prominent human rights voice Michelle Bachelet, a statement issued by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust said on Friday.

The international jury for the award was chaired by former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon.

"President Michelle Bachelet is one of the world's most prominent voices for human rights, peace, and equality. In her various roles as the founding director of UN Women, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and as President of Chile, she has spoken strongly for gender equality and the rights of the most vulnerable sections of the population at home

and across the world," the statement read.

"Her personal courage and example in standing for peace and the rights of marginalised people continue to inspire men and women around the world," it added.

The prize honours her work to improve gender equality, human rights, democracy and development in difficult circumstances, the statement said, also noting her contributions towards fostering India's relations with Chile.



Prakash Karat, Raju Ramachandran, Prabhat Patnaik and Ram Rahman at the book release on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dent from the CPI(M) leader's writings. Economist Prabhat Patnaik said Yechury wrote on specific themes. "He is talking of the emergence of neo-fascism. It takes centre stage with financial backing. The emergence of Hindutva fascism today cannot be dissociated with the support that it gets from the monopoly capitalism. This is a phenomenon we see all over the world," he said.

"Mr. Yechury said the demolition of Babri Masjid was the beginning of the Hindutva project. We are still seeing that unfolding today," Mr. Karat said, adding that Yechury's wide range of interests in all spheres of society are evi-

dent from the CPI(M) leader's writings. Economist Prabhat Patnaik said Yechury wrote on specific themes. "He is talking of the emergence of neo-fascism. It takes centre stage with financial backing. The emergence of Hindutva fascism today cannot be dissociated with the support that it gets from the monopoly capitalism. This is a phenomenon we see all over the world," he said.

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"Authorities were prepared with anti-rioting gear to stop us. We knew we would not be successful in the march, but we just wanted to show how they would be stopping us. The government was not treating us like citizens, they were treating us like enemies of the nation," Mr. Pandher said.

The Delhi Police had also tightened security at borders ahead of the farmers' march.

Several Opposition bloc leaders expressed alarm over the treatment of the protesting farmers.

Protesters had complained that the police did not take their allegations of rape and murder seriously at first and refused to file a missing person report.

**R.G. Kar shadow**  
With echoes of the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar College and Hospital two months before, the case put the State government and police under increased pressure. After continued protests over the R.G. Kar case, the West Bengal Assembly had passed the anti-rape legislation, the Aparajita Woman and Child Bill, in September. The law has provisions for capital punishment for conviction in a rape case resulting in the victim's death or leaving them in a vegetative state.

The verdict in the Kultali case comes even as parents of the victim in the R.G. Kar case await justice.

CM YK



## IN BRIEF



## 8 killed, dozens injured as bus collides with tanker in U.P.

Eight persons were killed and over two dozen sustained injuries when a double-decker bus collided with a tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Kannauj district of Uttar Pradesh on Friday. The injured were shifted to the Saifai Medical College. "The accident occurred around 2 p.m. in the Sakrawa area when the bus was en route to Delhi from Lucknow, Kannauj," said Amit Kumar Anand, Kannauj Superintendent of Police. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured will get ₹50,000.

## Two months' stock of anti-TB drugs available, says Centre

India has sufficient stock of all essential anti-tuberculosis drugs under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme for more than two months, the Health Ministry said on Friday, adding that adequate measures had been taken for timely procurement and supply of such drugs. The Ministry said it had also started supplies "to ensure that sufficient stocks are available to meet increased requirements" owing to the Union government's new '100-day anti-TB campaign', which would be launched on Saturday. The programme will target 347 high-focus districts for intensified interventions, including screening and awareness campaigns.

## Centre to develop four new tourist destinations in J&amp;K with help from World Bank

**Seeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the increase in tourist footfall in Jammu and Kashmir, the government is planning to develop four new destinations with financial and technical help from the World Bank. Kokernag in Anantnag district, Baradar in Reasi district, Bhadarwah in Doda, and Doodhpatheri in Budgam are the four sites which have been chosen to be developed with world class tourist infrastructure.

"The projects are being developed as a joint venture between The World Bank, Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Centre," a senior official in the Union Tourism Ministry said. The destinations were finalised last month after a World Bank delegation visited the State.

Gulmarg, Pahalgam,



**Hidden spots:** A tourist taking a pony ride to reach Shaliganga river in Doodhpatheri in Budgam district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and Katra Vaishno Devi and are some of the famous tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir at present. According to official estimates, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 1.2 million tourists arrivals in the first half of 2024.

For development of these four new tourist destinations, the World Bank would essentially serve as a

primarily knowledge partner. It would also help in the promotion of the handicrafts industry. The World Bank team first visited Jammu and Kashmir in September.

Union Tourism Ministry officials said as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the focus would be on ecological sustainability.

## Employees' Provident Fund Organisation wins global award

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

India has bagged the International Social Security Association's Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific for this year for five services provided by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

ISSA president Mohammed Azman presented the award to the EPFO at the Regional Social Security Forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, earlier this week.

The EPFO received five Certificates of Merit for running "efficient" communication channels, conduct of e-proceedings, outreach programme *Nidhi Aapke Nikat*, running multilingual call centres, and the initiative *Prayaa* for pension order delivery.

The different communication channels in use to reach stakeholders received appreciation.

**E-proceedings to determine dues from defaulting employers, have also been considered for the award**

"Digital and non-digital communication strategy is being adopted for efficient and timely communication," the Union Labour Ministry said in a release on Thursday.

The EPFO uses webinars, short message service and e-mails, social media, information education communication videos and camps under *Nidhi Aapke Nikat* to educate and communicate with stakeholders.

E-proceedings, such as conducting judicial proceedings to determine dues from defaulting employers, have also been considered for the award, the Ministry said.

## New norms for pilots can be implemented from July next year, DGCA tells Delhi HC

**Iagrithi Chandra  
Soibam Rocky Singh**  
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) informed the Delhi High Court on Friday that the new norms providing enhanced weekly rest and reduced night-time flying for pilots to help them combat rising fatigue levels could only be implemented from July 2025 in a phased manner.

The rules, notified by the DGCA in January 2024, increased weekly rest for pilots from 36 hours to 48 hours as well as reduced their night-time flying. They were to be implemented from June 2024, but following opposition from airlines, the regulator put the rules in abeyance on March 26.

While hearing a writ petition filed by the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP), the Ministry said the rules were notified in January this year but kept in abeyance following opposition.



The rules were notified in January this year but kept in abeyance following opposition.

the Indian Pilots' Guild, and the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association, Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju asked why the rules could not be implemented sooner. The court told the DGCA to hold another round of meeting with Air India and pilot bodies on December 18 to reach a consensus on the timeline of implementation. Two such mediation meetings have already taken place where Air India is learnt to

have pressed for wider industry consultations as well as indicated that the new norms could result in reduced salaries for pilots who operate narrow-body planes, because of a reduction in flying hours. The next hearing is on January 23.

"It is the considered view of the regulator, along with the Ministry, that to make it seamless and to address operational constraints, the readiness of the pilots, training and onboarding [of new pilots], software integration, [the implementation of the new rules] will require a phased implementation," Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the DGCA, said.

Counsel for the DGCA said interests on all sides needed to be balanced, including those of passengers and the aviation sector.

## FAITH

## Greatness of Guru's grace

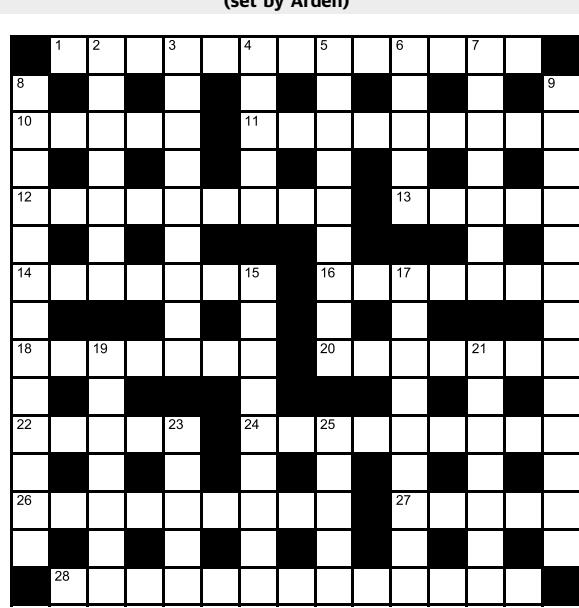
If people undertake good deeds, God bestows His blessings by helping them get the companionship of good Acharyas. Sri Ramanujamji said in a discourse that hearing Godly deeds and stories is a "tapas" and is also the easiest. Prahlada says hearing is the first step of the nine steps prescribed for devotion. Srimad Bhagavatham says King Parikshit derived divine blessings by listening to sage Sukha. Sage Yagnya Valkya says in Brihadaranya Upanishad that hearing is a necessary process for self-realisation. Uthukadu Venkata Kavi says nothing is impossible through listening to the story of God.

A verse in Swetasvatara Upanishad says (*yasya deve para bhakti*) that a person showing devotion to God will get more clarifications on sastras by showing the same to his Guru. Saint Thiruvalluvar says listening is the wealth of wealth and the greatest of all wealth (*selvathul Selvam* – kural 41). Chandokya Upanishad narrates Guru's greatness through the story of a disciple called Upakosalan. He rendered for 12 years the service of protecting three Agnikundas for the performance of homas and pleased with it, the three Agni deities, satisfied with the service to his Guru, taught Upakosalan about self-realisation and asked him to hear further from the Guru. The Guru Jabali was delighted and taught him all the *vidyas*.

Without Gurukrupa, there are no blessings from God. Without God's blessings, there is no devotion; without devotion, there is no liberation. Without liberation, there is no peace of mind. Without Guru's blessings, Goddess Mahalakshmi will not shower her grace. "Guru Arul Illaiyel Thiru Arul Illai".

## TH CROSSWORD (set by Arden)

14350



## Across

- 1 Quite different - otherwise Samoa American base is silent (5,2,1,5)
- 10 Peers at the ground (5)
- 11 Violent mob, active and aggressive (9)
- 12 Now beginning to cut cost, not opposed to a place of learning (9)
- 13 Greece in the past like 11 (5)
- 14 Time consuming - velocity and time, nothing special (7)
- 16 Maritime hazard reported, I see sea bird heading west (7)
- 18 Most of the fruit is for the monkey (7)
- 20 Tempts with three quarters covered part-rejected (7)
- 22 Shameless in superhuman output, there is a marked rise (3-2)
- 24 A noble used to keep fancy car in the city (9)
- 26 Like a piece of pizza - order only with some money (9)
- 27 Gradual illumination on both sides, time to shine (5)
- 28 Aggressively violent - Romeo, be gentle with Lily (13)
- Down
- 2 British weather, say close to the country at war (7)
- 3 In every survey both sides express their views on this furniture (4,5)
- 4 Lucky charm - Mike goes for a tie (5)
- 5 A land mine blast - you get stone (9)
- 6 "Lost in the middle" - Another name for a Japanese city (5)
- 7 Complain from husband caught in unmarried circle (7)
- 8 Such tall growth will halt passenger movement (8,5)
- 9 Blockbuster drugs? (13)
- 15 Honouring none - ordered fancy jewellery (9)
- 17 Essentially sent twice to protect - he got used to psychedelic drug (9)
- 19 Restrain him, one has left (7)
- 21 One not interested in a gathering (7)
- 23 Place to have fight - look for a prey (5)
- 25 Bang goes from gun barrel - shot the king (5)

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



## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

No SS696 Distribution www.knightfeathers.com



**Celebrating northeast:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav in New Delhi. PTI

## India's growth story will encompass northeast India: PM

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav in New Delhi with a focus on the northeastern States. "Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav is a celebration of a better future of the Northeast," Mr. Modi said.

In its application, filed through advocate Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi, seeking permission to intervene in the case, the Gyanvapi mosque panel said that a challenge under Article 32 of the Constitution to a legislative enactment must be based on the unconstitutionality of its provisions. The mosque management submitted that the 1991 Act was a conscious decision by Parliament to let the past haunt the future of the country.

The petitioners have blamed the 1991 law of barring Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs from approaching courts to "reclaim" their places of worship which were "invaded" and "encroached" upon by "fundamentalist barbaric invaders".

The Centre, despite as-

surances, is yet to file its counter-affidavit to the challenge against the 1991 Act, which preserves the character of the religious places of worship across faiths as they had existed on Independence day.

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The

Committee of Management, Anjuman Intezama Masjid Varanasi, represents the Gyanvapi mosque, which is the subject of multiple suits instituted by Hindu plaintiffs seeking right to worship within the structure, claiming it as an old temple.

Referring to the violence in Sambhal following *ex parte* proceedings resulting in a survey of the Jama Masjid there, the Gyanvapi mosque management said invalidating the 1991 Act would mean the rise of such disputes across the country.

Mr. Modi said the first Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav would display the potential of the northeastern States to the country and the world.

## IN BRIEF



## 'GDP slowdown in Q2 not systemic, Q3 to compensate'

The GDP slowdown in September quarter was not 'systemic' and the economic activity in third quarter, with better public expenditure, is likely to compensate for the moderation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. India recorded a 7-quarter low GDP growth of 5.4% in July-September. In the first quarter, the growth was 6.7%. "It is more of an absence of activity on public expenditure, capital expenditure and so on... I expect Q3 to make up for all these," PTI

## Collateral-free farm loans' ceiling to be hiked to ₹2 lakh

Taking into account the rise in agricultural input costs and overall inflation, the RBI has decided to increase the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans from ₹1.6 lakh to ₹2 lakh per borrower. "This will further enhance credit availability for small and marginal farmers," Governor Shaktikanta Das said. The limit was raised from ₹1 lakh, set in the year 2010, to ₹1.6 lakh in 2019. The central bank will soon be issuing a circular giving effect to this announcement.

## Maruti, JSW MG Motor to hike prices from Jan. as costs surge

Maruti Suzuki and JSW MG Motor India said they would hike prices across models from January. Maruti said in a filing the price hike will be up to 4% and vary for different models. JSW MG Motor India said it would raise prices by up to 3% across its product portfolio. "This price increase is the result of continuously rising input costs and other external factors," JSW MG Motor India said. Earlier, Hyundai Motor India said it would raise prices by up to ₹25,000 for its cars.

## Balance between growth and inflation is unsettled, says RBI Governor Das

*'The RBI will use its various policy instruments to create the conditions for restoring the inflation-growth balance; the flexible inflation targeting framework's credibility needs to be preserved.' Edited excerpts from the Governor's press meet*

## ECONOMY IN FOCUS

**Shaktikanta Das and Michael Patra**Lalatendu Mishra

## The five observations

**T**he MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) is committed to restoring balance between inflation and growth, which has got unsettled over the past few months.

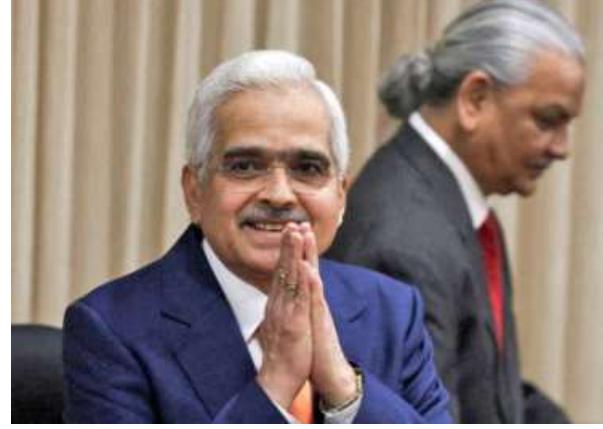
The RBI will use its various policy instruments to create the conditions for restoring the inflation-growth balance. The credibility of the flexible inflation targeting framework needs to be reserved.

Inflation has to be brought down in the interest of sustainable growth.

Prudence, practicality and timing, will continue to be the guiding principles for the Reserve Bank's future actions. Timing of actions is the key.

**On FY25 growth projections being pared to 6.6% from 7.2%**

There is a slowdown in GDP growth in the second quarter due to a special set of factors. Now, it's not appropriate to make a judgment on the trend rate on one data point. So, what was expressed as 8% was not a trend. It was just the average from 2021-22 to 2023-2024. And all over the world, for every country, the projections that are be-



**Focus on rates:** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and Deputy Governor Michael Patra after the MPC meeting in Mumbai. REUTERS

ing made for 2024-25 and 2025-26 are implicitly correcting cyclically for the rebound from the pandemic, for all countries in the world. So, even when we made our initial projections, they were not at 8%, they were 7.2%. And also, in the monetary policy report, we gave a projection for 2019-20, which was the same cyclical correction, after which, after this correction is over, it will revert back to a trend, and we are yet to see the data points of that trend. Now, if you see the second half of the year's projections, there is a reversion back towards an upper rate of growth, 6.9%, 7.3%, and that continues into 2025-26. So, we are hopeful that we will reach that level again.

## Liquidity Concerns

In the next few months, we expect tight liquidity. We expect the tax-related outflows from the system, both direct tax in the middle of December and thereafter the GST. Together

looked good for that quarter as well as for the whole year. Inflation outlook also, we were aware that September and October inflation prints will be higher.

But as you know, September and October, because of weather factor and other factors, food inflation went up very steeply. September numbers were broadly a little higher than estimated. In October also, we had expected it to be high, but the actual number came little higher than what we had estimated. So therefore, inflation was more than what we had expected, little more. And growth also has moderated the numbers.

We have given the numbers. So, the well-poised character of the dynamics between growth and inflation, that has got somewhat unsettled. Our effort is now to restore that balance, which basically means that we want inflation to be brought down closer to the target.

**On discussions with the Government to delink food inflation from inflation goals**

I cannot share what discussions happen with the government. We are in regular internal discussions with the government regarding inflation.

**On the difference in RBI's GDP growth estimate and Q2 data**

**Michael Patra:** There is a lot of commentary on that already in the press. If you look at the demand side,

the main problem is investment. On the supply side, the main problem is manufacturing and the two worlds intertwined. In manufacturing, the biggest issue is the slump in the sales growth and that is reflecting inflation hitting the urban consumer.

So, when sales growth is down, companies do not want to invest in new assets because they see demand as moderate and it can be met from existing capacity. Integration investment is down, so the underlying slowdown in growth is due to inflation.

**Secured Overnight Rupee Rate**

So as of now, we have two benchmarks set out by the Financial Benchmarks India Ltd. One is the MIBOR which concerns uncollateralised transactions and MROR (Market Repo Overnight Rate) based on market repo. But the TREPS (treasury bill repurchase), which is 60% of the market, is not in that index. So, this index we have now will capture all secure transactions. That's the limit.

**Tariff war**

Hypothetically, if it happens, it will not be an isolated event. There will be other events around it like for instance, they say, that perhaps, China may react by devaluing the currency or they might bring retaliatory tariffs.

So, at this point, it is very difficult to say what will be an unilateral move and unilateral effect.

"This will further deepen financial inclusion and enhance formal credit, particularly for 'new to credit' customers," Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing additional measures after his monetary policy statement.

In September 2023, the

## Small finance banks allowed to transfer loan amounts via UPI

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

In a bid to attract the attention of the youth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to add 'podcasts' to its communication toolkit for wider dissemination of information.

This new initiative aims to broaden the banking regulator's communication channels, making information more accessible to members of the public. Mr. Das said these audio chats have a lot of traction with the younger audiences.

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to permit small finance banks to extend pre-sanctioned credit lines through the UPI.

"This will further deepen financial inclusion and enhance formal credit, particularly for 'new to credit' customers," Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing additional measures after his monetary policy statement.

In September 2023, the

scope of UPI was expanded by enabling pre-sanctioned credit lines to be linked through UPI and used as a funding account by commercial banks excluding payments banks, small finance banks (SFBs) and regional rural banks.

SFBs leverage a high-tech, low-cost model to reach the last-mile customer and can play an enabling role in expanding the reach of credit on UPI. Necessary guidelines will be issued shortly, the RBI said on Friday.

## Adani Group plans to develop an economic corridor in Odisha

Satyasundar Barik

BHUBANESWAR

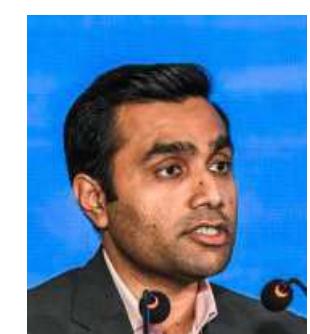
The Adani Group has suggested acquisition of 200-metre-width land in southern Odisha as it proposed to develop economic corridor along 400-km-long stretch connecting Gopalpur port and Jeypore in Koralput district of Odisha.

In a letter to CM Mohan Majhi, Karan Adani, MD, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), evinced interest in the development of the economic corridor connecting Gopalpur Port and Jeypore via Rayagada under PM GatiShakti scheme.

Mr. Adani, while referring his meeting with the CM said, "This economic corridor will cut travel time significantly from nine hours to just 3.5 hours between Gopalpur and Jeypore, allowing rapid transport of cargo and fostering industrial growth."

"This development would benefit industries in Koraput, Rayagada, Nabrangpur, Malkangiri and other southern and western districts of Odisha and also enhance access to healthcare and education for local communities, and support the overall economic landscape of the State," he pointed out.

"Given the strategic importance of this connectivity, it is requested that this project should be planned as an economic corridor with road, rail, pipelines and utilities. The ROW (Right of Way) of the economic corridor may be of such width that can accommodate road, rail, pipelines and utilities. The land acquisition for the ROW may be undertaken



Karan Adani

in one installment and should have a width of 200 metre keeping in mind the future development of six lane road, double railway line, pipelines and utilities," mentioned Adani Ports MD in the letter.

Stating the timely and efficient completion of this project is very important for the development of the State, Mr. Adani said, "it is requested to consider developing this project under the BOOT (Build, Own, Operate, Transfer) model. The BOOT model, in partnership with a private player, can ensure efficient execution and timely completion, while also saving on initial costs."

"Under this model, the BOOT partner would invest in the construction and operation of the economic corridor, subsequently transferring it to state government at the end of the concession period. The timely completion of the project will effectively usher in development of the south-western districts and also meet the transportation and logistics needs of industry and State," he said.

Earlier this year, the APSEZ acquired Gopalpur Port Ltd. at an enterprise value of ₹3,080 crore.

## No plans for de-dollarisation: Das

RBI Governor says the BRICS currency is just an idea floated by one member of the bloc, and no decision has been taken on it; his remarks assume significance in the context of Donald Trump's threat to slap 100% tariffs for pursuing such plans

Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

**I**ndia has no plans for de-dollarisation, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in response to a question on U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's threat to slap 100% tariffs on BRICS nations planning a common currency to challenge the hegemony of U.S. dollar in global trade.

"The BRICS currency was an idea raised by one of the members of the BRICS countries and it was discussed," Mr. Das said. "No decision has been taken in the matter. The geographical spread of the countries is a factor which



**Not on the table:** De-dollarisation is certainly not our objective. It is not on the table at all, says Das.PTI

has to be kept in mind unlike the Eurozone which has a single currency and geographical continuity. BRICS countries are spread all over," he added.

"So far as India is concerned, there is no step

which we have taken to de-dollarise. All we have done is we have entered into agreements with a couple of countries to do local currency-denominated trade to de-risk India trade."

"Dependence on one currency can be problematic at times because of appreciation or depreciation. So, as part of de-risking our trade, that is a step which has been taken. De-dollarisation is certainly not our objective. It is not on the table at all. Our effort is basically to de-risk our trade. Nobody is talking or thinking about de-dollarisation," he added.

instance, perhaps, China may react by devaluing the currency or there might be retaliatory tariffs."

"So, at this point, it is very difficult to say what will be our unilateral move, and will it affect. Let us wait for the general equilibrium," he added.

He said India's forex reserves were quite robust now and quite adequate.

"We are confident of dealing with any spillovers. As per requirement, we will take action. At the moment we have no concern at all," he said answering to a query on whether the interest rate ceiling on FCNR (B) deposits has increased to build a buffer.

## MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,709	-0.07
US Dollar	84.66	0.06
Gold	79,150	-1.75
Brent oil	71.15	-1.75

**NIFTY 50**

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2506.40	-16.15
Adani Ports	1259.05	-18.00
Apollo Hosp.	7233.30	-41.45
Asian Paints	2429.70	-22.50
Axis Bank	1184.55	-18.15
Bajaj Auto	9099.90	207.95
Bajaj FinServ	1635.20	-8.90
Bajaj Finance	6850.30	-0.10
Bharti Elec.	313.75	-0.75
Bharti Airtel	1597.85	-17.50
BPCL	300.35	3.35
Britannia Ind.	4870.85	-1.15
Cipla	1477.70	-20.85
Coal India	417.15	-1.25
Dr Reddys Lab.	1253.70	13.85
Eicher Motors	4877.05	39.50
Grasim Ind.	2701.90	4.90
HCL Tech.	1922.70	-1.30
HDFC Bank	1855.85	-9.90
HDFC Life	636.50	-6.65
Hero MotoCorp	4629.60	-14.75
Hindalco	670.15	-0.70
Hindu Unilever	2483.80	-10.80
ICICI Bank	1328.75	-7.75
IndusInd Bank	990.35	-7.85
Infosys	1922.40	-12.45
ITC	471.15	3.65
JSW Steel	1003.80	4.60
Kotak Bank	1776.95	1.80
L&T	3866.70	35.15
M&M	3073.00	1.40
Maruti Suzuki	1131.75	135.70
NestleIndia	2267.80	2.30
NTPC	369.05	0.35
ONGC	260.05	-1.25
PowerGrid Corp	328.90	0.55
Reliance Ind.	1311.55	-10.50
SBI Life</td		

**HASAKEH**

**U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds seize eastern city of Deir el-Zor**



A U.S.-backed alliance led by Syrian Kurdish fighters has seized the eastern Syrian city of Deir el-Zor, three Syrian sources said on Friday, the third city to fall out of President Bashar al-Assad's control in a week. The alliance, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, had taken full control of Deir el-Zor by Friday afternoon. REUTERS

**WASHINGTON**

**Trump names former Senator Perdue as Ambassador to China**



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump named political ally and former Georgia Senator David Perdue as his pick to be Ambassador to China, who Trump has promised to impose tariffs on. Perdue, 74, a business executive, served as a senator for Georgia from 2015 to 2021, and failed in a bid for governor of the State in 2022. AFP

**MOSCOW**

**Russia captures villages in two key areas of eastern Ukraine frontline**



Russia said on Friday that its forces had captured a village near the embattled supply hub of Pokrovsk and another near the industrial town of Kurakhove, gaining ground in two key areas of the east Ukraine frontline. Russian forces "liberated the settlements" of Sukhi Yaly and Pustynka in the Donetsk region. AFP

**VIENNA**

**Iran plans to significantly increase enriched uranium production'**



Iran plans a major increase in the production rate of highly enriched uranium, the UN nuclear watchdog said. An updated design of Iran's Fordo plant showed that the effect of the change "would be to significantly increase the rate of production of uranium enriched up to 60%", the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said. AFP

## After capturing Hama, Syrian insurgents advance to Homs

Militants have entered two towns just north of Homs; the central city lies on an important intersection between Damascus and Syria's coastal provinces where Assad enjoys wide support

**Associated Press**  
BEIRUT

**T**housands of people fled the central Syrian city of Homs, the country's third-largest, as Islamist militants seized two towns on the outskirts on Friday, positioning themselves for an assault on a potentially major prize in their march against President Bashar Assad.

The move, reported by pro-government media and an opposition war monitor, was the latest in the stunning advances by militants over the past week that have so far met little resistance from Mr. Assad's forces. A day ear-



**Choosing sides:** People gather as a person holds the Syrian opposition flag in Hama on Friday.

lier, fighters captured the central city of Hama, Syria's fourth-largest, after the Army said it withdrew to avoid fighting inside the city and spare the lives of

Videos circulating online showed a highway jammed with cars full of people fleeing Homs, a city with a large population belonging to Mr. Assad's Alawite sect, seen as his core supporters.

**Crippling blow**

If Mr. Assad's military loses Homs, it could be a crippling blow. The city, parts of which were controlled by insurgents until 2014, lies on an important intersection between Damascus and Syria's coastal provinces of Latakia and Tartus, where Mr. Assad enjoys wide support. Homs province is Syria's largest in size and borders Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan.

## At least 29 killed in Israeli strikes around key hospital

**Agence France-Presse**

BEIT LAHIA

Gaza's civil defence agency said 29 people were killed on Friday by Israeli strikes around a major hospital in the northern city of Beit Lahia.

Kamal Adwan Hospital, one of northern Gaza's last functioning health centres, was hit by several strikes in the morning, the agency and the hospital director said.

"There was a series of air strikes on the northern and western sides of the hospital, accompanied by intense and direct fire," said hospital director Hosam Abu Safieh, adding that four members of the staff were killed.

Israeli forces have stormed the Kamal Adwan on several occasions since the start of the war nearly 14 months ago. The hospital said its intensive care unit director Ahmad al-Kahlut was killed in an air strike late last month.



**Cushioning the blow:** A Palestinian pulls away a victim following an Israeli strike that hit the Kamal Adwan hospital in Beit Lahia.

zens were wounded... since dawn on Friday as a result of the continuing Israeli shelling around Kamal Adwan Hospital."

Again escalated in recent days, forcing thousands to flee amid bombing, the civil defence agency said.

Israeli forces have again escalated in recent days, forcing thousands to flee amid bombing, the civil defence agency said.

Israeli forces have again escalated in recent days, forcing thousands to flee amid bombing, the civil defence agency said.

**Synagogue comes under arson attack in Australia**

**Agence France-Presse**  
JERUSALEM

The police in the Australian city of Melbourne said mask-wearing arsonists attacked a synagogue before dawn on Friday. They were still searching for the suspects and said they did not know why the premises had been targeted.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday linked the incident to what he called Canberra's "anti-Israel sentiment".

Mr. Netanyahu said that "this heinous act cannot be separated from the anti-Israel sentiment emanating from the Australian Labor government."

Mr. Netanyahu argued that "anti-Israel sentiment is anti-Semitism".

## Russia will use 'all means' to defend its interests, says Lavrov

**Associated Press**  
MOSCOW

Russia's top diplomat said in an interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson released on Friday that Moscow does not want a war with the U.S. but will use "all means" to defend its interests.

Sergey Lavrov argued that while Russia and the U.S. are officially not at war, Washington's permission for Ukraine to use American longer-range missiles for strikes on Russian territory marked a dangerous escalation.

**Ample help from U.S.** "It is obvious that the Ukrainians would not be able to do what they are doing with long-range modern weapons without direct participation of the American servicemen. And this is dangerous, no doubt about this," he said, adding that the Western belief that



Sergey Lavrov

Russia's red lines could be "moved again and again" is a very serious mistake."

**Signal to the West** Mr. Lavrov, the world's longest-serving Foreign Minister who has been on the job for 20 years, said that a recent Russian strike on Ukraine with a new hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile called *Oreshnik* was a signal to the West that Russia is prepared to use all means to achieve its goals in Ukraine.

## S. Korea ruling party head wants to cancel powers of President

**Associated Press**  
SEOUL

**Han Dong-hun stressed the need to suspend Mr. Yoon's presidential duties and power swiftly**

ly, saying he poses a "significant risk of extreme actions, like re-attempting to impose martial law, which could potentially put the Republic of Korea and its citizens in great danger."

Mr. Han said he received intelligence that Mr. Yoon ordered the country's defence counterintelligence commander to arrest and detain unspecified key politicians based on accusations of "anti-state activities".

"It's my judgment that an immediate suspension of President Yoon Suk Yeol's official duties is necessary to protect the Republic of Korea and its people," Mr. Han said.

### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

#04, Seshadri Road, Bangalore-560009.

Phone: 080-22262263, email: phq.prisons-kar@gov.in

### TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director General, Prisons and Correctional Services, Bangalore invited the following tenders for Supply, installation and maintenance of X-Ray Baggage Scanners and Walkie-Talkies for various Central and District Prisons as under.

Tender No. and Date	approx. Tender value
1 PCSD/2024-25/INDO195, Dt. 30/11/2024	Rs.175 Lakhs
2 PCSD/2024-25/INDO196, Dt. 30/11/2024	Rs.125 Lakhs

The information of Pre-bid meeting, last date and time for tender submission and other details can be obtained at e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For more information, please contact the above office.

Sd/-  
Director General  
Prisons and Correctional services

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ADMIN/AD-A2/11507/2022 (I)

05.12.2024

#### RE-NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Finance Officer in the University on Direct recruitment/Deputation basis from the Government of Kerala or Government of India service.

For further details visit  
[www.kannuruniversity.ac.in](http://www.kannuruniversity.ac.in)

Sd/- REGISTRAR  
Thavakkara

#### PERSONAL

#### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dipen Kumar Chakraborty, R/O 1922, ATS Advantage, Ahinsa Khand 1, Nr Habitat Center, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad – 201014 have changed my name to Dipen Chakraborty and will be known by this name forever and in future.

For details visit  
[www.kannuruniversity.ac.in](http://www.kannuruniversity.ac.in)

Sd/- REGISTRAR  
Thavakkara

#### INMovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

**Schedule - B:** (Property Owned by Mrs. Meena Sharma, W/o. Surender Kumar Sharma)

Property Bearing No.S-4/02, admeasuring 200 Sq.Yds., out of Khasra No.258, situated in the Abadi of School Block, Shakarpur, in the area of Village Shakarpur khas, Ilala Shahdara, Delhi -110092. Along with superstructure putup thereon. Boundaries : North : 20 Ft. wide Gali, South : Road. East : Property No.S-4/03, West : Property No.S-401.

**Reserve Price : Rs.3,40,00,000/-**  
(Rupees Three Crore Forty Lakh only)

**Schedule - C:** (Property Owned by Mrs. Meena Sharma, W/o. Surender Kumar Sharma)

Property bearing No.12/2, admeasuring 100 Sq.Yds., out of Khasra No.256/4 min, situated in the Abadi of Chander Vihar, in the area of Village Mandawali, Fazalpur, Ilala Shahdara, Delhi North - Road, South : Other Property, East : Others Property, West: Property No. A-105(Dental Health Care and Implant Centre).

**Reserve Price : Rs.1,60,00,000/-**  
(Rupees One Crore Sixty Lakh only)

**Schedule - D:** (Property Owned by Mrs. Meena Sharma, W/o. Surender Kumar Sharma)

Property bearing Flat No.106, having Built-up Area 91.04 Sq.Mtrs., Ground Floor, Tower No.01, Balco Apartments, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi - 110092. Boundaries : North : Entry, South : Other Property, East : Flat No.105, West: Park.

**Reserve Price : Rs.92,00,000/-**  
(Rupees Ninety Two Lakh only)

#### RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale      Venue

26-12-2024      City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Mayur Vihar Branch, C-53, Ground Floor, Shashi Garden, Phase I, Mayur Vihar, Delhi - 110091.

Telephone No.011-22755089, Cell No. 9312284276.

**Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :**

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Mayur Vihar Branch, C-53, Ground Floor, Shashi Garden, Phase I, Mayur Vihar, Delhi - 110091. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Limited, with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", or on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.011-22755089, Cell No.9312284276. (5) The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there-is" basis. (6) The sealed tender will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders after the date of auction. (7) The successful bidder shall have the right to withdraw his bid if he finds that the bid is higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conducted as an open auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process.

(8) The successful bidder shall have the right to withdraw his bid if he finds that the bid is higher than the one received in the closed tender process.

(9) The successful bidder shall have the right to withdraw his bid if he finds that the bid is higher than the one received in the closed tender process.

(10) The successful bidder shall have the right to withdraw his bid if he finds that the bid is higher than the one received in the closed tender process.

(11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Place : Kumarakom, Date : 05-12-2024**

**Authorised Officer**

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

**Agence France-Presse**

BEIJING

China warned Taiwan on Friday that relying on the United States to help it seek independence "will inevitably hit a wall", as Beijing took aim at a Pacific tour by the self-ruled island's President Lai Ching-te this week.

Mr. Lai's trip, which has included two stops on U.S. soil, has drawn a barrage of criticism from China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory and op-

oses any international recognition of the island.

Mr. Lai this week held a phone call with U.S. Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, which also angered Beijing.

**Doomed to fail**

# Wet-weather wizardry: why Verstappen's mastery in the rain is a point of difference

The Dutch driver's performance in soggy Interlagos was a defining moment in the 2024 title race. It also reinforced his reputation as the best of his generation, evoking memories of how Senna, Schumacher and Hamilton conquered treacherous conditions

**S. Dipak Ragav**

**O**ne of the innate charms of watching professional outdoor sport is recognising how highly skilled athletes perform in a wide range of conditions, handling the vagaries of nature.

In cricket or tennis, overcast weather can affect how the ball moves through the air, requiring players to tinker with their technique. It can sometimes throw even the best off their game.

#### Extreme adaptation

When football, hockey and rugby are played in the rain, the challenge is not markedly dissimilar to normal conditions. However, nothing comes close to motorsport in terms of the extreme adaptation required of an athlete when racing on a wet track.

Over the years, some of the most iconic races or drives in Formula One have occurred in wet/mixed conditions, where the chance of peril is far higher than on regular weekends in the dry.

More often than not, a driver's most memorable race win or podium finish will invariably be the one achieved in such challenging conditions. These conditions often separate the elite from the merely good or very good.

In 2024, F1 saw a fairly intense title battle between Max Verstappen and Lando Norris before the former prevailed. A pivotal race in which Verstappen snuffed out a late challenge from Norris came at the Sao Paulo GP, which played out in treacherous conditions.

Starting 17th, the Dutchman charged from the back of the grid to take his eighth win of the year even as Norris went from first to sixth.

It was a masterclass in wet-weather driving that saw Verstappen climb 11 places in the first 12 laps. Granted, the fortunate timing of the red flag allowed him to jump a few cars, but once racing resumed, he quickly picked off Esteban Ocon's Alpine. Verstappen then rapidly built an almost-20-second gap to Ocon in second place, lapping at nearly a second faster than anyone.

Not only did Verstappen increase his gap in the standings, ending Norris' challenge for all practical purposes, but the performance also reinforced his reputation as the best driver of his generation, putting him on the pathway to becoming an all-time great.

A good drive in damp conditions outshines one in the dry because the conditions can sometimes reduce the gap between a perfect car and a good one since the grip available becomes a limiting factor. In these situations, the driver's role becomes all the more crucial.

"Someone very important to all of us said a long time ago that in the rain, the cars are almost equal. And that phrase didn't age at all," said Ocon after the race in Brazil.

In normal dry conditions, most racers follow a similar line around the circuit known as the rac-



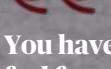
Where we come from, it definitely rains a bit more. You go out, you practise, you get more comfortable, you tune your skills. And you carry that, you evolve and become even better

**MAX VERSTAPPEN**

GETTY IMAGES



**GETTY IMAGES**



You have to have a much more sensitive feel for what the car is doing because the grip level is so much lower. You must have a careful finesse to your driving

**MARK SLADE**  
Race engineer

## STACKING UP



### ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	11,830	17
2	Alexander Zverev	27	7,915	21
3	Carlos Alcaraz	21	7,010	18
4	Taylor Fritz	27	5,100	22
5	Daniil Medvedev	28	5,030	17
6	Casper Ruud	25	4,255	25
7	Novak Djokovic	37	3,910	18
8	Andrey Rublev	27	3,760	27
9	Alex de Minaur	25	3,745	23
10	Grigor Dimitrov	33	3,350	19
11	Stefanos Tsitsipas	26	3,165	22
12	Tommy Paul	27	3,145	21
13	Holger Rune	21	3,025	23
14	Ugo Humbert	26	2,765	26
15	Jack Draper	22	2,685	22

**Top Indians ▶**

Sumit Nagal  
Rank 98 ▼ 4 spots

Ramkumar Ramanathan  
Rank 350 ▼ 41 spots



### WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	26	9,416	21
2	Iga Swiatek	23	8,370	21
3	Coco Gauff	20	6,530	22
4	Jasmine Paolini	28	5,344	20
5	Qinwen Zheng	22	5,340	21
6	Elena Rybakina	25	5,171	20
7	Jessica Pegula	30	4,705	19
8	Emma Navarro	23	3,589	25
9	Daria Kasatkina	27	3,368	24
10	Barbara Krejčíková	28	3,214	17
11	Danielle Collins	30	3,178	19
12	Paula Badosa	27	2,908	20
13	Diana Shnaider	20	2,895	27
14	Anna Kalinskaya	25	2,743	20
15	Jelena Ostapenko	27	2,588	21

**Top Indians ▶**

Ankita Raina  
Rank 287 ▲ 4 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli  
Rank 311 ▲ 2 spots

### F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	429	9
2	Lando Norris	McLaren	349	3
3	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	341	3
4	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	291	2
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	272	2
6	George Russell	Mercedes	235	2
7	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	211	2
8	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	152	0
9	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	68	0
10	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	37	0
11	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	36	0
12	Yuki Tsunoda	RB	30	0
13	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	24	0
14	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	23	0
15	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	16	0
16	Alex Albon	Williams	12	0
17	Daniel Ricciardo	RB	12	0
18	Oliver Bearman	Haas	7	0
19	Franco Colapinto	Williams	5	0
20	Zhou Guanyu	Sauber	4	0
21	Liam Lawson	RB	4	0

**Top Indians ▶**



Max Verstappen

**Pos** **Team** **Points** **Wins**

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	McLaren	640	5
2	Ferrari	619	5
3	Red Bull	581	9
4	Mercedes	446	4
5	Aston Martin	92	0
6	Alpine	59	0
7	Haas	54	0
8	RB	46	0
9	Williams	17	0
10	Sauber	4	0

**Top Indians ▶**



Lando Norris

### Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	99,215	14
2	Anders Antonsen	93,821	20
3	Viktor Axelsen	92,290	14
4	Jonatan Christie	85,947	17
5	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	81,408	17
6	Li Shi Feng	76,896	18
7	Kodai Naraoka	76,847	20
8	Lee Zii Jia	76,256	19
9	Chou Tien Chen	71,497	26
10	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	68,305	16
11	Koki Watanabe	64,374	18
12	Lakshya Sen	63,668	17
13	Loh Kean Yew	61,333	21
14	Lin Chun-Yi	61,071	22
15	Kenta Nishimoto	58,212	23

**Top Indians ▶**

Lakshya Sen

Prannoy H. S.

Rank 12 Rank 26

### Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	895	932
2	Harry Brook	854	854
3	Kane Williamson	830	919
4	Yashav Jaiswal	825	825
5	Daryl Mitchell	753	804
6	Rishabh Pant	736	801
7			

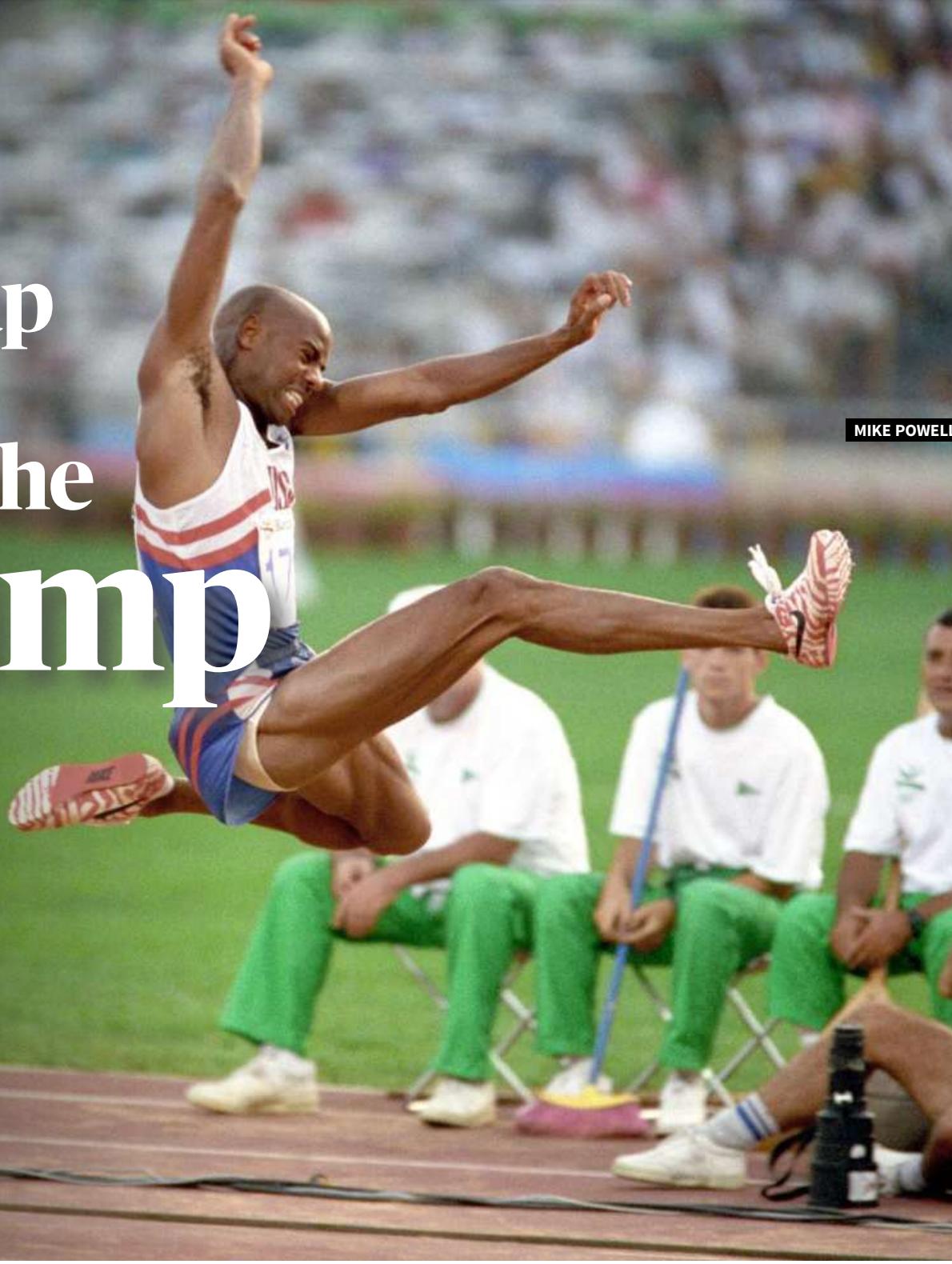
# Still a giant leap for man: the stagnation of the long jump

The men's world record has stood since 1991, the Olympic record since 1968 – why has the hard-to-master discipline not progressed and is there a solution that can shake things up?



I hated Carl [Lewis]. He was my idol at first but after I started competing, I thought I had to demonise him. He was the guy in the sport. I had to break the record to beat him!

**MIKE POWELL**  
Long jump world record holder



GETTY IMAGES



There have been 5 male world record [breakers] in the long jump since 1936. The present outdoor record is 31 years old... Seems pretty tough to me. What other event is that difficult to master?

**CARL LEWIS**  
In a 2022 social media post

8.41m and 8.48m respectively. And today, the number of elite athletes competing in both sprints and long jump is near-zero.

According to Powell, the long jump's stagnating distances were a sure sign that the already tough discipline was regressing. In a media interaction in Bengaluru back in May 2016, Powell had said: "In the 2012 Olympics, 8.12 was the bronze. If Jesse Owens' mark of 8.13 [world record set in 1935] can win a medal in 2012, that's unheard of. Every other event has progressed."

A factor that could be responsible is the lack of rivalries. At the 1991 Worlds, when Powell set the present best mark (8.95m), Lewis had three of his career-best jumps – 8.83m, 8.84m and 8.87m – and one wind-assisted mark of 8.91m which was better than Beamon's then world record (8.90m). Lewis had in fact come into Tokyo unbeaten in 65 consecutive long jump events, "determined to break the world record that night".

"I was on a mission," Powell recollects. "Carl had just broken the world record in the 100m. And the key to jumping long is running fast. I had to break the record to beat him! On top of that, I hated Carl. He was my idol at first but after I started competing, I thought I had to demonise him. He was the guy in the sport. But I looked at him like another to beat."

However, if World Athletics, as announced this February, goes ahead and trials a "take-off zone" instead of a board and starts measuring distances from the point athletes become airborne, it would mean the end of the long jump as we have known it, for it removes the incentive to master the perfect take-off. It could also potentially produce bigger jumps.

"I guess it supports what I have been saying, that long jump is the most difficult," Lewis seethed on X. "This would just eliminate the most difficult skill from the event. Just make the basket larger for free throws because too many people miss them."

## Bring the sprinters back

Hillier, though, is on the fence, for now, and even felt it could be a good move if it brings the sprinters, like Lewis in his heyday, back. "It is set

up to make the event a bit more exciting, but has not been communicated well," the Welshman said. "But world records might have to be reset, like in javelin for example where they adjusted the weight after Uwe Hohn threw it 105m [104.80m]. That record has been taken off the books."

"For me, it is about storytelling and on the track, it is easy to see a story unfold. You will see someone in the lead at the start, then someone else takes over and then someone will come through at the end. That is the story unfolding for you. In field events that story needs to be told better and something that has been missed by television. I would say it can be more exciting because it goes on longer and can hold your attention."

"Marcell Jacobs, who won the 100m at Tokyo 2020, was a sprinter-long jumper and then gave up long jump to sprint. So it has become a bit less cool. If it [the change] gets the best athletes, the best sprinters, to be long jumpers, that would be good."

## N. Sudarshan

In April 2022, the legendary Carl Lewis put out a blunt statement on social media platform X (then Twitter) that long jump was the hardest event in track and field. "There have been 5 male world record holders [sic: breakers] in the long jump since 1936," Lewis said. "The present outdoor record is 31 years old... Seems pretty tough to me. What other event is that difficult to master?"

In quick time, Lewis was roundly criticised and even called an attention seeker, pretty much in line with X's image of being a toxic crucible of abuse and simplistic narratives. It didn't matter that Lewis was a nine-time Olympic gold medalist, with four of those in the long jump in a streak that started at Los Angeles 1984 and ended at Atlanta 1996.

### The Carl Lewis argument

Lewis' rationale was that Mike Powell's world record of 8.95m at the Tokyo World Championships in 1991 was – and is still – standing. The same with Bob Beamon's Olympic record of 8.90m set at Mexico City 1968. Starting 1970, the men's high jump, triple jump and pole vault – the other three jump events – have seen 12, 5 and 14 athletes better the best mark. Long jump has seen a grand total of one. Of the six record-hol-



Long jump is a combination of speed, elastic strength and technique. The issue is how you transfer horizontal speed into a vertical lift off the board. You have to hit that sweet spot

**JAMES HILLIER**  
Reliance Foundation athletics director

ders from 1935, Powell, Beamon and Jesse Owens have each held it for 23 years or more.

In fairness, the longevity of a world record shouldn't always determine the difficulty level of an event. If that is the case, the women's track races should be the hardest of all, for the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m records have remained intact since the 1980s. But Lewis' thinking had more than a kernel of truth – that the long jump was among the toughest to master, if not the toughest, and the lack of progression in world record distances was one of its prime failouts.

"Long jump is a combination of speed, elastic strength and technique," James Hillier, the athletics director at Reliance Foundation, told *The Hindu*. "If you look at the runway data from the Olympic Games, the winner has had the fastest times. The issue is how you transfer horizontal speed, which might be 10 m/s or higher for top long jumpers, into a vertical lift off the board.

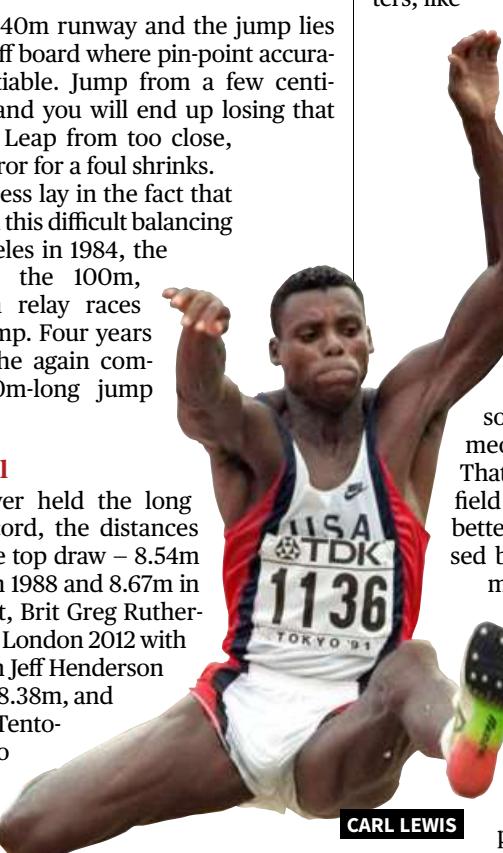
"You have to hit that sweet spot. You have to be able to run fast enough because the speed is what carries you forward. But you should also be running within yourself so that you can coordinate and time a take-off. If you are driving a car at 30 miles an hour, and someone tugs the steering wheel, the car will just go off a little bit but you can correct it. If you are going at 100 miles an hour, a slight tug can result in a very bad accident. It is the same in long jumping."

Between the 40m runway and the jump lies the 20cm take-off board where pin-point accuracy is non-negotiable. Jump from a few centimetres behind and you will end up losing that much distance. Leap from too close, the margin of error for a foul shrinks.

Lewis' greatness lay in the fact that he had mastered this difficult balancing act. At Los Angeles in 1984, the American won the 100m, 200m, 4x100m relay races and the long jump. Four years later in Seoul, he again completed the 100m-long jump double.

### Easier to medal

Though he never held the long jump world record, the distances Lewis leapt were top draw – 8.54m in 1984, 8.72m in 1988 and 8.67m in 1992. In contrast, Brit Greg Rutherford took gold at London 2012 with 8.31m; American Jeff Henderson at Rio 2016 with 8.38m, and Greek Miltiadis Tentoglou at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 with



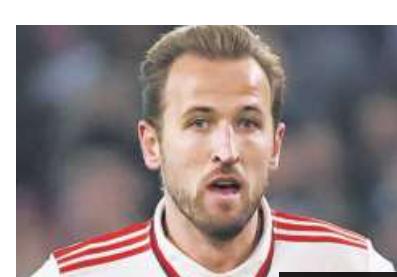
CARL LEWIS

## GAME THEORY

### Bundesliga: goals vs. expected goals

Omar Marmoush has been attracting attention from some of Europe's biggest clubs after a hot start to the Bundesliga season with Eintracht Frankfurt. The Egyptian forward sits behind Harry Kane on the list of top-scorers, but is outperforming his expected goals (xG) by a larger margin than the England striker. A look at the top-25 goal-scorers in the German top division this season and the margin between their tallies and the xG they have generated (xGDiff):

Player	Club	Games	Goals	xG	xGDiff
Harry Kane	Bayern	12	14	11.23	2.77
Omar Marmoush	E. Frankfurt	12	13	8.46	4.54
Jonathan Burkhardt	Mainz	12	9	5.82	3.18
Tim Kleindienst	M'Gladbach	12	8	7.24	0.76
Ermedin Demirovic	Stuttgart	12	7	6.16	0.84
Hugo Ekitike	E. Frankfurt	11	6	6.69	-0.69
Jamal Musiala	Bayern	10	6	4.69	1.31
Serhou Guirassy	Dortmund	9	6	6.92	-0.92
Victor Boniface	Leverkusen	10	6	7.13	-1.13
Andrej Kramarić	Hoffenheim	11	5	4.52	0.48
Deniz Undav	Stuttgart	9	5	4.47	0.53
Jens Stage	W. Bremen	8	5	2.66	2.34
Lois Openda	RBL	12	5	5.04	-0.04
Michael Olise	Bayern	12	5	2.74	2.26
Patrik Schick	Leverkusen	10	5	3.43	1.57
Ritsu Doan	Freiburg	12	5	3.88	1.12
Florian Wirtz	Leverkusen	12	4	3.82	0.18
Jamie Gittens	Dortmund	12	4	2.52	1.48
Marius Butler	Hoffenheim	11	4	2.84	1.16
Marvin Pieringer	Heidenheim	11	4	4.02	-0.02
Mohammed Amoura	Wolfsburg	10	4	3.23	0.77
Philip Tietz	Augsburg	12	4	2.92	1.08
Shuto Machino	Holstein	11	4	2.72	1.28
Tiago Tomas	Wolfsburg	12	4	3.12	0.88
Willi Orban	RBL	10	4	3.01	0.99



HARRY KANE



OMAR MARMOUSH

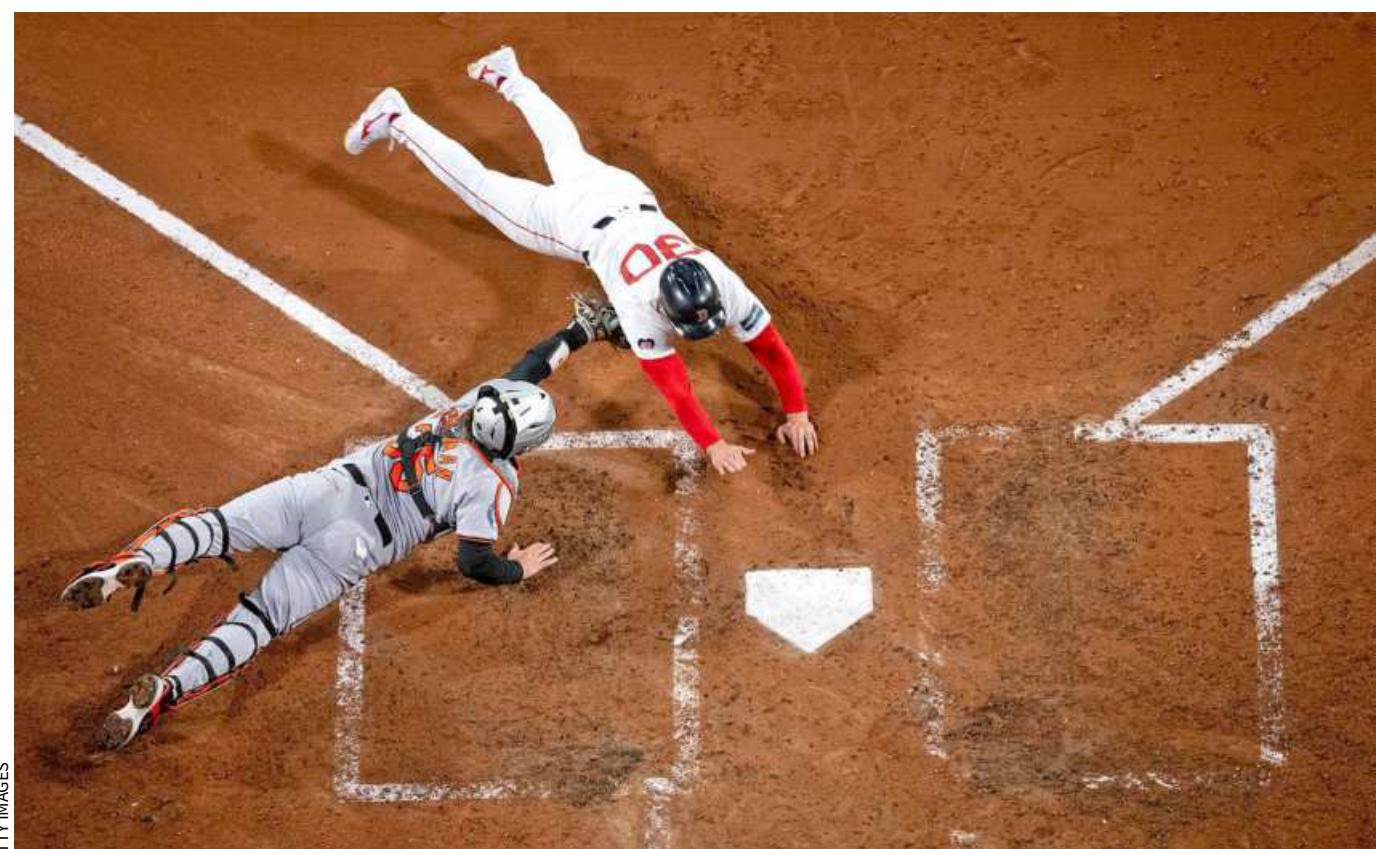


JONATHAN BURKHARDT



SOURCE: WHOSCORED.COM

## PICTURE THIS



### Tag — and out!

Baseball's "tagged out" is the equivalent of cricket's "run out". Indeed, it was once known as "run out" — "A player is said to be run out when he is touched between the bases in trying to get back to the base he left," reads a historic account of a

variation of this "out".

It's one of the four most common ways in which a batter may be put out, the others being the "strike out", the "fly out", and the "forced out".

A "tagged out" can occur when a fielder touches ("tags") the baserunner with the ball (or with the hand or glove

holding the ball), while the ball is live and the runner is not on a base.

Runners attempting to leave the base before the pitch is thrown can also be dismissed in a variation of this mode, with the pitcher throwing the ball to the fielder covering the base and the runner being

tagged before they can touch the base.

Fortunately for modern ball-players, they no longer play a baseball format common in the 19th century, for the "tagged out" then resulted in pain. Runners were "plugged" or "soaked" by the ball thrown directly at them!

**IN ELITE CLUB**

Bumrah the third Indian pacer to take 50 Test wickets in a year



GETTY IMAGES

Jasprit Bumrah became the third Indian speedster to take 50 or more Test wickets in a calendar year. Usman Khawaja's scalp on the opening day of the Adelaide Test was his 50th wicket in 2024. Kapil Dev (1979 and 1983) and Zaheer Khan (2002) are the other Indian pace bowlers to perform the feat.

**SWINGING AWAY**

Pink ball dynamics hard to explain, says Starc after remarkable day



AP

Mitchell Starc, stressing that the pink ball dynamics are hard to explain, said: "As a bowler you don't ever feel far away or far out of the game. So if you keep the scoreboard in check, you feel like you always have a good chance." The left-arm pacer also praised Pat Cummins and Scott Boland for their superb spells.

**REMEMBRANCE**

Australians wear black armbands in memory of Hughes, Redpath



GETTY IMAGES

The Australian players wore black armbands during the pink-ball Test against India in Adelaide on Friday in memory of former players Phillip Hughes and Ian Redpath. Former Australia opener Hughes died in 2014 after being struck on the head in a Sheffield Shield match. Redpath, also an opener, passed away recently.

**BIG CROWD**

Adelaide sees record turnout on day one of India-Australia Test



GETTY IMAGES

As many as 36,225 heads dotted the stands at the Adelaide Oval on the first day of the second India-Australia Test to create a new record for crowd turnout during a five-day game featuring the two sides. According to data provided by Cricket Australia (CA), the previous record was 35,081 spectators during the 2011-12 series.

# Starc's super six flattens India in pink-ball challenge

McSweeney, Labuschagne make steady progress after the visitors are bowled out for 180 in their first innings; Nitish comes up with another aggressive knock; skipper Rohit and Kohli fail to get going

**INDIA IN AUS****K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
ADELAIDE

Australia saw the light on a Friday night. At a packed Adelaide Oval and on a rather unusual day in which the expected rains stayed away while the floodlights malfunctioned twice, the host scored 86 for one in reply to India's first innings score of 180.

The second Test's opening day was a tale of two parts. The first revealed a vulnerable Indian stint and the second highlighted Australia's desire to fight back in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, in which the host trails 0-1.

Australian openers Usman Khawaja and Nathan McSweeney survived the first 10 overs before Jasprit Bumrah caused the initial breach. Khawaja redirected a Bumrah special to Rohit Sharma at first slip. A twitchy Marnus Labuschagne then survived an inquisition from Bumrah before finding his voice.

McSweeney too freed his earlier dour arms and that found an echo through Labuschagne's bat as the 62-run unbeaten second-wicket partnership took shape. Pat Cummins and his men would perhaps believe that they are marginally ahead even if they still have a 94-run deficit to clear.

In the afternoon, Rohit won the toss, elected to bat and India had the services of R. Ashwin, who was preferred over Washington Sundar.

The atmosphere around the ground was like a carnival, fans trooped in from all corners with a mix of the local yellow and the Indian blue shade. There was a Village Green enclosure



Breathing fire: Starc, who proved unplayable, traps Ashwin in front. GETTY IMAGES

where members of the South Australia Cricket Association gathered for banter and refreshments.

The venue got an instant adrenaline boost when Mitchell Starc dismissed Yashasvi Jaiswal with the match's first ball. Trapped right in front, Jaiswal left. A patient K.L. Rahul and a keen Shubman Gill then anchored India. Gill, with two fielders under his gaze and a waiting slip cordon, drove carefully. Rahul defended astutely even if there were a few play-and-miss routines.

Gill tucked into Starc and Rahul opened his account off the 21<sup>st</sup> ball he faced. There was drama too as he edged Scott Boland and it turned out to be a no-ball, and then Khawaja dropped him in the slips.

At 109 for six, India leaned on Nitish Kumar and Ashwin to hustle the runs, which they did partly well. After Starc accounted for Ashwin and Harshit Rana,

Gradually Rahul began to cut and drive but once he fell to Starc, with the catch flying to McSweeney, India went through a delicate phase.

From 69 for two, it became 81 for four as Virat Kohli and Gill became tentative, as a bat was grazed and pads got ruffled.

With Rohit walking in at six and Rishabh Pant for company, India needed an alliance extending past the break. It was not to be as Boland got one to nip back and cramped Rohit while Cummins surprised Pant with a delivery that climbed steeply.

At 109 for six, India leaned on Nitish Kumar and Ashwin to hustle the runs, which they did partly well. After Starc accounted for Ashwin and Harshit Rana,

Nitish (42) turned aggressor and Boland felt the heat as reverse-scoops and pulls yielded a six each.

**SCOREBOARD**

**INDIA – 1ST INNINGS**  
Yashasvi Jaiswal lbw b Starc 0 (1b), K.L. Rahul c McSweeney b Starc 37 (64b, 6x4), Shubman Gill lbw b Boland 31 (51b, 5x4), Virat Kohli c Smith b Starc 7 (8b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant c Labuschagne b Cummins 21 (35b, 2x4), Rohit Sharma lbw b Boland 3 (23b), Nitish Kumar c Head b Starc 42 (54b, 3x4, 3x6), R. Ashwin lbw b Starc 22 (22b, 3x4), Harshit Rana b Starc 0 (3b), Jasprit Bumrah c Khawaja b Cummins 0 (8b), Mohammed Siraj (not out) 4 (3b, 1x4); Extras (lb-5, nb-7, w-1): 13; Total (in 44.1 overs): 180.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-0 (Jaiswal, 0.1 overs), 2-69 (Rahul, 18.4), 3-77 (Kohli, 20.1), 4-81 (Gill, 21.1), 5-87 (Rohit, 25.5), 6-109 (Pant, 32.5), 7-141 (Ashwin,

Once Nitish fell, the Indian first innings concluded and Starc had his rewards (six for 48).

**AUSTRALIA BOWLING**

Starc 14.1-2-48-6, Cummins 12.4-41-2, Boland 13.0-54-2, Lyon 1-0-6, Marsh 20 (67b, 3x4); Extras (b-13, lb-1, nb-1): 15; Total (for one wkt. in 33 overs): 86.

**AUSTRALIA – 1ST INNINGS**

Usman Khawaja c Rohit b Bumrah 13 (35b, 2x4), Nathan McSweeney (batting) 38 (97b, 6x4), Marnus Labuschagne (batting) 20 (67b, 3x4); Extras (b-13, lb-1, nb-1): 15; Total (for one wkt. in 33 overs): 86.

**FALL OF WICKET**

1-24 (Khawaja, 10.6). **INDIA BOWLING**

Bumrah 11.4-13-1, Siraj 10-3-29-0, Harshit 8-2-18-0, Nitish 3-1-12-0, Ashwin 1-1-0-0.

**Toss:** India.

Still running in trying to attack the stumps: Starc

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
ADELAIDE

When Mitchell Starc turned up at the Adelaide Oval for the 2020 pink-ball Test, he dismissed Prithvi Shaw with the match's second delivery. On Friday, he did one better as he scalped Yashasvi Jaiswal with the very first thunderbolt he bowled.

A self-effacing Starc downplayed the effort. "Yeah, I had the stumps (in my sights) and hit the pads. That's it. Nothing special. I am still running in trying to attack the stumps, trying to swing it. Some days it works, some days it doesn't," the Australian spearhead told the media.

Having run into a dominant Jaiswal in the Perth Test's second innings, Starc said: "Nice to get him early. And now we will have to work on him in the second innings." The speedster felt that Australia is ahead in the second Test: "Been a very good first day for us with the ball. After that first hour, we were pretty bang on. Nice way to start this Test."

Starc also expressed satisfaction over the manner in which the Australian top-order shaped up: "It is a good way to finish the day. The hardest time to bat is that third session with the brand new pink ball. To finish one down, particularly from Marne (Labuschagne) and (Nathan) McSweeney to fight through that and counter sustained pressure from a quality bowling attack, that was fantastic."

Drawing inspiration from the Perth Test, ten

India can get back into the game, says ten Doeschate

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
ADELAIDE

+



Switching gears: Nitish's fearless knock boosted India's score. AFP

Doeschate said: "At Perth we got bowled out for 150 and still we got back into that game. This is a proud team and the players want to come here and do well. We may be slightly behind in the game now but there won't be any surrendering."

Explaining that perhaps the Indian seamers could have bowled a bit fuller, ten Doeschate also gave credit to the way Australia batted: "They left very well. We feel that the kind of swing and seam is a little bit inconsistent which makes it tough for both parties."

The assistant coach also lauded Nitish Kumar: "We are pleased with him. He is a young kid, and a little bit of work has to be done. But the way he played at Perth and out here, these are knocks of good quality." And about picking R. Ashwin, ten Doeschate said: "We felt that on this Adelaide surface he will be more suited."

# Suryavanshi in smashing form as India powers into the final

**Press Trust of India**  
SHARJAH

Vaibhav Suryavanshi was the star of the show again with a second successive half-century as India stormed into the Under-19 Asia Cup ODI final with a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Friday.

The 13-year-old smashed five sixes and six fours in his 36-ball 67 as India chased down a target of 174 with ease.

Opting to bat, Sri Lanka only managed 173.

India's chase was built on a solid foundation laid by Ayush Mhatre (34 off 28) as he put on a stand of 91 with Suryavanshi for the opening wicket.

The young left-hander

started with consecutive sixes and a boundary off Srigera, who ended up giving away 31 runs in his opening over.

India will face Bangladesh in the final in Dubai on Sunday.

Bangladesh defeated Pakistan by seven wickets, completing a modest chase of 117 in 22.1 overs.

**The scores (semifinals):**

**At Sharjah:** Sri Lanka 173 in 46.2 overs (Sharujan Shanmuganathan 42, Lakvin Abeysinghe 69, Chetan Sharma 3/34) lost by India 175/3 in 21.4 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 67); **PoM:** Suryavanshi.

**At Dubai:** Pakistan 116 in 37 overs (Iqbal Hossain Emon 4/24) lost to Bangladesh 120/3 in 22.1 overs (Azizul Hakim Tamim 61 n.o.); **PoM:** Emon.



Chase master: Suryavanshi led the charge once again as India won at a canter. AP

# Young sets the pace, grabs the lead

**V.V. Ramanan**  
NASSAU

Cameron Young, the only player in the 20-man field without a PGA Tour win, set the pace early on and sustained it to finish atop the leaderboard at a bogey-free 8-under-par 64 after the opening round of the Hero World Challenge at the Albany course on Thursday.

The American was two strokes clear of two-time PGA Championship winner Justin Thomas, who rattled off six birdies on the back nine (including four straight from the 14th hole), and three ahead of a quintet that included defending champion and World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, three debutants — Ludvig Aberg, the Indian-origin duo of Akshay Bha-

tia and Sahith Theegala — and Patrick Cantlay.

The 27-year-old Young, who carded five birdies on the front nine, was one stroke shy of the best opening round in the history of the tournament set by Michael Campbell 19 years ago. On the contrary, Nick Dunlap, a nominee for the Arnold Palmer Award as PGA Tour Rookie of the Year, who also fired in eight birdies, endured a bad run in the final three holes with a bogey, par and double bogey after having been 7-under.



Moving ahead: Young, with a 64, held a two-shot advantage after the opening round. AP

He was tied-8 on 68 along with three fellow competitors.

In fact, on a day that was partly sunny with the temperature hovering in the mid-20s Celsius, 16 players returned to the clubhouse with under-par scores.

Asked what clicked for him, Young, making his third appearance at the event, said consistent good driving did the trick.

"I drove it great. I'm sure I missed a fairway or two, but for the most part I was really well in position," he said.

**Top scores (after first round):**

64: Cameron Young.

66: Justin Thomas.

67: Akshay Bhatia, Ludvig Aberg, Patrick Cantlay, Scottie Scheffler, Sahith Theegala.

*(The writer is in Nassau at the invitation of Hero MotoCorp.)*

## IN BRIEF



## Brook lashes century to put England on top after day 1

Harry Brook played the role of New Zealand's nemesis with flair on Friday, reaching his eighth Test century as England finished in a strong position after the first day of the second Test in Wellington. Brook's fast-paced innings of 123 included a century from 91 balls helped England post 280 and reduce the host to 86 for five.

**The scores:** England 280 in 54.4 overs (Brook 123, Pope 66, Nathan Smith 4/86) vs New Zealand 86/5 in 26 overs. **Toss:** New Zealand.

## Nissanka leads Lanka's strong reply against South Africa

Opener Pathum Nissanka led Sri Lanka to 242 for three, in reply to South Africa's bonus 358 on day two of the second Test at St George's Park on Friday. Nissanka's 89, his seventh Test fifty behind two centuries, easily shone in a steady effort by the top order to reduce the deficit to 116 runs by stumps.

**The scores:** South Africa 358 in 103.4 overs (Rickleton 101, Verreyne 105 n.o., Bavuma 78, Kumara 4/79) vs Sri Lanka 242/3 in 67 overs (Nissanka 89).

## Clinical Punjab eases past Mohammedan SC

Punjab FC triumphed over Mohammedan SC 2-0 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi in the Indian Super League. The host rode on two second-half goals from Luka Majcen and Filip Mrzljak to bag three points on Friday. Mohammedan SC had plenty of chances but couldn't convert them into goals.

**The result:** Punjab FC 2 (Majcen 58, Mrzljak 66) bt Mohammedan SC 0.

## Shafaghi stars in Thalaivas' big win over Giants

Moein Shafaghi produced a fine show as Tamil Thalaivas cruised to a 40-27 victory over Gujarat Giants in one of its biggest wins in the Pro Kabaddi League in Pune on Friday. Shafaghi scored 13 points and Sourabh Fagare and Himanshu added seven each. For Giants, Himanshu Singh finished with 11 points. Both sides made a slow start before Thalaivas pulled away to a three-point lead within the first five minutes. Haryana Steelers defeated Patna Pirates 42-36 in the other match of the day.

## Asian women's handball: Japan proves too hot for India

Former champion Japan proved too strong for host India as it cruised to a 48-15 victory in the last league match of the 20th Asian women's handball championship at the KJ Jadhav arena of the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. It was the second loss of the four-team league for India, which has already lost its chance for semifinals when it lost by two goals to Iran. Iran won its second match against Hong Kong to make the semifinals, which would also ensure a berth in the next edition of the World Championship.

Having finished third in the group, India will compete in the positional matches for the 5th to 8th place.

**The results (league): Group-A:** Korea bt China 25-14; Kazakhstan bt Singapore 38-7.

**Group-B:** Iran bt Hong Kong 26-17; Japan bt India 48-15.

## Haryana grapplers hog limelight on day one

## N. Sudarshan

BENGALURU

As expected, Haryana grabbed a lion's share of the gold medals on the opening day of the Senior National wrestling championship at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium here on Friday, with its grapplers winning four of the 10 men's freestyle events.

Amidst a cacophony of sounds, dance programmes, folk music and endless felicitations, the 25-year-old Anuj Kumar, a former under-23 National champion and a senior Asian and World Championships participant in 2023, opened the golden floodgates for Haryana with an easy win over Ser-

vices' Sharwan 10-2 in 70kg. Siddharth (65kg), Amit (79kg) and Sachin (92kg) followed.

Local lad Rohan Narayan got the home fans excited with a run to the 74kg final and even took a 4-0 lead over Services' Jaideep. But the latter turned it around in emphatic fashion, winning 14-4.

**The results (freestyle):**  
**57kg: Gold:** Rahul (Del) bt Shubham (Ser) 6-4; **Bronze:** Sumit (Har) bt Akshay (Mah) 8-6; Vikash (Raj) bt Bapi Das (Odi) 5-0.  
**61kg: Gold:** Pankaj (Ser) bt Lalit Kaushal (MP) 6-0; **Bronze:** Natter Singh (J&K) bt Ajit Bhuyan (Odi) 10-0; Neeraj (Del) bt Deepak (Har) 6-1.  
**65kg: Gold:** Siddharth (Har) bt Mohit Kumar (Ser) 4-4; **Bronze:** Sumit Vishnoi (Raj) bt Shubham

## The long series of games is still the best way

For all the criticism directed at the event – along with Carlsen's abdication – it is unfair to Ding, Gukesh and all the players who have been part of the gruelling qualification cycle



**Need of the hour:** Chess must have a World title match in the current format. PTI

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**  
SINGAPORE

A little over a week from now, we will witness the crowning of the World chess champion. The question is if the 18-year-old D. Gukesh will become the 18th World champion. There is a nice ring to it, isn't there?

That will no doubt be a great moment for Indian chess, and the game in general, in fact. The World title match, which resumes on Saturday after a day's break, is still in the balance, with the defending champion Ding Liren proving all those top players who wrote him off – citing poor form and his mental health issues – wrong.

Regardless of who wins, a question has also been raised about the legitimacy of this World championship. Former World champion

Garry Kasparov has said that he is not regarding this match as the World championship since the planet's best player, Magnus Carlsen, is not competing. The World No. 1 from Norway had abdicated his crown after winning his fifth title in a row in 2021, citing lack of motivation.

Kasparov argues that the World championship is about finding the world's best player, and that it stopped with Carlsen. That is a fair point, but that is being unfair to Ding, Gukesh and all the players who have been part of the gruelling World championship cycle. You have to first qualify for the Candidates tournament and then win it before you become eligible to challenge the World champion.

And it is not exactly Ding or Gukesh's fault that Carlsen has chosen to step away. He has also been critical of the format of the World championship – a

long series of games (but it used to be much longer in the past), the need to prepare hard for months and the difficulty to get interesting positions.

But, that is also one of the charms about the World championship: the new ideas that a World title match could bring to the game. And for those who are not fans of this format, there are the other World championships, like the rapid and blitz, the latest edition of which kicks off in New York later this month.

Like cricket, chess offers a lot of variety these days. It is getting even more varied, with freestyle chess and Global Chess League.

So chess needs a World title match in the current format. And it is not the first time that the world's best player has stayed away. Before Carlsen, Kasparov himself had done it, as did Bobby Fischer.

Yet, the World championship has survived.

## Enterprising Gukesh and resilient Ding battling it out



After the rest day, Gukesh came ready to do battle for Game 7 of the World chess championship in Singapore. He had a new idea in a system which has been played extensively in the past and managed to navigate the middle game expertly. The position was complex and many of the moves were very hard, but Gukesh showed his exceptional ability to calculate, and found several difficult moves. I found his play from moves 23 to 36 impressive.

They reached an endgame which was technically won for Gukesh, but Ding continued to find the toughest defence. This was high drama and the audience followed every twist and turn in this fantastic game.

Gukesh finally made a mistake by moving his king to e1 on move 44, Ding found the reply f6, a very fine move, and at that point the technical task had become quite difficult.

Gukesh didn't see a hidden resource that Ding had spotted and the advantage fizzled out. So, an absolutely brilliant game by Gukesh but Ding showed his class by defending well.

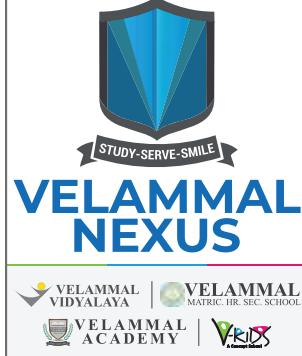
After the exhausting Game 7, Ding played the English Opening and Gukesh followed a system that many years ago Grzegorz Gajewski had recommended for me. He equalised

and more importantly, it gave Gukesh the chance to keep the position combative.

Ding had the two bishops but Gukesh blunted played the original Ne7 and f6 and got a good centre. Ding lost his concentration momentarily and allowed a b5 break whilst trying to prevent it. Ding then sacrificed his a2 pawn, though he revealed in the press conference that this was simply an oversight.

Probably he feels that counter-attack is the best form of defence against Gukesh. Now Gukesh made a serious mistake: moving the wrong knight. From a position where Gukesh had very serious winning chances, suddenly he was worse and he was going to have to fight for the draw. Gukesh adjusted to the new situation and made the right defensive moves, and just when Ding offered him a repetition of moves, he declined the draw in a worse position.

Ding couldn't figure out



the complicated way forward and decided to force the draw and Gukesh had to agree.

Game 9 never got going and resulted in an uneven draw.

Gukesh is coming closer to breaking through, but Ding is showing his resilience. The price of a breakthrough now is very high.

Quality fare expected as junior stars take the stage

**V.B. Sarangi**  
BHUBANESWAR

Several up-and-coming athletes, including under-20 National record holder pole vaulter Dev Meena and South Asian junior championships silver medallist 100m hurdler Sabita Toppo, promise quality action in the 39th National junior athletics championship starting here on Saturday.

With the Kalinga Stadium buzzing due to the presence of around 2000 athletes from four age groups, the event, which was postponed from October due to a cyclone threat, will provide the youngsters a platform to assess themselves. It will also test a few others aspiring to compete in the inter-university meets and National Games.

For the first time, the championship will have restrictions in a few events for the under-14, 16 and 18 athletes as the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is making efforts to discourage early specialisation and facilitate young athletes' growth.

The emergence of the javelin throwers, after the success of two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, has been fascinating. The presence of Asian under-20 gold and silver medallists Deepanshu Sharma (Personal Best: 71.21m) and Rohan Yadav (PB 70.03m) in the men's category and National Open bronze medallist Deepika (PB 55.23m) among women may produce gripping action.

The 17-year-old Amanat Kamboj, who bagged an Asian under-20 silver in discus with a personal best of 50.45m, will be watched with bated breath. Meena, who set the under-20 mark of 5.20m but narrowly missed the National record of 5.31m in the under-23 meet at Patna, will be eager to attain a new high.

## Mahalanabish, Ishani emerge champions

**Sports Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Gem Mahalanabish beat Ariv Dutta 9-11, 12-10, 11-5, 8-11, 11-4 to win the boys' under-11 title in the UTT National-ranking table tennis tournament on Friday.

In the girls' final, Ishani Gogi beat Sakhya Santosh 11-4, 12-9, 11-8.

**Other results: U-11: Boys:**  
**Semifinals:** Ariv Dutta (NCOE) bt R. Aadi Seshan (Ker) 11-4, 11-9, 11-5, Gem Mahalanabish (Ben) bt H. Tanish (TN) 11-7, 11-9, 13-11.

**Quarterfinals:** Aadi Seshan (Ker) bt Arunin Agarwal 11-9, 7-11, 11-9, 11-8; Ariv bt Biprojeet Paul (Asm) 11-1, 11-4, 5-11, 11-8; Tanish bt Satvik Sharma (Pun) 11-6, 11-4, 7-11, 11-8; Gem bt Atharva Malviya (Har) 11-6, 11-7, 11-12.

**Girls: Semifinals:** Sakhya Santosh (Kar) bt Divija Paul (Asm) 3-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8; Ishani Gogi (Asm) bt Pehel Gupta (UP) 11-8, 11-9, 14-12.

**Quarterfinals:** Ishani bt Jinaly Vadhan (Mah) 14-12, 11-3, 11-9;

Sakhya bt Mahato Akshita (Ben) 11-7, 11-2, 11-4; Pehel Gupta (UP) bt Avya Phalsawal (Har) 11-9, 11-9, 11-8; Divija bt Mandar (Del) 11-8, 11-9, 14-12.

**Other results: U-11: Boys:**  
**Semifinals:** Ariv Dutta (NCOE) bt R. Aadi Seshan (Ker) 11-4, 11-9, 11-5, Gem Mahalanabish (Ben) bt H. Tanish (TN) 11-7, 11-9, 13-11.

## Eagles overcome Smashers' challenge

**TPL**

**Sports Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Karan Singh, Zeynep Sonmez and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan powered Yash Mumbai Eagles to a 58-42 victory over Chennai Smashers in the preliminary phase of the Tennis Premier League at the CCI on Friday.

The sizzling show, which saw Karan Singh stun World No. 75 Hugo Gaston 14-11, took the team's tally to 215 points,

and the top of the table.

Rithvik Bollipalli and Connny Perrin lost closely in mixed doubles, but Jeevan and Karan sealed it with a 15-10 win for Eagles in men's doubles against Gaston and Rithvik.

Gabriela Knutson, Anirudh Chandrasekar and Bernabe Miralles helped Bengaluru SG Pipers pull down leader Hyderabad Strikers to the second spot by inflicting a 53-47 defeat.

Hyderabad (21) was followed by Rajasthan Rangers (205), Gujarat Panthers (201), Punjab Patriots (198), Bengaluru SG Pipers

(198), Chennai Smashers (190) and Bengal Wizards (182).

Saturday will be the final day of the preliminary league matches.

**The results (league):**

**Gujarat Panthers bt Bengal Wizards 51-49** (Ekaterina Kazanova bt Kamila Rakhimova 13-12; Sumit Nagal bt Niki Poona 16-9; Kazanova & Siddhant Bantia lost to Kamilla & Sriram Balaji 10-15; Sumit & Bantia lost to Balaji & Poona 12-13).

**Bengaluru SG Pipers bt Hyderabad Strikers 53-47** (Gabriela Knutson bt Harriet Dart 13-12; Bernabe Miralles bt Benjamin Lock 15-10; Gabriela & Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Harriet & Vishnu Vardhan 13-12; Bernabe & Anirudh lost to Benjamin & Vishnu 12-13).

**Yash Mumbai Eagles bt Chennai Smashers 58-42** (Zeynep Sonmez bt Connny Perrin 16-9; Karan Singh bt Hugo

Gaston 14-11; Zepen & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Connny & Rithvik Bollipalli 13-12; Jeevan & Karan bt Gaston & Rithvik 15-10).

**Rajasthan Rangers bt Punjab Patriots 51-49** (Cristina Dinu lost to Elina Avanesyan 10-15; Arthur Fery bt S. Mukund 16-9; Cristina & Rohan Bopanna lost to Elina & Saketh Myneni 12-13; Arthur & Bopanna bt Mukund & Saketh 13-12).

**Bengaluru SG Pipers bt Hyderabad Strikers 53-47** (Gabriela Knutson bt Harriet Dart 13-12; Bernabe Miralles bt Benjamin Lock 15-10; Gabriela & Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Harriet & Vishnu Vardhan 13-12; Bernabe & Anirudh lost to Benjamin & Vishnu 12-13).

## Haryana grapplers hog limelight on day one

**Sports Bureau**  
KORAMANGALA

Local lad Rohan Narayan got the home fans excited with a run to the 74kg final and even took a 4-0 lead over Services' Jaideep. But the latter turned it around in emphatic fashion, winning 14-4.

**The results (freestyle):**

## With maiden title under his belt, coach Sreejesh takes baby steps

## HOCKEY

**Uthra Ganesan**  
NEW DELHI

Having earned his maiden call-up to the national camp in 2004 for the Junior Asia Cup, India's recent triumph at the tournament with him as coach holds special value for P.R. Sreejesh. That it is his maiden title in his new role made it even more special.

"It was a big milestone for the team, the start of bigger dreams - Asian Games, Asia Cup, World Cup, Olympics - and the confidence that they can do well on bigger stages. But it was also a platform for them to realise that the Junior World Cup next year won't be easy. This was not an easy tournament. Games against Japan, Malaysia and Pakistan made it clear," Sreejesh told *The Hindu* a day after the team returned from Oman.

Having finished third at the Sultan of Johor Cup, the two outings have given Sreejesh enough insights into a coach's job.

"Johor was a chance to understand my players and where they stand under pressure. Being in the top-four was good enough for me at that time. But JAC is very different - it comes with pressure and a JWC quota. It will be the same situation in a couple of years for the boys when they play the Asia Cup or Asian Games with direct



Sreejesh.  
FILE PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

qualification at stake.

"It was also important for us because we didn't want to go into JWC as a quota team (as host) but claim our place on merit as a matter of right. The boys now know that we have to get better in every department - fitness, basics, PC variations - and that will be the focus for the next one year. They know that if they play at the same level in JWC, it will be difficult to finish among medals," Sreejesh admitted.

**New role, fresh outlook**  
He is learning his own lessons as well, the most important being to stop thinking like a player. "I have always been aggressive while playing. Now I write down to remind myself that I am not a player any more and need to control my aggression.

"It's baby steps for me and I am learning my way around and intend to keep doing it to build a good team for JWC," he signed off.

Hamilton's 12-year association with Mercedes will come to an end on Sunday; the Brit clinched six world titles during this period

## FORMULA ONE

**S. Dipak Ragav**  
CHENNAI

**T**his weekend's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix will not only be the final race of what has been a fascinating 2024 Formula One season, but also the swansong of F1's most successful partnership.

Come Sunday, Lewis Hamilton will rev up his Mercedes car for the last time before ending a 12-year association with the German marque that started in 2013. During this period, he clinched six world titles and became the most accomplished F1 driver statistically.

Come Sunday, Lewis

Hamilton-Mercedes alliance was a marriage of convenience. After six years at McLaren since his debut in 2007, the British racer was no longer happy at the team that had cared for him since his early teens and where he took his first crown in 2008.

Meanwhile, Mercedes - which entered as a full-works outfit in 2010 - underestimated the challenge of F1, struggling to fight for even podiums regularly for three years. It needed a star name to lead the project in its post-Michael Schumacher era and swooped in for Hamilton at the opportune moment.

And when the cars rolled out for pre-season testing in 2014, it became



**The finale:** Hamilton will want to sign off on a high in the Silver Arrows. GETTY IMAGES

clear that Hamilton had pulled off a masterstroke, as the Mercedes emerged as the clear front-runner in the new Hybrid Power Unit era.

He duly steamrolled the opposition, collecting six

titles in seven years and losing only once to teammate Nico Rosberg in 2016 by just five points.

This period saw him become the undisputed best driver on the grid. He showed excellent qualify-

ing pace and married that with stirring race-day performances through a combination of natural talent and expert tyre management skills.

The fact that he could reel in a series of fast laps on demand - often on old tyres before a pit stop - whenever his race engineer Pete Bonnington came on the radio with the now famous clarion call of 'Hammer Time' to drive the wheels off the car showed why Hamilton is considered one of, if not the best, the sport has seen.

However, the successful run ended in 2021 in acrimonious circumstances. Hamilton was on course for an eighth world title,

leading the finale at Abu Dhabi ahead of his rival Max Verstappen. However, the race director's wrong interpretation of the restart procedure following a Safety Car period allowed Verstappen to pass him on the last lap and take the title.

Since 2022, the three-pointed star car stopped being the force it was, and the last three years have been challenging for this combination. He has also been unhappy with the team for not listening to his feedback. But on Sunday at the Yas Marina circuit, when Hamilton closes his visor lid, he will want to sign off on a high in his final hurrah in the Silver Arrows.

## KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
# 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road  
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-09/567/2024-25

Date: 06.12.2024

## SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-

**Name of the work :** Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of "Detailed Master plan for Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (about 5800 acres) and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 1st phase of KWIN City about (2000 acres)" at Doddaballapur and Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. (2nd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.12.2024 upto 4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

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Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3659/Zen/2024-25

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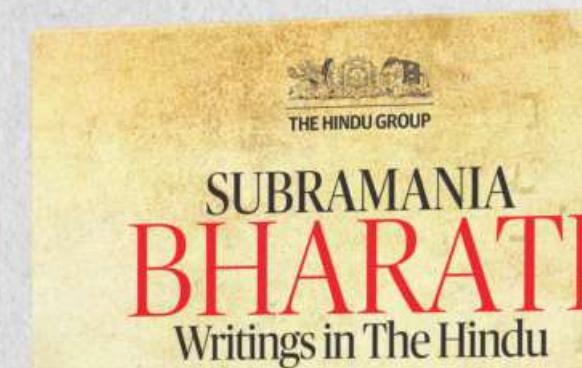
- For details, visit <http://Intenders.gov.in> & [www.tnphc.com](http://www.tnphc.com)
- e-Bids are invited by the Superintending Engineer /CC/TNPHC Ltd., for "Construction of Cyber Crime Administrative office building at Police Training College Campus, Ashok Nagar in Chennai city". (SE/CC/DB/4564/2024)
- Approximate value of work : Rs.1501.72 Lakh + GST @ 18%
- Date and time for Downloading / Uploading of bid documents through online : 20.12.2024 at 12.00 Noon to 20.01.2025 upto 6.00 P.M.
- Date & time of opening of the bid : 22.01.2025 at 3.15 P.M.
- Other details can be seen in the bid documents.

Superintending Engineer /CC, TNPHC Ltd, Chennai - 600 010.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA		
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL		
Dt. 05.12.24 //		
<b>2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Road Online-AGL-12/2024-25</b>		
Due to some unavoidable circumstances the last date of Online for bidding and opening of the date has been extended in respect of the tender for Road works invited in Tender Call Notice Bid Identification No.Road Online-AGL-12/2024-25 by the Procurement Officer, Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.		
Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		
From	To	Date & Time of Opening
1	2	Technical Bid
21.11.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	27.12.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	30.12.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.		
Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.		
OIPR-25180/11/0021/2425		

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Subramania Bharati was more than the foremost poet of Tamil Nadu. He was also a sharp commentator on the social and political issues of his time. This book brings together all of his writings in *The Hindu* during his exile in Pondicherry.



Edited and with an Introduction and Notes by  
A.R. Venkatachalapathy

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REGISTRAR

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH

6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW

No. ME-3/2024/2769 Lucknow: Dated-05 December, 2024

## The Time Schedule of Second Round

## of Online Counseling for UP NEET PG-2024

The time table of online counseling for the Second round for admission to postgraduate courses (MD/MS/Diploma and DNB) in Government/Autonomous/private medical colleges/institutes/universities/hospitals under medical Health is as follows:-

- | S.No. | NIT No.    | NIB No.      | Name of Block    | Estimated Value | UBN No.          |
|-------|------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1     | 2024-25    | WSC2425A0349 | Lalsot           | 25623561/-      | WSC2425WSOB00747 |
| 2     | 2024-25    | WSC2425A0350 | Ramgarh Pachwara | 885897/-        | WSC2425WSOB00748 |
| 3     | 2024-25    | WSC2425A0351 | Ramgarh Pachwara | 4688615/-       | WSC2425WSOB00749 |
| 4     | 21/2024-25 | WSC2425A0352 | Nangal Rajawat   | 2630780/-       | WSC2425WSOB00750 |
| 5     | 22/2024-25 | WSC2425A0353 | Nangal Rajawat   | 2742730/-       | WSC2425WSOB00751 |
| 6     | 23/2024-25 | WSC2425A0354 | Dausa            | 3991740/-       | WSC2425WSOB00752 |
| 7     | 24/2024-25 | WSC2425A0355 | Bajipura         | 8762388/-       | WSC2425WSOB00753 |
| 8     | 26/2024-25 | WSC2425A0356 | Mahwa            | 508066/-        | WSC2425WSOB00754 |
| 9     | 27/2024-25 | WSC2425A0357 | Sikrai           | 745145/-        | WSC2425WSOB00755 |
| 10    | 28/2024-25 | WSC2425A0358 | Sikandra         | 3184701/-       | WSC2425WSOB00756 |
| 11    | 29/2024-25 | WSC2425A0359 | Banduki          | 11393452/-      | WSC2425WSOB00757 |
| 12    | 30/2024-25 | WSC2425A0360 | Banduki          | 6619840/-       | WSC2425WSOB00758 |
- Only candidates registered under UP NEET PG-2024 can participate in the counseling process.
  - Those candidates who are already registered and have not been able to deposit the registration fee and security amount due to some reason, can participate in the counselling process by depositing the registration fee and security amount.
  - Only those registered candidates who have deposited the registration fee and security amount will be eligible for choice filling.
  - Candidates should assess their eligibility themselves as per the provisions contained in the Government Order No. 1/687326/2024 dated 09 July 2024 regarding UP NEET PG 2024 policy and the brochure of UP NEET PG-2024.
  - All information related to UP NEET PG-2024 counseling will be uploaded on website <https://upneet.gov.in> and [www.dgme.up.gov.in](http://dgme.up.gov.in).

(Director General)

File no (1)/WCDC/DAU/MJS2A.0/2024-25/4975 Date:- 29/11/2024  
**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
Bids for NRM works under MJS2A 2.0 in Block Dausa, Nangal Rajawat, Lalsot, Ramgarh Pachwara, Banduki, Bajipura, Sikrai, Mahwa District Dausa of estimated Value INR of Projects as per below table are invited from interested bidders. Other particulars of the bid may be seen on the procurement portal (<https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>) or (<https://watershed.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state and (<https://watershed.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state and (<https://watershed.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state and (<a href="https://watershed.raj

## IN BRIEF



## Jharkhand wins sub-junior National women's hockey

Jharkhand scored a 1-0 win over Madhya Pradesh in the final of the Hockey India sub-junior National women's hockey at the RRC Ground at Secunderabad on Friday.

**The results:** Final: Jharkhand 1 (Leoni Hemrom) bt Madhya Pradesh 0.

**Third place:** Odisha 4 (Priyanka Minz, Anjana Xaxa) bt Mizoram 3 (Vanlalirhlu 2, Manglawmsang).

## Ankita and Zhibek lose in doubles quarterfinals

Ankita Raina and Zhibek Kulambayeva of Kazakhstan lost 6-4, 6-7(2), [10-6] to Jodie Burridge and Freya Christie of Britain in the \$100,000 ITF women's tennis doubles quarterfinals in Dubai, UAE, on Friday.

## LIVE TELECAST

**Australia vs India:** 2nd Test, day 2, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

**South Africa vs Sri Lanka:** 2nd Test, day 3, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 1.30 p.m.

**Chess:** World Championship, FIDE YouTube channel, 2.30 p.m.

**ISL:** Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 5 & 7.30 p.m.

**Premier League:** SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.

**LaLiga:** gxr.world, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

**Serie A:** gxr.world, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)

**Formula One:** Abu Dhabi GP (Qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.

**Golf:** Hero World Challenge, FanCode, 12 a.m. (Sunday)

**New Zealand vs England:** 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Sunday)

**Australia Women vs India Women:** 2nd ODI, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5.15 a.m. (Sunday)

# After IPL snub, Urvil Patel shows his worth in Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Gujarat batter hammers two blistering centuries within a week to underline his prowess; says power-hitting is his natural game



**Going big:** Urvil was in his element in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with two centuries. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## CRICKET

## Vivek Krishnan

NEW DELHI

In his first 43 T20s, Urvil Patel had never reached the three-figure mark. And then in his next three matches, within the span of a week, Patel achieved the milestone twice.

Not just that, these knocks, in the group stage of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy that concluded on Thursday, came at such a blistering rate that the 26-year-old now features twice in the list of the five

fastest T20 hundreds by Indians.

The first was off 28 balls against Tripura at the Emerald Heights International School ground on November 27, surpassing Rishabh Pant's 32-ball effort for the fastest ton in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. At the same venue on December 3, Urvil smashed a 36-ball century against Uttarakhand.

His exploits were not enough to take Gujarat to the quarter-finals of the T20 competition.

Urvil can still derive satisfaction, however, from a run of scores that sees the opening batter occupy

third spot in the list of highest run-getters before the knockouts - he racked up 315 runs in six matches at an average of 78.75.

"Power-hitting is my natural game. I look to back myself. I have always played cricket this way," Urvil, who is a wicketkeeper, told *The Hindu*.

Although a caveat about Tripura and Uttarakhand's modest bowling attacks is prudent, Urvil's execution while attempting the big hits was still impressive.

"Playing this sort of game, the execution is very important. My execution and shot selection have become better. It is not like I

am going after every ball. That is an improvement in my game, because of which I am getting good results."

If these knocks had come a few days before the IPL mega auction on November 24 and 25, Urvil, who was part of Gujarat Titans in 2023, may have found a bidder at his base price of ₹30 lakh.

More than him, though, he says it is his father who is hurting. "My father is still hoping that I somehow get a chance in the IPL. He is more disappointed. Looking at that has hurt me more," Urvil said.

## Magnus claims the Karnataka Police Trophy

**BENGALURU:** Faraz Arshad trained Magnus (G. Vivek up) won the Karnataka Police Trophy (₹800m), the main event of the races held here on Friday (Dec 6). The winner is owned by Mr. M. Masroor Alam, Mr. Rohit Raman, Mr. Faraz Arshad & Dr. Arun Raghavan.

1. **ALMATTI PLATE (DIV. II, ₹1,400M):** STORM SHADOW (Trevor) 1, Versace (S. Shareef) 2, Supercharge (R. Pradeep) 3 and Valencia (A. Ramu) 4. 2-1/4, 5-1/4 and 2-1/2. Im 27.5s. Rs. 14 (w), 11, 29 and 21 (p). SHP: 110, THP: 41, FP: 222, Q: 169, Trinella: 1,999/897, Exacta: 4,627/1,841. Favourite: Storm Shadow.

2. **NARMADA PLATE (₹1,200M):** LADY GODIVA (Afzar) 1, Emeraldo (Darshan) 2, Lady Invictus (Tousif) 3 and Flying Brave (R. Pradeep) 4. 1, 3/4 and 1-1/2. Im 53.0s. Rs. 47 (w), 16 and 12 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 27, FP: 117, Q: 29, Trinella: 117/57, Exacta: 377/218. Favourite: Elfin Knight.

3. **KAVERI PLATE (₹1,600M):** VYASA (Antony) 1, Ancient History (Akshay) 2, Metzinger (Suraj) 3 and Ring Master (Trevor) 4. Not run: Thewhispererquietly, 3, Link and 4. Im 40.18s. Rs. 16 (w), 13, 14 and 17 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 48, FP: 51, Q: 49, Trinella: 158/42, Exacta: 276. 136. Favourite: Vyasa.

5. **KAVERI PLATE (₹1,600M):** VYASA (Antony) 1, Ancient History (Akshay) 2, Metzinger (Suraj) 3 and Ring Master (Trevor) 4. Not run: Thewhispererquietly, 3, Link and 4. Im 40.18s. Rs. 16 (w), 13, 14 and 17 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 48, FP: 51, Q: 49, Trinella: 158/42, Exacta: 276. 136. Favourite: Vyasa.

6. **ALMATTI PLATE (DIV. I, ₹1,400M):** THE GALLERY TIME (R. Pradeep) 1, Knotty Patton (Asirvatham) 2, The Strikingly (A. Ramu) 3 and Dufy (Akshay) 4. Not run: Corinthian. Shd. 3-1/2 and 1-1/4. Im 28.07s. Rs. 84 (w), 12, 45 and 64 (p). SHP: 209, THP: 124, FP: 2,156, Q: 432, Trinella: 12,433/1,776. Exacta: 17,542 (carried over). Favourite: Montero.

7. **KARNATAKA POLICE TROPHY (₹1,800M):** MAGNUS (G. Vivek) 1, Elfin Knight (Srinath) 2, August (Antony) 3 and Dufy (Akshay) 4. Not run: Corinthian. Shd. 3-1/2 and 1-1/4. Im 28.07s. Rs. 84 (w), 12, 45 and 64 (p). SHP: 209, THP: 124, FP: 2,156, Q: 432, Trinella: 12,433/1,776. Exacta: 17,542 (carried over). Favourite: Montero.

8. **MAHESHWARI PLATE (₹1,200M):** Sarainaaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: S. Attaullahi.

9. **SHIVAJI STADIUM HOCKEY TOURNAMENT:** Deepak Antil and Tejas Chavan. CAG XI 2-1/2 at the end of the regulation period in the semifinals of the SNBP 60th Nehru hockey tournament at the Shivaji Stadium here on Friday.

The Petroleum team led 2-0 with the goals scored by Mandeep Antil and Tejas Chavan. CAG XI fought back with a goal each in the third and fourth quarter through

## NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

## Petroleum meets Railways in Nehru hockey final

Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) beat Comptroller and Auditor General XI 4-2 in the tie-break after the teams were locked 2-2 at the end of the regulation period in the semifinals of the SNBP 60th Nehru hockey tournament at the Shivaji Stadium here on Friday.

The Petroleum team led 2-0 with the goals scored by Mandeep Antil and Tejas Chavan. CAG XI

fought back with a goal each in the third and fourth quarter through

Nabin Kujur and Venkatesh Telugu.

In the shoot-off, Harjeet Singh, Tejas Chavan, Vikramjit Singh and Kothajeet Singh found the target for the Petroleum team. Deepak Malik and Abharan Sudev alone succeeded for CAG XI. In the other semifinal, Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) beat Indian Navy 4-2, after having led 4-0 till the 50th minute. The final will be played at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

**The results (semifinals):** PSPB 2 (Mandeep Antil, Tejas Chavan) bt CAG XI 2 (Nabin Kujur, Venkatesh Telugu) 4-2 (tie-break). RSPB 4 (Pratap Lakra 2, Yuvraj

Walmiki, CS Shampton) bt Indian Navy 2 (Pawan Rajbhar, Sushil Dhanwar).

## It's Vimal Arion Achievers vs Jindal Panther

Chris Mackenzie scored four goals while guiding Vimal Arion Achievers to a 7-5 victory over Delta Polo in the last league match of the D'Monde Cup polo tournament on Friday. In the final on Sunday at the Jaipur Polo ground, Vimal Arion Achievers will play Jindal Panther.

**The results (league):** Vimal Arion Achievers 7 (Chris Mackenzie 4, Abhimanyu Pathak 2, Vishwaroop Bajaj) bt Delta Polo 5 (Santiago Marambio 5).

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Notice No. C/54/A,B Category/ Khanpan/22 Dated: 28.11.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Izzatnagar, North Eastern Railway invites e-Tender on competitive, open two packet tender system for "Provision of catering services at General minor Unit number/name (GMU) as per Annexure-A" at following Stations of 'A & B' category for a period of 05 years from individual or sole proprietor firm or a Company/ incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 or a Partnership firm registered under the Partnership Act, 1932. Tender Document Cost - Rs. 2950/- (18% Inclusive of GST) per Catering Units. (Annexure-A); E-Bid Notice No.: C/54/KHANPAN/KGM/24; Station: Kathgodam; Stall No.: S-01; GMU Reserved For: General; PF/Location: PF-01, Out side str. bldg. Between A.C. Lounge & DCI Office); Minimum Reserve Price for the 1st year (excluding GST): ₹2,44,900/-; E-Bid Notice No.: C/54/KHANPAN/FBD/24; Station: Kathgodam; Stall No.: S-06; GMU Reserved For: General; PF/Location: PF-01, Out side str. bldg. 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