



ANOMALY DETECTED
ISRO delays PROBA-3 launch by a day

NEWS » PAGE 14



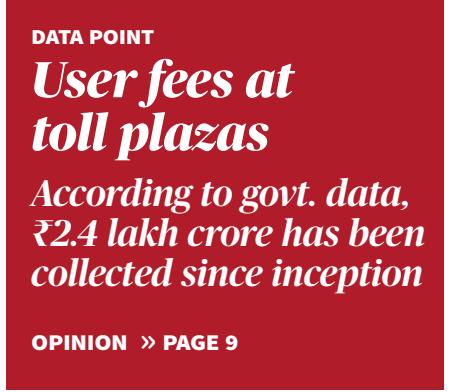
FORCED TO RETURN
Rahul stopped en route to Sambhal

NEWS » PAGE 12



BIG SUPPORT
India backs resolution on Palestine in UN

NEWS » PAGE 12



DATA POINT
User fees at toll plazas

According to govt. data, ₹2.4 lakh crore has been collected since inception

OPINION » PAGE 9



ANOTHER STALEMATE
Ding and Gukesh in fifth straight draw

SPORT » PAGE 17

IN BRIEF



Soren exempted from appearing in MP-MLA court

PATNA

The Jharkhand High Court on Wednesday exempted CM Hemant Soren from personally appearing in the MP-MLA court in a case related to alleged non-compliance of summonses issued by the Enforcement Directorate. » Page 12

AAP MLA gets bail, arrested under MCOCA

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested AAP MLA Naresh Balyan under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), minutes after he secured bail in an extortion case. "We are consulting our lawyers and will take appropriate legal recourse," AAP said. » Page 2

Fadnavis to be sworn in as Maharashtra CM today as logjam ends

Shinde and Ajit likely to join govt; PM, Union Ministers to attend event; BJP leader says allies will work together to provide 'best govt. for State'

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI



Done deal: Devendra Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar during the press conference on Wednesday. EMMANUEL YOGINI

Ending days of speculation over Maharashtra's next Chief Minister, Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan on Wednesday invited BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and his party-led Mahayuti alliance to form the next government on Thursday.

This invitation came just hours after Mr. Fadnavis, 54, was unanimously elected the Maharashtra BJP Legislature Party leader, paving the way for his swearing-in as the Chief Minister for a third time.

The ceremony will take place at Azad Maidan in south Mumbai at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday.

It will be attended by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers, besides Chief Ministers of States ruled by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

"I and two Deputy CMs will take oath on December 5. It is yet to be decided how many Ministers will take oath... details will be announced later," Mr. Fadnavis said, adding that the

allies would work together.

The BJP's core committee chose Mr. Fadnavis as its legislature party leader in the presence of the party's central observers, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Gujarat's former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Badal escapes bid on life during 'penance'; police arrest shooter

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday survived an assassination bid, after a former militant and pro-Khalistan sympathiser shot at him outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Mr. Badal, who was in a wheelchair due to a fractured leg, escaped unhurt as the accused was overpowered by the security personnel next to him.

Mr. Badal was sitting at the entrance of the Golden Temple, performing penance for his 'mistakes', when the attack happened.

The accused has been identified as Narain Singh Chaura. "The shooter Narain Singh Chaura is a former terrorist and a criminal. He has been arrested and a pistol has been recovered."

We have registered an FIR. We will investigate the matter and



Close shave: The attacker being stopped by security personnel outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday. ANI

ensure that no angle stays uncovered," Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, Police Commissioner, Amritsar city, said.

Mr. Singh said the police personnel foiled the bid by intercepting the accused when he attempted to fire the shot, deflecting the gunshot.

Mr. Chaura is reportedly the founding member of the now inactive Khalistan Liberation Army, a pro-Khalistan group.

Sharp criticism
The incident drew sharp criticism from the Opposition parties, including the Shiromani Akali Dal, the

Congress, and the Bharatiya Janata Party, who raised questions on the "poor law and order situation" in Punjab. The SAD also demanded a judicial investigation.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party government praised the Punjab Police "for foiling a deep-rooted conspiracy to defame Punjab" by preventing the attack on Mr. Badal. Speaking to presspersons, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann condemned the attack, saying he was taking stock of the incident.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

South Korean President Yoon to face impeachment

Associated Press
SEOUL

South Korea's Opposition parties on Wednesday submitted a motion to impeach President Yoon Suk-yeol over the short-lived martial law that drew heavily armed troops to encircle parliament before lawmakers climbed walls to re-enter the building and unanimously voted to lift his order.

Two-thirds support
Impeaching Mr. Yoon would require the support of two-thirds of parliament, and at least six justices of the nine-member Constitutional Court would have to endorse it to remove him from office.

The motion, submitted jointly by the liberal Democratic Party and five smaller parties, could be put to a vote as early as Friday.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

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*A money mule is a person who transfers or moves illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else.



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State-level boxer stabs parents, sister to death in south Delhi

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old State-level boxer allegedly stabbed his parents and elder sister to death in early hours of Wednesday at their home in south Delhi's Neb Sarai, the police said.

The incident drew a sharp response from Chief Minister Atishi, who accused the BJP-led Centre of failing to protect the city residents.

"...Murders are happening in broad daylight in Delhi, bullets being fired, and drugs being sold openly. The Central government has only one responsibility in Delhi – to provide security to people. They have completely failed in their responsibility," the Chief Minister said in a post on X.

The police said the accused, Arjun Kumar, had

been planning the murders for the past few days after his father "thrashed him" in front of some outsiders.

Revenge killings'

"That was the tipping point for him. He also got to know that his father was planning to bequeath all his property to his sister. From then on, he started planning the murder and decided to commit it on the day of his parents' anniversary," said Joint Commissioner of Police (South) Sanjay Kumar Jain.

The police said they had received a call around 6 a.m. about the incident. "On reaching the spot, Rakesh Kumar, 51, his wife Komal, 46, and daughter Kavita, 23, were found lying unconscious on their beds with injuries on their necks," Mr. Jain said.

The accused initially told them that he had stepped out for his usual morning walk to Sanjay Van around 5.30 a.m. and found his family members unconscious upon returning home. "During probe, we noticed that he was giving contradictory statements and there was an injury on his hands, which he could not justify," Mr. Jain said.

Used father's knife'

The accused used his father's army knife to stab his sister, who was sleeping on the ground floor, and then proceeded to the first floor where he saw that his father was sleeping on the bed alone.

He proceeded to stab his father, while his mother had gone to washroom, Mr. Jain added. "Later, he stabbed his mother when she tried to raise an alarm," said the police officer.

Minutes after getting bail in extortion case, AAP's Balyan held under MCOCA

Uttam Nagar legislator has 'close links' with gangster Kapil Sangwan's organised crime syndicate, say police; Centre misusing probe agencies, consulting lawyers for appropriate legal action: AAP; MLA 'deeply involved' in extortion racket, claims BJP

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Wednesday arrested Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Naresh Balyan under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), minutes after he secured bail in an extortion case.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Paras Dalal of the Rouse Avenue courts had ordered Mr. Balyan's release on a personal bond of ₹50,000 and one surety of the same amount.

The court rejected the police's plea for the Uttam Nagar MLA's 14-day judicial custody, saying they lacked sufficient grounds to justify

the continued detention of the accused.

During the hearing, the police submitted that the MLA would be arrested under MCOCA, a law under which an accused can be kept in jail for up to 180 days without trial.

DCP (Crime Branch) Sanjay Kumar Sain said the MLA was arrested under MCOCA as their investigation into the extortion case revealed his "close links with gangster Kapil Sangwan's organised crime syndicate".

"He will be presented before the court tomorrow," the DCP said.

Mr. Balyan, a two-time legislator, was arrested on November 30 in the extortion case that dates back to July 2023. The complainant



AAP legislator Naresh Balyan in police custody. ANI

in the case had claimed to have received an extortion call of ₹1 crore from Sangwan, who operates from a foreign country.

Mr. Balyan's name was linked to the case last year when a news channel telecast a purported telephonic conversation between the gangster and the MLA in which a discussion on "collecting ransom" was

said to have happened.

'MLA himself a victim'

Reacting to the arrest, Delhi's ruling AAP targeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah over law and order in the city.

"Delhi is becoming a den of gangsters and extortionists. Naresh Balyan is himself a victim who had received threats and extortion calls from gangsters against whom he filed five written complaints from 2022 to 2023 but no action was taken. To the contrary, false cases have been lodged against him," it said in a statement.

AAP said as soon as the court granted him bail, the BJP-led Centre "misused its agencies" to arrest him.

"We are consulting our lawyers and will take appropriate legal recourse," the party added.

In response, Delhi BJP chief Virinder Sachdeva said the MLA's arrest in a MCOCA case shows his "deep involvement in an extortion racket". "We have consistently said that many AAP MLAs have deep links with crime," he added.

Delhi Congress chief Deven Yadav accused both AAP and the BJP of turning Delhi into a "jungle raj". He said while "criminals are roaming freely, exploding bombs, and committing murders", AAP and the Centre-controlled Delhi Police remain mute spectators.

Drugs entering country via Gujarat port, says Kejriwal

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday alleged that drugs are being pushed into the country through Gujarat's Mundra Port and then processed at numerous factories in the BJP-ruled State.

"From there, these are distributed in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and elsewhere. Whenever drugs are seized in any State, the source is found to be Gujarat," he said during a discussion on the crime situation in the Cap-



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal speaking in the Assembly. PTI

ital in the Delhi Assembly

The accusation drew a sharp rebuttal from Vijender Gupta, BJP legislator and the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. He blamed the ruling AAP

for the situation, alleging that "Rohingya and criminals are flourishing under its patronage".

Mr. Kejriwal, however, said the power to control this situation lies with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the port "belongs to his friend".

On Wednesday, the Delhi Assembly also passed supplementary demands for grants for 2024-25. An additional amount of ₹1,648.7 crore is allocated for Phase-IV of Delhi Metro and ₹400 crore for the MLA Local Area Development Fund, which was hiked to ₹15 crore earlier this year.

Class 6 student's death: police apprehend 12-year-old boy

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

A day after a 12-year-old boy, Prince, died at a private school in south Delhi's Vasant Vihar, the police on Wednesday apprehended his classmate in connection with the case.

"We have apprehended a 12-year-old boy of the same class under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the BNS," a senior police officer said.

"On the way back to their class after attending the morning assembly, the two boys' shoulders brushed, and they started fighting. The accused punched Prince and choked him with his hands, following which Prince collapsed on the floor," the officer said.

The deceased, a resident of Kusumpur Pahari in Vasant Vihar and a student of Chinnmay Vidyalaya, was rushed to Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj by the school authorities on Tuesday morning soon after he fainted. However, the doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

'Faced harassment'
Prince's father Sagar, a sanitation worker, said his son, who had been admitted under the Economically Weaker Section quota, "faced harassment". At times, his teachers used to try to put him down," he alleged. "I think the police and the school authorities are hiding something. I received a call yesterday from the school telling me that Prince was being taken to hospital. When I reached the hospital, his post-mortem had already begun," he added.

The Hindu tried contacting the school principal, Archana Soni, for comment. However, she was unavailable. Hundreds of people, including those associated with Left bodies, held a protest outside the school seeking a fair probe".

District and Sessions Judge Bhiwani

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE POST OF PEON/ADDITIONAL PEON ETC. IN SESSIONS DIVISION BHIIWANI.

To
The District & Sessions Judge
Bhiwani.
Subject:- Application for the post of Peon/Additional Peon etc.

Affix Latest passport size colored photograph of the candidate attested by a Gazzetted Officer

Academic Qualification

Examination/Degree	Board/ University	Year of passing	Divn/ Class	%age of Marks	Grade Point
8th/ Middle					
10th/Matric					
Graduation					
Other qualifications, if any)					
Contact / Mobile Number	:				
Email ID:	:				

Note:-Attach self-attested photocopy of all relevant documents.

I, _____son/daughter/wife of Shri, _____, hereby declare that the information given above and in the attached documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein. I understand that if the information given by me is found false/not true, I may be prosecuted under the relevant provisions of law.

Date:

Place:

1278/11/24/2025/30790/1997

(Signature of Candidate)

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LEGAL NOTICE

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SH. MANISH JAIN,

Ld. ASCJ/JSCC/GJ South-East District,

Saket Courts, New Delhi. Proclamation

Requiring Attendance of Defendant (Order

5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

RAJESH SAINI

VS

RAJESH GUPTA

CS/SCJ/609/2023

To,

Smt. Giana Devi (Now Deceased) D/o Late Lekhraj Saini through her following

Legal Heirs (a) Sh. Sanjay Saini (Son) S/o Late Smt. Giana Devi R/H.No. F-41, East

of Kalash, New Delhi Also at: Flat No. 601, Tower No. 12, Purvanchal Royal Park, Sector

10, Noida201301 (UP).

Whereas you are intentionally evading

services of summons it is hereby notified

that if you shall not defend the case on

17.12.2024 the day fixed for final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court

this 07.11.2024.

Seal

Sd/Ld. ASCJ/JSCC/GJ South-East

District, Saket Courts, New Delhi.

500022.

Defendants : 2. Suseel Jacob @

Babu, Room No. 16, 6 main

6 Cross, Mohankumar nagar,

Yaswanthapuram, Bangalore,

Karnataka. Pin. 560022.

4. Cynthia Stanly, D/o Late Stanly

Babu, Room No. 16, 6 main

6 Cross, Mohankumar nagar,

Yaswanthapuram, Bangalore,

Karnataka. Pin. 560022.

4. Raju, S/o Late Jacob, 126 B

Sector, Indira Puri, Bhopal,

Madyapradesh.

Notice of Hearing

Please take notice in the above

matter, the 1st plaintiff has filed

a suit for partition before the

Hon'ble MUNSIFF'S COURT,

CHANGANACHERY, either in

person or through your advocate

failing which the said matter will be

decided in your absence.

Dated on 3/12/2024

PT Johnson

Advocate

Changanacherry

500022.

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PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

5.3-magnitude quake jolts Telangana's Mulugu

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The impact of an earthquake of magnitude 5.3 on the Richter scale that originated 40 km below the ground in the Etturnagaram forest area of Telangana was felt in central and northern India at 7.27 a.m. on Wednesday.

The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) identified the location as 185 km north-northeast of Nalgonda and 219 km east-north-east of Hyderabad. Many people reported feeling the tremors for a few seconds. There were no reports of loss of life or property.

"The epicentre is confined to the Godavari fault system and its vicinity, where several earthquakes happened in the past. It is, therefore, the zone of strain energy release. It occurred at the deeper layers, causing lesser degree of shaking than expected due to dissipation of maximum seismic energy at the deeper depth," stated a preliminary analysis by NCS.

While the NCS identified the location in the forests of Etturnagaram, the U.S. Geological Survey monitoring station reported the quake as originating on the banks of the Godavari near the same location. The NCS said it received 100 felt-responses on its app and website with most of them originating in Telangana.

CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute scientists said the 'moderate' earthquake that occurred at Medaram in Mulugu district is the second biggest one recorded in the last 55 years in the region.

Odisha Oppn. highlights concerns over impact of Polavaram Dam project

BJD delegation submits a memorandum to NCST Chairperson flagging 'threat posed by project in A.P. to lives, livelihoods of tribal communities' seeks urgent intervention and remedial action

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A delegation from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the main Opposition party in Odisha, called on the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in New Delhi on Wednesday to flag concerns over the impact of the Polavaram Dam project in Andhra Pradesh and seek the commission's urgent intervention.

The delegation, comprising elected representatives, former Ministers, and legislators from Odisha's Malkangiri and Koraput regions, submitted a memorandum to NCST Chairperson Antar Singh Arya, which highlighted several issues with the project.

The delegation, led by senior BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra, sought urgent attention and remedial action as the project would affect "the lives and livelihoods of local tribal populations in the upstream regions of Odisha".

The key issue raised was the alleged changes to the project's flood discharge capacity. The memorandum stated that the capacity was increased from 36 lakh cusecs to 50 lakh cusecs "without sufficient consideration of the backwater impact in the upstream States of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, and Telangana".

In their submissions to the NCST, the BJD leaders claimed that there was lack of public consultations and transparency in the clearances granted for the pro-



Reaching out: The BJD delegation submitting the memorandum to NCST Chairperson Antar Singh Arya in New Delhi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"This shift has caused apprehensions among the affected populations of Malkangiri, who are at risk of losing their lands and homes," it stated.

Plea to initiate study

The BJD leaders urged the NCST to "initiate a comprehensive backwater study of its own to assess the potential impact of the project on thousands of tribal populations in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana".

The leaders had met Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil on Tuesday to discuss the same issue.

In their submissions to the NCST, the BJD leaders claimed that there was lack of public consultations and transparency in the clearances granted for the pro-

ject. They said the affected States were not "adequately brought into the loop".

They also alleged that the environmental clearances for the project were granted "without proper public hearings in Odisha" and detailed backwater studies for the updated flood discharge capacity.

The National Green Tribunal constituted a committee to assess the submergence issues, but Odisha was not consulted or included as a party in the deliberations. The committee's report did not consider the safety concerns for the tribal populations of Odisha, particularly in Malkangiri district," the memorandum stated.

The BJD leaders said a review visit by the erstwhile NCST in 2021 found

that proper impact assessment surveys had not been conducted in villages of Odisha that might face submergence. They said their visit to some of these villages in August this year had brought to the fore apprehensions of the local population in Podia and Kalimela blocks in Malkangiri.

'Not consulted'

"Tribes in Malkangiri, especially primitive ones, are vulnerable to submergence caused by the project. The flooding of their ancestral lands will result in loss of habitat, culture, and livelihood. Despite this, Odisha has not been consulted adequately on the environmental, social, and livelihood impacts on tribal communities," the memorandum stated.

"We apprised him of the situation there and told him how people have been



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and fellow parliamentarians from Kerala call on Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rise above politics, provide relief to landslide-hit people, Priyanka tells Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

devastated because the river's entire course changed and everything washed away," she told reporters after meeting Mr. Shah.

'Will provide details'

The Congress MP said the Home Minister told the delegation that he would provide by Thursday evening the details of what was promised and what had been given as relief.

"Families, houses, businesses, schools, everything has been washed away... So we appealed to him that setting aside politics, people there should be helped from a humanitarian point of view," she said.

Ms. Vadra said she told Mr. Shah that "when she met the victims there was an expectation among them that the PM would do something but till now no help has been extended which is saddening".

The Wayanad MP said a separate representation had been given to the Prime Minister to set aside politics and extend help to the people of the district as much as possible.

U.P. Gangsters Act appears to be draconian: Supreme Court

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act appeared to be "draconian".

The observation by a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan came while it was hearing a plea filed by a man who has challenged a May 2023 Allahabad High Court order dismissing his application seeking to set aside proceedings against him pending before a district court in Kasganj in a case registered under the Act.

"This Act appears to be draconian," the apex court observed. "We will consider it," the Bench said while admitting the appeal.

While hearing the matter in November last year, the apex court had sought responses from the Uttar Pradesh government and others on the plea. "By way of ad-interim order, no coercive steps be taken against the petitioner qua Gangster Act," it had said.

On Wednesday, the petitioner's counsel said he has been booked in the case under the provisions of the 1986 Act on allegations of illegal mining in the Ganga.

The counsel said earlier, another FIR related to alleged illegal mining was filed. "They have booked me twice for the same allegation," he argued.

"It requires consideration," the Bench said, adding that a separate plea challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Act was also pending adjudication before it.

ED letter to Lokayukta on MUDA site allotment bid to influence courts: CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Court of Karnataka in the MUDA case.

Hearing today

A Division Bench headed by the Chief Justice of the High Court will on Thursday hear an appeal by Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has challenged the September 24 decision of a single judge. The judge had upheld the Governor's action of granting permission to conduct investigation against the Chief Minister on alleged illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites worth ₹56 crore by MUDA.

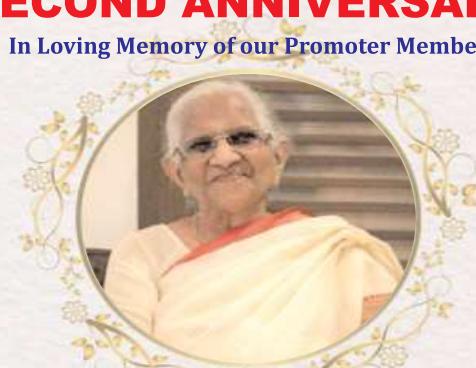
Mr. Siddaramaiah said the ED's letter was "prejudicial" to the probe as well as the court hearing.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

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10th Day Ceremony at Chennai on 9th December 2024.
13th Day Shubhasweekaram Luncheon at Chennai at Tlam.

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Mr. P. Rajamony Iyer (Husband)
Sons & Daughter(s)-in-law
Mr. Mukund & Mrs. Kalyani
Mr. Balaji Iyer & Mrs. Smitha Subhas
Grand Children
Shanmukh, Nilanjana & Kirat Iyer
98739 23541 / 94453 90702

DAY 05

THE HINDU REWIND 2024 TRIVIA QUIZ

1. In 2024, India renamed Port Blair to shed its colonial legacy. What is its new name?
2. After winning the second bronze medal at the Paris Olympics in July 2024, _____ became the first Olympian in independent India to win two medals at the same edition of the Games.
3. Which cryptocurrency gained popularity following the creation of a specific government department in the USA in November 2024?

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

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1. Adarsh Kumar, Bangalore | 2. Anan Rahim, Chennai | 3. Gangadharan Sudhesh, Trivandrum



Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Jasprit Bumrah
2. Sheikh Hasina
3. Devika

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

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-33/563/2024-25
Date: 03.12.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Civil Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below :

Name of the Work : Providing and fixing Gantry Board, Road Marking, other Road safety items and Potholes filling at Vemgal Industrial Area, Main Road, Kolar Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **17.12.2024 upto 4.30 pm.**

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Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3605/Zen/2024-25

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कार्यपालय, कार्यपालक अभियंता,
स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन,
कार्य प्रमाणल-01, पूर्णियाँ।

शुद्धि-पत्र :- 17/2024-25

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यपालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-08(SBD) / 2024-25 जो विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है, जिसका PR.No. 012481 (Planning) 2024-25 है को प्रधान सचिव, योजना एवं विकास विभाग के ज्ञापक 410 दिनांक 25.11.2024 के निर्देशानुसार निर्मानित रूप से संशोधित किया जा रहा है।

क्रमांक	विवरणीय	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	तकनीकी बीड़ खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 17.12.2024 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न से।	दिनांक 13.12.2024 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न से।

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Jasprit Bumrah
2. Sheikh Hasina
3. Devika

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Adarsh Kumar, Bangalore | 2. Anan Rahim, Chennai | 3. Gangadharan Sudhesh, Trivandrum

Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences
(A Super Speciality, Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Bihar)
IGIMS Medical College, IGIMS Nursing College
Sheikhpura, Patna-14. EPBX: 0612-2297099/2297631, Website: www.igims.org

Tender Notice
Re-Tender Notice No.: 17/2024-2025/IGIMS/Store
Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna invites bids from eligible and qualified manufacturers or their authorized distributors / agents for Rate Contract for supply of different Masks used for Immobilization during Radiotherapy treatment at State Cancer Institute of this Institute.
The last date of submission of bidding document along with EMD and Tender document fee is 26/12/2024 upto 4:00 P.M.
The technical bids will be opened on 27/12/2024 at 3:00 P.M.
Details of terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute Website: www.igims.org.
The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit www.igims.org for Corrigendum / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.
Director, IGIMS, Patna

पिन कोड- 854301
Email Id - laeo1purne@gmail.com

शुद्धि-पत्र :- 17/2024-25

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यपालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-08(SBD) / 2024-25 जो विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है, जिसका PR.No. 012481 (Planning) 2024-25 है को प्रधान सचिव, योजना एवं विकास विभाग के ज्ञापक 410 दिनांक 25.11.2024 के निर्देशानुसार निर्मानित रूप से संशोधित किया जा रहा है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,

स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन,

कार्य प्रमाणल-01, पूर्णियाँ।

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

कार्यपालक अभियंता,

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IN BRIEF



Events to blend spirituality with entertainment at Kumbh

In a bid to make next year's Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj a memorable experience for the devotees, the Uttar Pradesh government has lined up a series of cultural events which will blend spirituality, tradition and entertainment, officials said on Wednesday. Bollywood stars and noted artistes will enthral the devotees with their performances featuring stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and the divine significance of the Kumbh. Actor Ashutosh Rana will perform 'Humare Ram', while veteran actress and BJP MP Hema Malini will present a depiction of 'Ganga Avtaran', officials said. PTI

Excise case: HC notice to Kejriwal, others over ED plea

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, BRS leader K. Kavitha and others accused in the alleged excise policy case to respond to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) plea challenging a trial court's order directing it to supply "unrelated documents" to them. Last month, the trial court directed the ED to supply the chargesheet and the digitised records to the accused persons. According to the ED, irregularities were allegedly committed while formulating the new excise policy by the Delhi government in 2021. The policy was scrapped in 2022 after L-G V.K. Saxena recommended a probe.

Rajasthan CM unveils policies to promote investment and boost State's economic growth

The Hindu Bureau

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Wednesday unveiled nine new policies aimed at promoting investments and speeding up the State's economic growth. The policies were launched at the Chief Minister's Office ahead of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit-2024 scheduled here from December 9 to 11.

Mr. Sharma said the policies and schemes would play an important role in ensuring economic progress, employment generation and social prosperity of the State. "These policies were approved at a meeting of the State Cabinet recently with the objective of giving a new direction and momentum to the all-round development of Rajasthan," he said.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma taking a look at the posters displaying details of the nine new policies.

The policies cover the sectors such as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), tourism, exports, clean energy, cluster development, one district-one product, and minerals.

Mr. Sharma said the State government had obtained suggestions from all stakeholders for framing the policies. "All policies are aimed at simplifying the procedures and extending the maximum benefits to the people concerned," he

said, adding that there were immense possibilities in every field in the State.

Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa were among those present on the occasion. Both of them affirmed that the new policies, being launched before the mega-event for global investments, would position Rajasthan as a potential hub for industrial and economic activities.

Competing globally

While the MSME policy will help the local industries compete globally, the export promotion policy has been designed to expand the global reach for the State's products. The one district-one product policy focuses on the district-specific crafts with the provisions for creating infrastructure to support local producers.

PATNA

Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Wednesday resumed the third phase of his 'Karyakarta Samvad Yatra' from Munger.

Speaking to reporters in the district, he promised 200 units of free electricity to consumers in Bihar if the Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) wins the Assembly election next year.

"My party is also drawing a road map for the progress and development of the State. It will be shared with the public ahead of the election," he added.

Mr. Yadav also took on the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar over "exorbitant power tariffs and erratic billing by prepaid meters that deserve to be called 'smart cheaters'. We intend to set things right and bring relief to the

people by providing 200 units of free electricity," said Mr. Yadav.

The RJD leader also criticised the CM on his upcoming 'Mahila Samvad Yatra', which will start on December 15.

"Budgetary allocation of ₹250 crore has been made for the yatra. Huge public money is being splurged. The bureaucracy seems to have given a free hand (to Mr. Kumar) to indulge in

Stir will go on, say west U.P. farmers at *mahapanchayat*

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

Farmer leaders, mainly from western Uttar Pradesh, who have been leading a protest since Monday over several demands, including higher compensation for the land acquired by the State government, on Wednesday decided to continue their stir.

The decision was announced following a *mahapanchayat* organised by the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) at Pari Chowk in Greater Noida.

A day earlier, the police had evicted hundreds of farmers who had gathered for a sit-in at Dalit Prerna Sthal in Noida and arrested nearly 160 protesters.

The police said all the arrested farmers, including Bhartiya Kisan Parishad chief Sukhbir Khalifa and west U.P. president of BKU Pawan Khatana, were released on Wednesday.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of farm unions, welcomed the development, calling it "a victory of democracy over autocracy".

Meanwhile, Aligarh SP (Rural) Amrit Jain said the police had detained BKU leader Rakesh Tikait, who



Police personnel preventing a farmers' march in Noida on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

was on his way to the *mahapanchayat* in Greater Noida. The SKM termed it a "violation of his fundamental rights".

The farmers have been protesting against the alleged denial of fair compensation for their land acquired by the State government for several projects, such as the Yamuna Expressway and those in progress in Noida and Greater Noida.

Meanwhile, farmers' bodies that have been at the forefront of the protest at the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana since February this year said they will also join a December 6 'Dilli Chalo' march.

Angioplasty deaths: police arrest hospital director

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD

One of the directors of a private hospital from Gujarat was arrested on Wednesday in connection with the death of two PMJAY beneficiaries following a botched angioplasty procedure last month, police said.

With the latest arrest, the number of people apprehended so far rose to seven, including the CEO and the marketing director of Ahmedabad-based Khyati Multispeciality Hospital.

Based on a specific tip-off about his whereabouts in Gota area, the city Crime Branch nabbed Dr. Sanjay Patolia, a bariatric surgeon and one of the directors of the hospital, the police said in a release. Dr. Patolia started the multi-speciality hospital in collaboration with other key accused, the police added.

Odisha saw 5.20 lakh dog bite cases in two years, says State govt.

The Hindu Bureau

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has recorded 5.20 lakh dog bite cases since the beginning of 2023, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallick informed the State Assembly on Wednesday.

The State reported an average of 23,647 dog bite incidents per month, according to a written reply tabled in the House.

In 2023 alone, 2,59,107 such cases were registered while 2,43,565 cases were reported up to November this year.

Most of these incidents involved stray dogs.

The months of December 2023 and January and

February this year saw the most number of cases. In January 2024, 33,547 incidents were reported, followed by 32,561 cases in the following month.

Sterilisation drive on'

"As per the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, local urban bodies, in collaboration with organisations holding project recognition certificates from the Animal Welfare Board of India, are carrying out sterilisation of stray dogs," said Mr. Mallick. During 2022-23, a total of 4,605 dogs were sterilised across eight towns, he added.

The last animal census conducted in 2019 showed that the State had 17.34 lakh stray dogs.

Make Bengal your muse, CM appeals to foreign filmmakers

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA



CM Mamata Banerjee at the inauguration of the Kolkata Film festival on Wednesday. PTI

for people here and help collaboration between your artists and ours," she added.

The festival opened with the screening of the 1966 Bengali classic *Galpo Holeo Satti* by Tapan Sinha at the Dhorno Dhanya Auditorium in Kolkata.

Between December 5

and December 11, as many as 175 films from 29 countries will be screened across multiple venues in the city as part of the KIFF. Film enthusiasts can also attend screenings of 21 films from France, KIFF's focus country this year.

Galaxy of stars

The inaugural ceremony saw the presence of celebrities like Sourav Ganguly, Sabitri Chatterjee, Madhabi Mukherjee, Ranjit Mullick, Sharughan Sinha, Moon Moon Sen, Sabysachi Chakraborty, and others.

However, like last year, KIFF regulars Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan gave the inaugural ceremony a miss this year. "Amitabhji is unwell," the Chief Minister said at the opening ceremony.

On the orders of the Chief Minister, Ministers K. Ponmudi, V. Senthilbalaji,

Cyclone impact: over 42,000 evacuated in 3 T.N. districts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday said it had shifted 42,259 people from the flood-hit areas of Villupuram, Kallakurichi, and Cuddalore districts to relief camps, owing to the devastating impact of Cyclone Fani.

A release said that the evacuees were given food, milk, and other essentials.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who had visited the affected areas, advised Ministers in-charge, District Monitoring Officers, and other authorities to step up relief measures.

On the orders of the Chief Minister, Ministers K. Ponmudi, V. Senthilbalaji,

and S.S. Sivasankar, along with senior officials, were coordinating relief efforts in Villupuram. Ministers M.R.K. Panneerselvam and C.Ve. Ganesh in Cuddalore, and Minister E.V. Velu in Kallakurichi, also oversaw relief work.

Shifted to camps

Since December 1, people residing in low-lying areas had been evacuated and shifted to relief camps.

In Villupuram district, 20,625 persons were shifted to 105 relief camps, the release added.

Food was prepared at six community kitchens of the Rural Development Department and distributed to the evacuees in Villupuram district. The Health Department conducted 182 special medical camps, be-

nefiting 11,578 people. A total of 728 houses were partially damaged and 132 completely damaged in the cyclone, the release said.

In Cuddalore district, flood warning was issued to people living in 25 revenue villages on the banks of Thenpennai river. With the coordinated efforts of the Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Revenue and Disaster Management, and other departments, 19,654 people

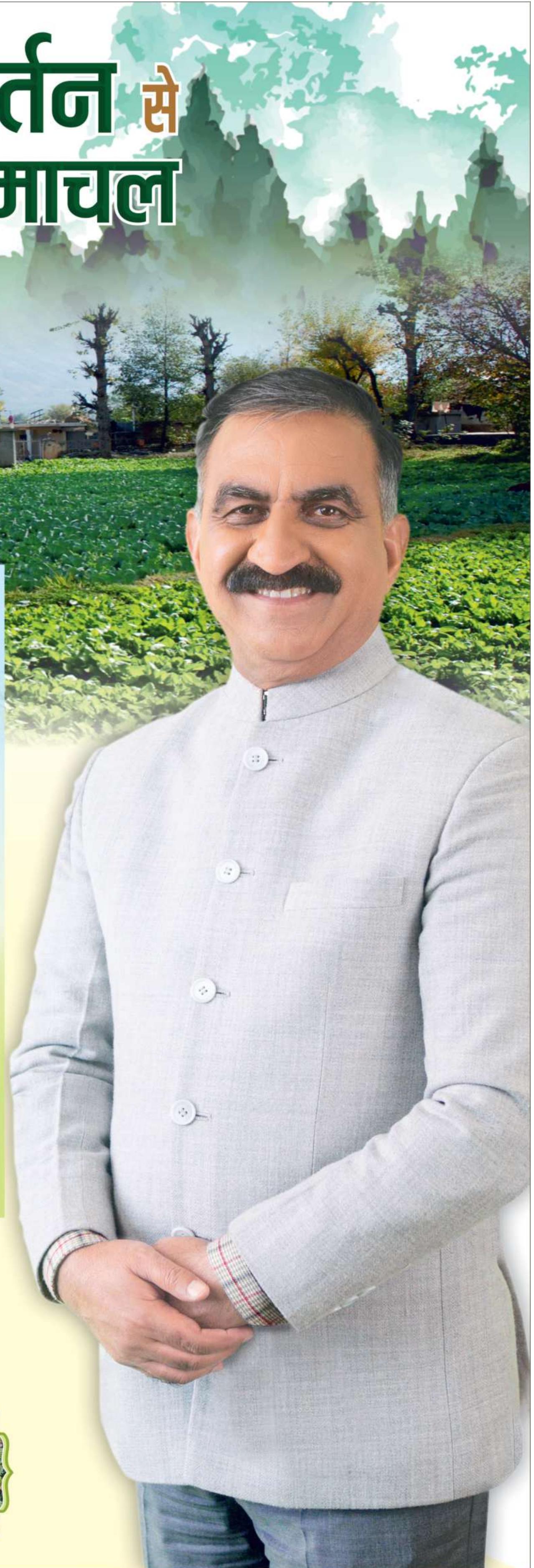
were evacuated to safety in 35 relief camps. They have been provided food, prepared at 15 community kitchens.

In Kallakurichi district, 574 houses were damaged in the floods, and 147 heads of cattle died. A total of ₹37,04,000 in relief was distributed to the affected people.

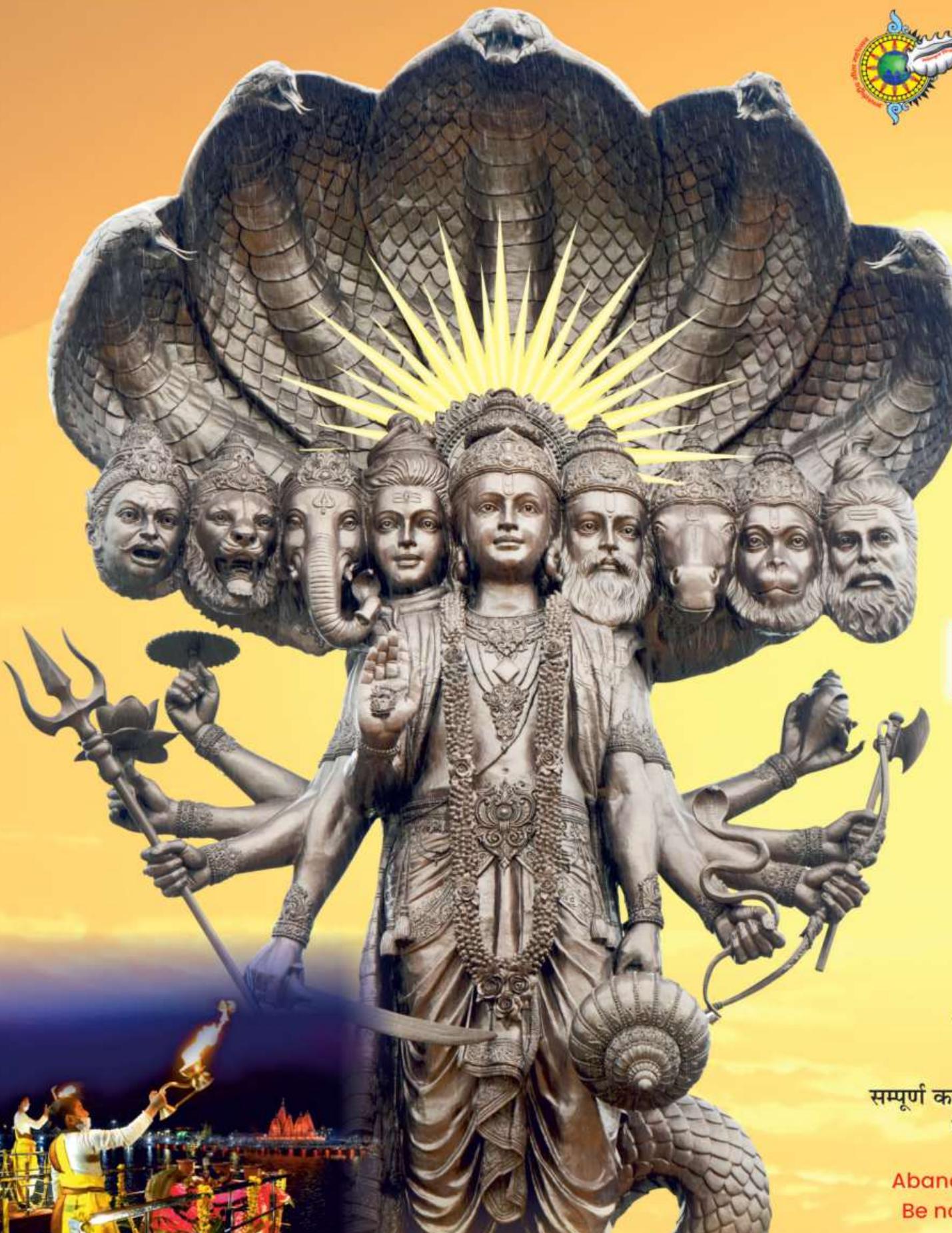
व्यवस्था परिवर्तन से आत्मनिर्भर बनता हिमाचल

सुदृढ़ होती ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था

- ▶ हिमाचल प्रदेश गेहूं और मक्की पर सबसे ज्यादा समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) देने वाला वाला देश का पहला राज्य बना।
- ▶ प्राकृतिक खेती करने वाले किसानों से गेहूं 40 रुपये और मक्की 30 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के हिसाब से खरीदी जा रही है।
- ▶ प्रदेश सरकार ने प्राकृतिक रूप से उगाई 398 मीट्रिक टन मक्की 1506 किसानों से खरीदी।
- ▶ प्रत्येक प्राकृतिक खेती किसान परिवार से 20 किवंटल तक अनाज खरीदा जा रहा है।
- ▶ प्रदेश में 1.98 लाख किसान-बागवान 35 हजार हैक्टेयर भूमि पर प्राकृतिक खेती से जुड़ गए हैं।
- ▶ 1.50 लाख से अधिक किसान-बागवानों का निःशुल्क प्रमाणीकरण किया गया।
- ▶ 15000 एकड़ भूमि प्राकृतिक खेती में प्रमाणित होगी।
- ▶ 680 करोड़ रुपये की राजीव गांधी स्टार्ट-अप योजना के तीसरे चरण में राजीव गांधी प्राकृतिक खेती स्टार्ट-अप योजना संचालित की जा रही है।
- ▶ इस साल 36,000 किसानों को प्राकृतिक खेती से जोड़ा जा रहा है।
- ▶ प्राकृतिक खेती से उत्पादित मक्की से बना **हिम-भोग**
हिम-मक्की आटा बाजार में उतारा जा रहा है।



गारीकर्ता : निदेशक, सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश



International GITA Mahotsav 2024

28 November-15 December
Kurukshetra, Haryana

सर्वधर्मान्परित्यज्य मामेकं शरणं व्रज ।
अहं त्वा सर्वपापेभ्यो मोक्षयिष्यामि मा शुचः ॥
भगवद् गीता 18.66

सम्पूर्ण कर्तव्य कर्मों का आश्रय छोड़कर तू केवल मेरी शरण में आ जा ।
मैं तुझे सभी पापों से मुक्त कर दूँगा, शोक मत कर ।

Abandoning all duties, come to Me alone for shelter.
Be not grieved, for I shall release you from all evils.

International Gita Mahotsav

Inauguration

December 5, 2024

By

Sh. Bandaru Dattatraya

Governor, Haryana

Lt.Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.)

Governor, Uttarakhand

Sh. Arif Mohammed Khan

Governor, Kerala

Ms. Tabia

Minister for Information, Youth & Culture,
Zanzibar

and

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

Main Programmes

- 09:00 am Gita Yajna and Gita Pujan (Brahma Sarovar, Kurukshetra)
- 11:15 am Inauguration of the Pavilions of Haryana, Partner State Odisha and Partner Country Tanzania
- 12:30 pm Inauguration of International Gita Seminar
- 05:00 pm Bhajan Sandhya and Maha Aarti
- 06:00 pm The Cultural Evening

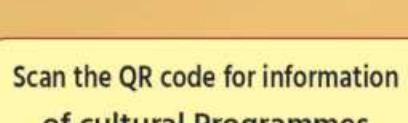


“ सभी देशवासियों को गीता जयंती की अनंत शुभकामनाएं।
श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता सदियों से मानवता का मार्गदर्शन करती आई है।
अध्यात्म और जीवन-दर्शन से जुड़ा यह महान ग्रंथ हर युग
में पथ प्रदर्शक बना रहेगा। ”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



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A cut in time

Economic costs of ban on plastic must be seen with its ill-effects on health

Despite a week of wrangling, an ambitious endeavour piloted by the United Nations Environment Programme to phase out plastic turned out to be a failure. The Global Plastics Treaty is the result of a resolution by member-countries of the United Nations, passed in 2022, to 'end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.' Over the next two years, countries met five times, including the latest (billed as the final one), to create a broad framework agreement. The UN resolution of 2022 was deemed historic as it gave the impression that the world was unanimous that plastic pollution could only be addressed through globally coordinated action. However, it is the solution to the problem that has proven to be divisive. Of the nearly 170 countries gathered at the fifth round of meetings in Busan, roughly half – led by the European Union and supported by Pacific island-nations – were of the view that despite the usefulness of plastic and its significant role in enabling mass consumption through the modern era, its relative indestructibility was now an environmental hazard. It had begun to seep into the bodies of animals, both of the land and sea, and had progressed to be much more than an eyesore in the form of litter flowing out of overwhelmed municipal recycling systems.

The claim that better recycling and re-use will redeem the situation, these nations believe, is a pipe dream and, therefore, imposing gradual cuts on the source of plastic, virgin polymer, was the only effective route to ending plastic pollution. However, many of the large developing countries, and those with economies premised on the extraction of oil and petrochemical refining, baulk at such a proposal. They view calls to cut plastic production as trade barriers masquerading as environmentalism. They view the framing of the plastic pollution problem as one that requires regulating production as something that goes beyond the intent of the 2022 resolution. While talks have stalled, it is likely that countries will reconvene next year – possibly with a fresh perspective – and get beyond the impasse more creatively. India has chosen to side with the countries that are averse to production cuts; yet, it must acknowledge that its capacity to recycle plastic is only about a third of the plastic that is annually introduced. The indispensability of plastic to the economy cannot be a permanent excuse to delay action on evaluating its health impacts on people in India, its ecology and marine environment. A planned exit is always better than finding oneself on the wrong side of history.

Costly miscalculation

Yoon must resign as President and let South Korea elect a new leader

South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol's surprise announcement of martial law on Tuesday night was a shocker for Koreans, including members of his own conservative People Power Party, for whom memories of the military dictatorship, a dark, violent phase in the country's history, are still fresh. Mr. Yoon, a former prosecutor, said he was issuing the martial law "to protect free South Korea from the North Korean communist forces, eliminate shameless pro-North Korean and anti-state forces". In reality, the unpopular President, who is grappling with a parliamentary deadlock, was seeking greater powers for himself and to crush his political opposition. But by embracing the extreme measure, Mr. Yoon shot himself in the foot. The declaration triggered street protests, while lawmakers assembled in the Parliament building braving security personnel and voted 190-0 against the measure. Following the vote and faced with an explosion of public anger, Mr. Yoon reversed his decision and the personnel were withdrawn. The opposition has moved an impeachment motion against Mr. Yoon. If the vote passes with a two-thirds majority, his powers would be revoked and he would be put on trial.

Mr. Yoon's grip on power has always been shaky. While he won the presidency on a threadbare margin in 2022, the opposition Democratic Party (DP) took control of the National Assembly. In late 2022, after a Halloween crowd crush in Seoul claimed 159 lives, the government's handling of the tragedy was widely criticised. Earlier this year, doctors went on strike, citing their 'harsh' working conditions and demanding higher pay. Mr. Yoon's wife was caught on camera accepting a luxury handbag as a gift – a scandal which continues to haunt his government. In April this year, the DP retained its control of the National Assembly with a greater victory. Mr. Yoon's approval rating fell below 20%, while the opposition kept blocking his legislative push at the assembly, the latest showdown being about the budget Bill. Public resentment mounted amid a housing crisis and high unemployment. Under pressure, Mr. Yoon chose to launch a frontal attack on South Korea's democracy. His sudden turnaround in the face of protests and legislative pushback is a reprieve for South Koreans. But the fact that political infighting led to the President declaring martial law, despite a violent history, itself points to the deeper problems the country is facing. It took years of street protests to bring the military dictatorship, known for its ruthless, vindictive rule, to an end in the 1980s and start the democratisation process. Any attempt to reverse the hard-won gains of the democratic period should be resisted forcefully. Mr. Yoon should not prolong his unpopular regime. He should resign without waiting for the impeachment proceedings and let the country elect a new leader.

In the aftermath of Donald Trump's resounding victory in the U.S. presidential elections, with a stunning Electoral College triumph of 312 votes to 226, the Indian commentariat appears to be divided between those lamenting the demise of Liberal America and those celebrating the rise of a right-wing transactional leader who might be "good for India". Both sides, however, appear to think that the America, over which Mr. Trump will preside, has given one more sign of its irresistible decline, as the world becomes increasingly multi-polar and China continues its inexorable rise. For them, Mr. Trump's victory merely sets the seal on an America more divided against itself, more insular, more xenophobic, more racist and misogynist and less inclined to engage with the world than at any time since the Second World War.

The core elements are still strong
I am not prepared to write America off quite so quickly. For one thing, the fundamental elements of American global power remain unchallenged. It is still the world's largest, most diverse and most innovative economy. Its military budget dwarfs those of the rest of the planet's countries combined. It has a remarkable level of energy security, with its own domestic sources of oil, gas, solar and wind power, and seems to be gradually expanding its nuclear capacity as well. Its labour force may have priced itself out of the manufacturing business but American labour productivity and its talent for business and entrepreneurship remain incomparable. Its capital markets are thriving and stable, defying every doomsday prediction since the Great Depression. It has more billionaires than in any country on earth; the U.S. dollar remains the world's benchmark currency; and the average working American is still better off than the average worker almost anywhere else in the world.

It is still a land that wields an unparalleled influence over global culture – as the home of Coca-Cola, Starbucks, Levi's, McDonald's, Disney, Hollywood, CNN, Google, Microsoft, and Nvidia, it sets the global cultural agenda in ways that no one else comes remotely close to approaching. The "unipolar moment" that lasted from roughly 1990 to 2010 may have passed, but these factors mean that whatever degree of multi-polarity may be dawning, it is very much amongst second-order powers jostling for space with each other, rather than truly competing with the United States for global dominance.

It is of course true that the couple of decades of absolute dominance – politically, militarily, economically, and technologically – of the world by the United States of America have passed. This was an era in which Washington faced no near-term rivals for global power and influence,



Shashi Tharoor

the fourth-term Congress Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Thiruvananthapuram, the author of 26 books including 'Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st Century', and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs

and one in which the defining feature of international politics was that America held sway over world affairs, and usually had its way. But in the last decade or so, it has become clear that the U.S. was no longer going to be uncontested in any of these domains. The first, largest, tallest, biggest everything – from skyscrapers to planes – used to be in America. That is no longer the case.

There are also the undoubtedly weaknesses with which America is now reckoning. Its industrial base has been weakened by decades of over-reliance on imports from China. Its public debt is out of control and is expected to rise to 122% of GDP by 2034. It is already the case that America spends more on public debt interest than on defence, even though its defence budget is larger than that of the rest of the world combined. Its public, as the recent election showed, is increasingly resentful of the country's own globalist elites, has rejected cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism, and wants to return to a more insular and arguably xenophobic insularity. Its appetite for global adventure has shrunk dramatically and might increasingly prompt American administrations to withdraw from their current engagements across the world and cease to make the major efforts required to manage and defuse international conflicts.

The rise of China

And then there is China. Roughly around the 2008-09 financial crisis, pundits recognised that there had emerged on the global scene the spectre of Beijing. China's "peaceful rise" for the last quarter of a century, fuelled by American investment in its industries and burgeoning export trade for its manufactures, has culminated in its supplanting the U.S. as a manufacturing and industrial power, rivalling it in economic size and exceeding its surpluses, as well as challenging it in new cutting-edge technologies such as 5G. Under the assertive autocracy of Xi Jinping, China has emerged, after decades of uncontested U.S. hegemony, as the other aspiring hegemon – and it has the resources to make the Americans sweat. No wonder many American thinkers have called for policymakers to evolve a comprehensive strategy to counter China, much as George Kennan's famous "Long Telegram" from Moscow in 1946 led to the birth of the "containment strategy" that hemmed in the Soviet Union.

Such a strategy, by definition, will require the U.S. to stay engaged, if only to preserve its dominance in world affairs. Mr. Trump's first term demonstrated that he was no isolationist. His initiatives in promoting a "grand bargain" involving the U.S., Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other moderate West Asian powers, did indicate a willingness to pursue a new regional compact that would isolate Islamic

The U.S. is still the world's most diverse and innovative economy; and Donald Trump proved in his first term that he is no isolationist

extremists. (The "I2U2" among Israel, India, the U.S. and the UAE, which was part of this vision, has been rendered dormant by the Gaza conflict, but will certainly be revived once that war is brought to an end.) His withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)/nuclear agreement with Iran, his imposition of extremely rigorous sanctions on that country, and the American assassination of Iran's intelligence chief, Qasem Soleimani, suggest a willingness to be belligerent in pursuing adversaries deemed to be hostile.

Mr. Trump has made it clear, especially through the trade war he launched against China, that a United States led by him will not permit Beijing to establish itself as the unchallenged Asian hegemon. To this end, Mr. Trump is likely to prioritise strengthening the Quad (India, Australia, Japan, the U.S.), and should India prove skittish in this regard, the new "Squad" (in which the Philippines replaces India in the quartet), could be energised.

Mr. Trump understands that if China is allowed to gain unchallengeable dominance over east and central Asia, the resources and markets it would command would enable it to seriously challenge American strategic and economic interests. A struggle for influence in this part of the world will certainly ensue over the next few years and India will be called upon to define its stand in relation to it.

An Indian response

New Delhi will have to carefully juggle some crucial choices: how to define its uneasy relationship with a China that continues to threaten its borders, even while India's import dependence on that country grows to record levels each year; how to manage its close relationship with a Russia that is increasingly becoming a client state of Beijing; how to manage its friendship with Iran at a time when Israel's war with Hamas and Hezbollah and the U.S.-led attacks on the Houthis render Iran increasingly a regional undesirable; and how to defend its own strategic autonomy in a world where the freedom of manoeuvre we have so far enjoyed among all these actors is narrowing. The U.S. under Donald Trump will undoubtedly seek to contain China, limit Russia, disempower Islamic Iran, and further isolate North Korea – the new "axis of evil" identified by Washington – while it promotes Israel and whips Europe into shape. U.S. support for India will be contingent on how adroitly India manages to navigate its own relationships with these countries so that it is seen as willing to go along with, or at least not undermine, these objectives.

Not only is it unwise to write off Trump's America – in light of these considerations – we should take it very seriously indeed.

Do not write off Trump's America

Cash transfer schemes for women as new poll plank

Cash transfer schemes for women as new poll plank

In the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly elections, there was a pattern that was followed – having a cash transfer scheme for women that is at the centre of political campaigning. Beginning in August, the National Democratic Alliance government in Maharashtra came up with the 'Mukhyamantri Bahin Yojana', wherein women who met the criterion would receive ₹1,500 a month in their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. The Opposition-ruled State of Jharkhand also had the 'Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana', in August, which offered financial assistance of ₹1,000 to eligible women.

Direct cash transfer schemes are no political novelty. According to Axis Bank, 14 States already have such schemes in place, covering almost a fifth of India's adult female population. So, why is it that across States, cash transfer schemes for women are growing in popularity? Is this policy learning or are State governments experiencing a fear of missing out? Are we getting to a point where there is no alternative vision about welfare? There could be four plausible reasons for political parties across States following this particular genre of welfare.

More women in the public political space
First, the steady rise in the presence of women in India's public-political space as a force to be reckoned with is pushing parties to cater to their needs. From a mere 47% turnout of women in 1962, the figure is now 66% in 2024. It is the same trend in State Assembly elections. Along with the increase in turnout, the fact that women are increasingly casting their votes independently reinforces the narrative of a 'women constituency'. The hurried manner in which Parliament passed the women's reservation Bill and the renewed focus on 'Nari Shakti' are

testimony to the rising pressure on political parties to acknowledge the change. In the context of a close election, a swing in votes could mean winning or losing a seat. The cost of disregarding the female voter would mean paying a very high price.

Bypassing the middleman

Second, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is the flavour of the day. Direct cash transfers to bank accounts have their advantages from the point of view of the state. It helps the state bypass existing structures of middlemen who pose a hurdle in making these benefits available. Systemic corruption of this kind is ubiquitous in the Indian setting, and the state lacks the capacity to keep it in check. With the advent of DBT, States can now transfer money directly to the beneficiary's account and reduce leakage through the system. With parties becoming more individual-centric, DBT helps establish a direct relationship between the individual leader and the citizen. Yamini Aiyar and Neelanjan Sircar call this "techno-patrimonial", whereby technology aids in advancing personal loyalty to the leader.

The third reason is an extension of the preceding argument. Cash transfers are an easy way to establish the narrative that the government in power is serious about its commitment to the electorate. For instance, improving the functioning of State-run schools or hospitals or building new public infrastructure cannot happen overnight. Such projects require meticulous planning, investment, and a long gestation period before they can bear any fruit.

In addition, given the fact that the poor in India form a significant constituency and that the gains of economic growth are disproportionately divided, populist schemes of this nature are valued by a substantial number of voters. Regular

While the optics are about 'party benevolence', in reality, the state seems to be nudging the poor to fend for themselves

credit to the beneficiary's account also acts as a constant reminder of the 'benevolence' of the leader, further advancing the party's position.

The core issue

Fourth, this also points to a larger problem dotting the welfare landscape in India. A flattening of welfare, with States across the country coming up with similar kinds of schemes, indicates a deficiency of imagination vis-à-vis welfare in India. One could euphemistically call this "policy learning", but the fact that even States ruled by Opposition parties are not offering alternatives to this welfare strategy of DBT – sharpened to perfection by the Bharatiya Janata Party at the central level – is worrying.

Though schemes of this kind might look to be a quick and effective solution to the poverty crisis, DBT comes with its own set of problems. Scholars have pointed out that the Indian state, by prioritising 'efficiency' using technology, is shielding itself from doing the hard work to improve state capacity. By making cash available in the hands of the poor, the state is nudging its citizens to make use of private alternatives for their basic needs. While the rich in India have already exited this system and are relying on the private for their needs, the poor are also being nudged by the state to fend for themselves. But can the poor in India afford to disengage with the state? Cash transfers, at best, act as bandages, but the state still needs to treat the larger wounds before they become infectious – if they have not already become one.

In the days ahead, 'yojanas' such as 'Ladki Bahin' and 'Maiyan Samman' will occupy centrestage. So, is this the new rule of the game? Or will there be a break to this pattern? The answers will determine the future welfare landscape.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Endangered species

In this cataclysmic age of climate uncertainty, species are disappearing at an unthinkable rate. However, the conservation efforts of the government should encompass a variety of species. Flagship species such as the tiger and the elephant appear to be gaining huge budgetary resources and attention while others such as the Namdapha flying squirrel, the hangul and the Malabar civet remain passive

bystanders. The solution is in having a balanced approach to environmental activism.

C. Sivaraman

Ranipet, Tamil Nadu

EVM and paper ballots

Many Opposition parties have expressed serious doubts about the use of electronic voting machines (EVM), wanting ballot papers to be used in elections instead. By strengthening the perception of the 'capture

of the ballot through the EVM', the present dispensation has virtually captured many key constitutional values – of democracy, federalism, secularism and the rights of minorities. We have already seen communal violence and the breakdown of law and order in many a State. It is no answer to say that some of the Opposition parties have won in some States through the EVM. The problem has to be tested from the States where they

have lost and Hindutva forces have gained ground. The BJP would do well by giving in to the demand for ballot paper use if it has won by fair means. When there are serious challenges to the Constitution, it is time the ruling party yields to the Opposition and shows statesmanship in such a vital matter.

N.G.R. Prasad

Chennai

Cyber crimes

Rising cyber frauds are

becoming a nightmare for senior citizens. With smartphone transactions and social media use becoming the norm, one has to be constantly alert – more so in the case of senior citizens, who may not be tech-savvy. Perhaps there needs to be more awareness programmes for senior citizens who should not have to learn things after falling victim to scams.

Gopalaswamy J.

Chennai

The Internet is also a jungle with much online trash. Added to this is the trend of cybercrimes that target senior citizens who may not be tech-savvy enough to protect themselves. More awareness and quick responses by cyber law enforcement cells are the solutions.

Deepak Taak,
Panchkula, Haryana

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

India's strategic focus on West Africa

Last month, on his way to Brazil to participate in the G-20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strategic halt in Nigeria. During his first two terms, Mr. Modi travelled to 10 African countries, including Uganda, where he delivered a historic speech outlining India's vision of Africa. However, his visit to Nigeria is significant as it marks the first African visit of the Prime Minister in his third term. This visit is also the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Nigeria in 17 years.

The importance accorded to India by Nigeria was evident from the very moment Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu welcomed Mr. Modi at Abuja airport. Later, the Indian Prime Minister was conferred Nigeria's second-highest national award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger. He became the only second foreign dignitary to receive the distinction since 1969, after Queen Elizabeth II, underlining India's rising global stature and the trust and recognition Mr. Modi has gained for his commitment to the Global South.

India-Nigeria ties
Nigeria is both the largest economy and the largest democracy in Africa. Nigeria is also a regional hegemon in West Africa and plays an important role at the African Union level. It is regarded as a democratic role model and has, in the past, used its clout to mediate disputes on the African continent. Strengthening India's ties with Nigeria would undoubtedly have effects far beyond the nation's borders.

In his conversation with President Tinubu, Mr. Modi reiterated the high priority India accords to its strategic partnership with Nigeria and expressed interest in boosting ties in areas such as defence, energy, technology, trade, health, and education. With terrorism,

**Harsh V Pant**

Vice President for Studies at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

**Samir Bhattacharya**

Associate Fellow, Africa, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

separatism, piracy, and drug trafficking as major challenges for Nigeria, Mr. Modi underscored the continuing salience of strong cooperation on security issues. This encompasses the purchase of Indian weapons and cooperation in the counterterrorism operations against the Islamist groups, particularly Boko Haram.

Mr. Modi's trip is also a follow-up to an Indian defence industry delegation's visit to Lagos earlier this year. Mr. Tinubu had expressed interest in buying arms from India during that visit. India is emerging as a key defence supplier to Africa, with sales to Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tanzania, and Mozambique.

In over six decades of close partnership between India and Nigeria, India has also emerged as a development partner of Nigeria on two fronts – offering developmental assistance through concessional loans (\$100 million) and capacity-building training programmes – shaping this partnership in a distinctive 'India Way'.

Nigeria's China connection

Nigeria currently has over 200 Chinese companies. It is China's largest export market and its second-largest trading partner in Africa. On the other hand, China is Nigeria's third-largest export market. China has funded over \$47 billion for 22 large-size infrastructural projects across the country. As of March 31, 2020, Chinese loans to Nigeria totalled \$3.121 billion, or 11.28% of Nigeria's \$27.67 billion in external debt. Earlier, Nigeria had undertaken several significant infrastructure projects using Chinese money, such as the National Public Security Communications System project and the Abuja Light Rail project, and planned terminal expansions at four major airports.

In 2023, China funded the Lekki Deep Sea Port. The port, one of the largest in West Africa, will relieve cargo congestion, which costs billions of dollars in annual revenue and is expected to

generate over 170,000 new jobs. It is anticipated that the port will boost Nigeria's struggling economy.

The Chinese technology giant Huawei has a significant presence in Nigeria. Since 2019, Huawei has trained 2,000 Nigerian youths and 1,000 federal civil servants across Ministries, departments, and agencies, and it plans to continue training government employees in cybersecurity strategy. Huawei has deployed over 27,500 mobile phone towers and up to 10,000 kilometres of fibre optic cable in Nigeria. It has also signed a contract with the Federal government to install an electronic surveillance system at the country's land borders.

China is also active in Nigeria's mining sector. Last February, Kaduna selected China's Ming Xin Mineral Separation Nig Ltd. to build the nation's first lithium-processing plant. It aims to produce batteries for electric vehicles. Yet, five months ago, the Nigerian government rejected Tesla's proposal to buy raw lithium from the country. Meanwhile, China Sinoma International Engineering and Nigeria's Dangote Industries Limited also signed a contract to construct a cement plant with six million tonnes per year in Ikorodu, Ogun state.

Despite growing Chinese interest in financing and building infrastructure, India remains one of Nigeria's key partners. Trade between India and Nigeria has declined from \$14.95 billion in 2021-22 to \$7.89 billion in 2023-24, primarily due to India's increasing oil imports from Russia. India and Nigeria, however, continue cooperating on multiple issues. As leaders of the Global South, an enhanced bilateral relationship between India and Nigeria should also auger well for the larger Global South.

Mr. Modi's visit to Nigeria has brought the country into the spotlight, but much more sustained effort will be required to convert the goodwill into concrete deliverable outcomes.

Despite growing Chinese interest in financing and building infrastructure, India remains one of Nigeria's important partners

Trinamool holds ground amid chaos

The results underscore the Opposition's failure to capitalise on public discontent

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh

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Discontent and anger against the government do not necessarily result in the electorate voting against the ruling party. This has become quite evident over the past few years in West Bengal politics, the latest example being the recently concluded Assembly bypolls.

Despite the protests over the rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, the ruling Trinamool Congress won bypolls in all six Assembly seats without much resistance from the Opposition parties.

The ruling party not only

retained five seats it had won in 2021 but also wrested Madarhat in north Bengal, considered to be a stronghold of the BJP, a seat the State's ruling party had never won in the past. On some seats such as Haroa in North 24 Parganas and Sitai in Cooch Behar, the margin of victory of the Trinamool Congress candidate was over 1.3 lakh votes.

For more than two months, Kolkata and its adjoining suburbs witnessed unprecedented protests with thousands of people on the streets demanding justice for the rape and murder of a doctor. The anger was directed at the State government for failing to provide security to a woman doctor at a government facility, the accused being a civic police volunteer, and the alleged attempts to hush up the crime by a section of police and hospital administration.

The protests brought the government to its knees when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was forced to transfer Kolkata Police Commissioner and



officials of the State health department.

The question being discussed in political circles is how the Trinamool Congress managed to emerge unscathed from protests. More than the success of the Trinamool Congress, the bypolls reflect the failure of Opposition parties to capitalise on the anger and discontent among the people.

While the citizen groups kept political parties away from the protests, the parties could not organise any meaningful movement, and their intervention fizzled out well before the protests on the streets died down.

For several years, despite the issues of law and orders and several scams, the vote share of Trinamool Congress has increased. The perception that the Trinamool Congress government will collapse under the weight of its scams and its own contradictions of factionalism and divide between the young leadership and old loyalists has not worked for the Opposition.

The Trinamool Congress has held the electorate together through cash incentive schemes and the dominance on booth-level politics. For the BJP, the prospects look bleak as its vote share has been on a decline after the 2021 Assembly polls. The BJP has lost all by-

polls held since then, including the one held in July this year. In the Lok Sabha polls, the Trinamool Congress increased its tally to 29 seats, whereas the seats of the BJP dropped to 12. After the debacle in the recent polls, the State BJP leadership tried to hide behind the argument that bypolls usually belong to the ruling party and a 6-0 verdict in favour of the ruling party was a foregone conclusion.

The CPI(M)-led Left Front and the Congress, which contested the elections separately, also failed to make any mark in the bypolls. For over a decade, both parties have appeared confused about defining their primary political opponent in the State – whether it is the BJP or the Trinamool Congress.

Credit must also be given to the Trinamool Congress leadership of Ms. Banerjee, who allowed the protests to run their usual course for almost 100 days. She held meetings with protesting doctors, and did not take any hasty actions, even after being snubbed on one occasion when protesters refused to meet her and left her waiting.

Though the results indicate the electoral supremacy of Trinamool Congress, to assume that the protests around the R.G. Kar incident did not serve any purpose would be incorrect. For decades, the State which has been starkly divided on political lines, has lacked any civil society movement. The protests and demonstrations over the gruesome crime have given people the courage to descend on the streets and raise their voices against the State and the ruling establishment.

The Trinamool Congress has held the electorate together through cash incentive schemes and the dominance on booth-level politics. For the BJP, the prospects look bleak as its vote share has been on a decline after the 2021 Assembly polls. The BJP has lost all by-

₹2.4 lakh crore collected in toll plazas since inception

More than 98% of payments in recent months were done using FASTags, with over 10 crore tags issued till now

DATA POINT

Amitha Reji George
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

A total of ₹2.4 lakh crore has been collected as user fees at toll plazas across India's national highways since the inception of toll collection, according to recent data presented in the Lok Sabha. This figure is based on the 758 toll plazas for which the overall data was available.

Plazas in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra have collected the most among States. Notably, over 98% of the toll payments made in recent months were done through the FASTag technology. **Chart 1** shows the State-wise amount of fees collected (in crores) across tolls since inception. With ₹32,510 crore collected, Uttar Pradesh is at the top. The Delhi-NCR region collected the least tolls at ₹263 crore.

Chart 2 shows the top four national highways where the most toll was collected since inception. The NH48, which runs from Delhi to Chennai, is listed first with a collection of ₹24,490 crore followed by NH44 (Srinagar to Kanniyakumari), NH16 (Kolkata to Chennai), and NH27 (Porbandar to Silchar).

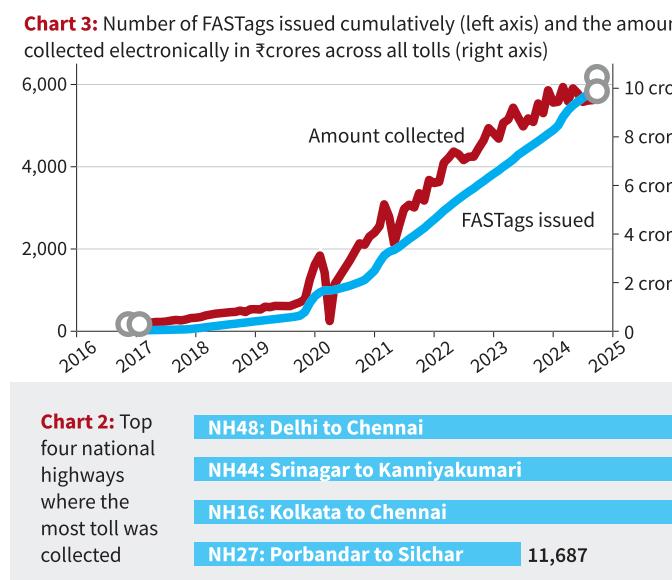
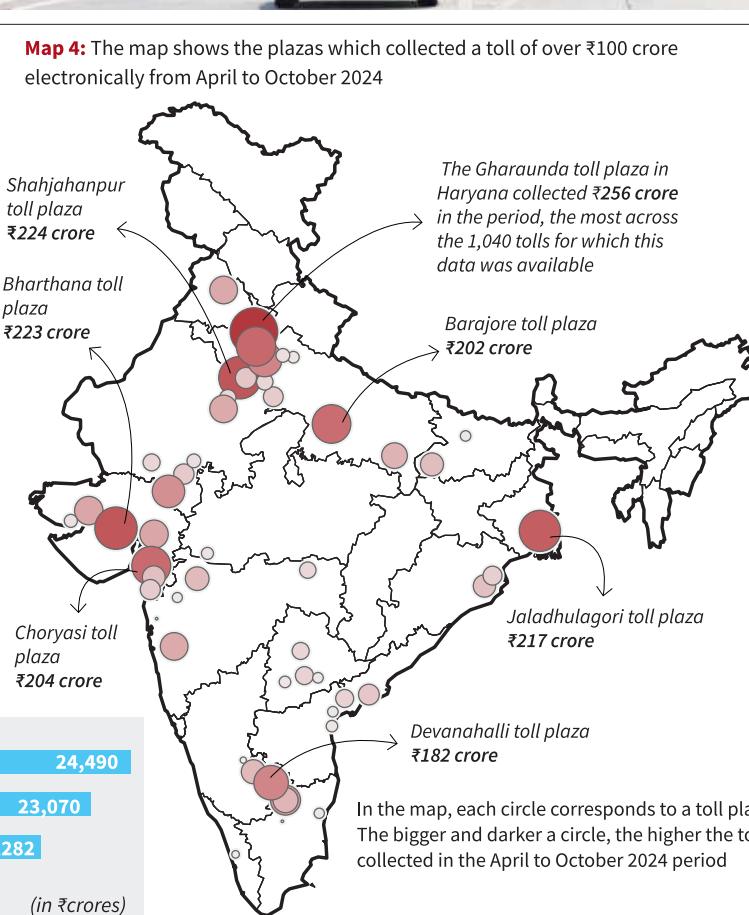
Chart 3 shows the number of FASTags issued cumulatively (left axis) and the amount collected electronically in crores across all tolls (right axis), every month over time. Except for the dip during the pandemic months, the transaction value and the tags issued have surged since inception. As of October 2024, 10 crore tags have been issued. **Map 4** shows the toll plazas which collected over ₹100 crore electronically from April to October 2024. The Gharaunda toll plaza in Haryana collected ₹256 crore in the period, the most across the 1,040 tolls for which this data was available. The Shahjahanpur toll plaza in Rajasthan and the Bharthana in Gujarat, are second and third on the list.

Collections surge across India's tolls

The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha questions and answers

**Chart 1:** State-wise fee collected (in ₹crores) across tolls since inception

U.P.	Gujarat	A.P.	W.B.	M.P.
32,510 crore	24,597	22,287	16,625	15,047
Rajasthan	29,808			
Maharashtra	25,929	Telangana 14,487	Karnataka 10,605	T.N. 5,364

Chart 3: Number of FASTags issued cumulatively (left axis) and the amount collected electronically in ₹crores across all tolls (right axis)**Map 4:** The map shows the plazas which collected a toll of over ₹100 crore electronically from April to October 2024

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 5, 1974

Student participation in politics welcomed

New Delhi, Dec. 4: The high-level Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Nurul Hasan, Union Education Minister, which went into the question of student unrest in the country, has welcomed the politicisation of the student community. The Committee categorically said that students should be familiar with the programmes of different political parties and should have opportunities to meet their leaders for discussions. Students should also be free to become members of any political party of their choice. But the Committee has cautioned that no permission should be given for the establishment of an office of any political party or the students' wing of any educational institution.

Discussing the question of students and politics, the Committee said that in fact their view was that the student community was not yet as "fully politicised" as it should be. The Committee therefore recommended, among other things that "all students at the undergraduate stage should be involved in national and academic discussion of the problems facing the country, such as the problems of food, clothing, education, health."

The Committee also expressed its unhappiness at the attempt made by certain political elements to exploit the students for their own ulterior motives. The Committee said that "there is little possibility of different political parties evolving an agreed code of conduct in dealing with students. The only alternative is to create a better student-teacher relationship and make the entire educational process so relevant and challenging that it will absorb all the energies of the students."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 5, 1924

Mrs. Besant re-joins Cong.

Madras, Dec. 5: Dr. Besant has re-joined Congress. She has signed the creed and entered the Triplicane Sabha as a four annas member for the Madras District. She is a member of the All-India Congress Committee in virtue of her being Ex-President. She has arranged to attend the ensuing Congress at Belgaum.

Mr. Devadoss Gandhi is at Adyar teaching her to spin at a full-sized Charkha, and she is making good progress.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of people killed in the Manipur conflict

258 The Centre has given another extension till May 20, 2025 to a

Commission of Inquiry to submit its report on its investigations into the series of violence in Manipur that has claimed at least 258 lives so far. The Commission of Inquiry was set up on June 4, 2023. PTI

Number of suicides by CAPF, NSG and AR personnel in five years

700

Over 700 personnel of Central Armed Police Forces, National Security Guards and Assam Rifles have committed suicide in the last five years, while 55,555 have resigned or taken voluntary retirement during the period, the Rajya Sabha was informed. PTI

Cheetahs released to mark International Cheetah Day

2

Cheetahs Vayu and Agni were released into the wild in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) to mark International Cheetah Day. The presence of cheetahs in a tourism zone could offer a unique opportunity for visitors to spot these majestic animals during safari trips. PTI

The border length between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

970

km. Central Asian neighbours Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan announced a border demarcation deal on the last contested frontier in the region, potentially ending decades of territorial disputes. The delegations met in the Kyrgyz city of Batken. AFP

Number of fatalities due to rebel groups in eastern Congo

9

Extremist rebels linked to the Islamic State killed at least nine people, including an 8-month-old baby and a 14-year-old girl in eastern Congo and kidnapped several others, authorities said. Eastern Congo has struggled with violence for decades. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is the caste Census a useful exercise?

Proponents argue that a caste Census would determine the population sizes of various castes and that these numbers can be used to provide a proportionate share to each caste in government jobs etc. However, upon closer inspection, it becomes clear that the caste Census would be impractical

FULL CONTEXT

Anish Gupta
Shubham Sharma

The demand for a caste Census has become a heated political issue, fuelled by calls from opposition leaders, NGOs, and, more recently, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) also adding itself to the cohort. Proponents argue that such a Census would determine the population sizes of various castes and that these numbers can be used to provide a proportionate share to each caste in government jobs, land, and wealth.

This article discusses how the attempt to collect individual caste data will once again prove to be a futile exercise, and how individual caste-based proportionate reservations is a regressive policy.

Caste Census: a historical background
The exercise of a caste Census in India dates back to the late 19th century when the first detailed caste Census was conducted in 1871-72. It attempted to collect caste-based information and classify various groups, and was conducted across four major regions – the North-Western Provinces (NWP), the Central Provinces (CP), Bengal, and Madras.

There were several arbitrarily constituted “sets” based on a very superficial understanding of caste. In the NWP, for instance, only four sets were officially recorded – Brahmins, Rajputs, Banias, and “other castes of Hindus”. Meanwhile, in the CP, groups such as “servants and labourers” and “mendicants and devotees” were arbitrarily included under these sets. Some of Bengal’s classifications included beggars, musicians, and cooks, while Madras added “mixed castes” and “outcastes” as distinct categories.

Frustrated with the complexities of understanding caste, W. Chichele Plowden, who prepared the 1881 Census report, termed the whole question of caste ‘confusing’ and hoped that ‘on another occasion no attempt will be made to attempt to obtain information as to the castes and tribes of the population’. However, the same issues persisted in the caste Census of 1931 where 4,147 castes were identified. The officials were surprised to find that caste groups frequently claimed different identities in different regions.

These challenges are not relics of the past but continue to shape the difficulties India faces to conduct a caste Census today. For instance, the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 identified over 46.7 lakh castes/sub-castes with 8.2 crore acknowledged errors. A more recent example is the controversy surrounding the inclusion of ‘hijra’ and ‘kinnar’ as categories in the caste list in the Bihar Census (2022).

Challenges to access accurate data
Upward caste mobility claim – the reporting of one’s caste by respondents can be influenced by the perceived prestige associated with certain social groups and their position within the varna hierarchy. This is evident from changes in caste claims between the 1921 and 1931 Censuses, where some communities that initially reported belonging to lower positions within the varna system in 1921 later reported themselves as belonging to higher categories in 1931 (see Table 1). Another notable observation from these claims is that different members of the same



Difficult task: A teacher collecting details from a woman as part of the caste Census at Kandi in Sangareddy, Telangana on November 18. MOHD ARIF

The problem with counting caste

The system of reserving positions based on a reserved category’s quota is straightforward: the reserved posts are determined by dividing 100 by the percentage of reservation allotted to that reserved category. However, significant flaws emerge when proportional representation formulas are applied to individual castes

Table 1: How caste names changed in different Censuses

Name of Caste	1921 Census claims	1931 Census claims
Kamar (Kumar)	Kshatriya	Brahman
Sonar	Kshatriya/Rajput	Brahman/Vaisya
Sutradar	Vaisya	Brahman
Nai	Thakur	Brahman
Napit	Baidya	Brahman
Rawani (Kahar)	Vaisya	Kshatriya

Note: The change in caste claim was not influenced by reservation policies or any other form of government benefits

Source: Census of India Report, 1931 by J.H. Hutton, Page no. 431

Table 2: Number of vacancies and waiting time for least populated castes based on UPSC’s average annual vacancies of 1,000

Census	No. of castes	Assumption about the population distribution across castes	Estimated minimum vacancies required to provide at least one vacancy to least populated caste	Estimated years required to provide at least one vacancy to least populated caste
1931	4,147	All castes with equal population	4,147	5
		Least populated caste’s number is 10,000	1,40,845	141
Number of castes listed by different ministries which is used for reservation	6,000	All castes with equal population	6,000	6
		Least populated caste’s number is 10,000	1,40,845	141
2011 SECC	46,73,034	All castes with equal population	46,73,034	4,673

Source: Authors’ calculation based on the data collected from 1931 census, 2011 SECC, different ministries and UPSC

community, such as Sonar, reported belonging to different social categories – Kshatriya and Rajput in 1921, and Brahmin and Vaishya in 1931, in the same region (see Table 1). These occurrences were noted in colonial Censuses but their implications remain relevant even today.

Downward caste mobility claim – some respondents may claim to belong to a group positioned lower in the social hierarchy, particularly when they are aware of the potential benefits associated with such affiliations. Notably, these downward social group mobility claims are predominantly a post-independence phenomenon likely due to the advantages associated with reservation policies (such as when some upper castes demand OBC status/ some OBCs demand ST status).

Problem of caste misclassification –

similar-sounding castes and surnames often lead to confusion in caste classification. For example, in Rajasthan, surnames like ‘Dhanak’, ‘Dhanika’, and ‘Dhanuk’ are classified as SC, while ‘Dhanka’ is listed as ST. Similarly, the surname ‘Sen’ refers to an upper-caste group in Bengal, whereas ‘Sain’ is associated with the OBC barber community. Enumerators may mis-record such surnames, inadvertently placing communities in incorrect social categories. Additionally, caste remains a sensitive issue, which may make both respondents and enumerators uncomfortable discussing it directly.

As a result, enumerators might avoid asking about caste explicitly and instead make assumptions based on surnames, further increasing the risk of

misclassification.

On proportional representation

Proportional representation in reservations may appear fair at first glance, but upon closer inspection, it becomes clear that it is both impractical and regressive. The system of reserving positions based on a reserved category’s quota is straightforward: the reserved posts are determined by dividing 100 by the percentage of reservation allotted to that reserved category. For instance, since the reservation for OBCs is 27%, every 4th position in a sequence of vacancies would go to an OBC candidate ($100/27 = 3.7$, rounded up to 4). Similarly, an SC candidate would get every 7th position ($100/15 = 6.7$, rounded to 7), an ST candidate every 14th position ($100/7.5 = 13.3$, rounded to 14), and an EWS candidate every 10th ($100/10 = 10$).

However, significant flaws emerge when proportional representation formulas are applied to individual castes. According to different ministries data, there are around 6,000 castes. Assuming India’s population is approximately 1.4 billion, the average population per caste would be around 2.3 lakh.

To illustrate the challenges of implementing proportional representation at the individual caste level (see Table 2), consider a hypothetical caste ranked last with a population of just 10,000 (0.0007% of the total population). For this caste to secure just one reserved vacancy in an institution, at least 1,40,845 positions would need to be advertised. Using the UPSC as an example, which typically advertises around 1,000 vacancies annually, it would take 141 years for the least populous caste to receive a single vacancy. To make matters worse, if we consider 46.7 lakh castes/subcastes as reported in SECC 2011, the number of vacancies required will be 46,73,034 and the UPSC will take more than 7,000 years to provide the first vacancy to the least populated caste.

Hence, the idea of proportional representation at the level of individual castes proves to be regressive, as it disproportionately excludes the least populous castes from accessing the benefits of reservation.

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THE GIST

▼
The exercise of a caste Census in India dates back to the late 19th century when the first detailed caste Census was conducted in 1871-72.

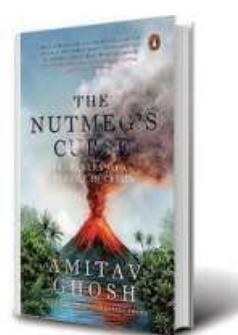
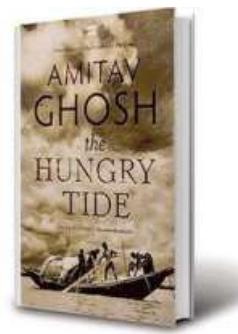
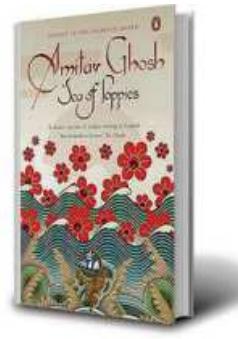
▼
Frustrated with the complexities of understanding caste, W. Chichele Plowden, who prepared the 1881 Census report, termed the whole question of caste ‘confusing’ and hoped that ‘on another occasion no attempt will be made to attempt to obtain information as to the castes and tribes of the population’.

▼
These challenges are not relics of the past but continue to shape the difficulties India faces to conduct a caste Census today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Huge honour: Indian writer Amitav Ghosh after receiving the Erasmus Prize at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam on November 26. AFP



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
Upendran

"Yes, he's a great runner. And when you think about it, many of the great athletes from America are black."

"Very true. Some of the finest athletes are African-Americans."

"African-Americans?"

"That's right. African-Americans. There's a general feeling that people should not be referred to by their colour. So the word 'black' is being slowly replaced by 'African-American'. And this is particularly true of the media."

Newspapers talk of the African-American community and newscasters announce that the man killed in the shoot-out was an African-American."

"It's strange how one word quickly replaces another. Well, I have to go to the barber now and..."

"Ah! Barber! That's a word one hardly hears in America."

"Really? Then what do they call the chap who cuts everyone's hair?"

"He/she is called a 'hair stylist'."

"Hair stylist! That sounds very stylish indeed!"

"Perhaps that's why they have renamed themselves. 'Hair stylist' sounds much more impressive than 'barber', doesn't it?"

"Well, yes. but..."

"And if you look around, you'll find that most of the professionals have renamed or redesigned themselves. For example, the 'undertaker'..."

"You mean the chap who buries people?"

"Very crudely put. But, yes. He's the man who buries people. Anyway, he is now called a 'Funeral Director'."

"Funeral Director! Sounds impressive."

"It certainly does. And the nurse who looks after you in hospitals is now being called 'Patient-Care Specialist'."

"Patient-Care Specialist! That's a mouthful."

"If you think that's a mouthful, what do you think of 'Petroleum Transfer Engineer'?"

"Petroleum Transfer Engineer! Sounds important. What does he do?"

"He's the chap who works at the petrol bunk and fills petrol in your car."

"But he's not an engineer!"

"But some have started to call themselves that now. Makes the job sound much more dignified and complicated than it really is, doesn't it?"

"It certainly does. But getting back to the word 'barber'. Is there a real difference between a 'barber' and a 'hair-dresser'?"

"I wasn't talking about a 'hairdresser', but a 'hair stylist'."

"What's the difference?"

"A 'hairdresser' usually takes care of women's hair, and a 'hair stylist', men's hair. But coming back to your question, hair stylists believe that there is a difference between a barber and themselves. A barber merely 'cuts' people's hair. A hair stylist, on the other hand, 'shapes' the hair depending upon the client's face."

Published in *The Hindu* on April 26, 1994.

Amitav Ghosh tells the story of the past, present, and with dread, the future

The writer has been honoured with the Erasmus Prize, 2024, for 'imagining the unthinkable'. In his novels and non-fiction, Ghosh has put down in words the anthropometric nature of climate change, migration, colonialism, cultural possession and dispossession

Ramya Kannan

During an interview with *The Hindu* last year, Amitav Ghosh was asked if he fancied himself, as many have alluded to him, as the Emperor of the East, among novelists. His response is a true insight into the core of Ghosh's stupendous body of work: "I would say it's the other way around. The east is the emperor of us."

Among the pre-eminent authors writing on subjects 'east' and among the early modern authors to shred the stereotype of the east as mystic and chaotic, Ghosh tells the story as it was, in the past; as it is, in the present; and with trembling lips and a sense of dread, in the future. It is suitable that the Praemium Erasmi Foundation decided to award him the Erasmus Prize in 2024, and the reasons for their decision are precisely the compelling reasons for reading Ghosh.

The citation reads: "He receives the prize for his passionate contribution to the theme 'imagining the unthinkable', in which an unprecedented global crisis – climate change – takes shape through the written word. Ghosh has delved deeply into the question of how to do justice to this existential threat that defies our imagination."

His work offers a remedy by making an uncertain future palpable through compelling stories about the past. He also wields his pen to show that the climate crisis is a cultural crisis that results from a dearth of the imagination."

Impressive oeuvre

In the many years since Ghosh started writing, he has built up an impressive oeuvre of work, doused in a social consciousness that has seldom found such consistent exposition in the works of one author. For his fans, both of his writings and his politics, it is not a matter of argument that Ghosh is indeed the pre-eminent chronicler of the east to make an impact in recent times. It is a matter of deep faith for them.

The themes of Ghosh's work, the essays and historical novels, include the anthropometric nature of climate change, migration, colonialism, cultural possession and dispossession, how trade impacts the lives of people, and the havoc that humanity's avarice has let loose upon the world. Using polyphonic narratives, or multiple perspectives to portray the naturally rich diversity of his settings, Ghosh builds compelling stories that not only draw the reader deep in, but also keep them hooked, from start to finish, even waiting with bated breath for the next book.

Studying the Sunderbans

Perhaps we should take our cue from the Erasmus Prize and start with *The Hungry Tide*, set in the tidal landscape of the Sunderbans, examining the impact of rising sea levels and climate change in the deltaic mangrove area formed at the confluence of the Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna rivers entering the Bay of Bengal. The novel revolves around Piya, a marine biologist researching river dolphins, and Kanai, a Delhi-based

translator, as they navigate the natural and social complexities of this unique landscape. Here, it's not merely climate change that is centrepiece, but also the tension between conservation theories and human rights, as portrayed in the struggles of the refugees of Morichjhapi.

In the context of climate change and human migration, his 2019 book, *Gun Island*, creates a world of realistic fiction, to urge, challenge, and shake up readers to act upon the urgent demands of the environment. The story starts with the quest of Deen Datta, a rare book dealer from Brooklyn, to figure out more about the Bengali legend of the 'gun merchant' (Bonduki Sadagar), and examines how ecological collapse impacts migration, and upends traditions. Repeatedly, Ghosh has relied on folklore and myth to highlight the profound messages these tales contain, including in his delightful novella-in-verse: *Jungle Nama*.

Following a spice

In his 2021 work, *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis*, also referenced in his acceptance speech for the Erasmus Award, Ghosh follows the journey of a spice, nutmeg, from its native Banda Islands to the world, using it as a lens to understand the imprints of colonialism upon attitudes towards indigenous cultures, and environmental change.

The *Ibis Trilogy*, is another phenomenal work that started with the *Sea of Poppies* (2008), followed by *River of Smoke* (2011), and finally, *Flood of Fire* (2015). Set in the 1830s, this epic sweeps

across countries, and years, outlining the factors that build up to the First Opium War across China and the Indian Ocean region, cementing his place as a historian-novelist of the east. The story begins in British-ruled India, where the cultivation of opium is changing rural lives forever. The eponymous 'Ibis' is the name of the ship that sets sail from Calcutta to Mauritius, carrying a diverse group of passengers, including indentured labourers, convicts, and sailors, some to be connected intrinsically with the massive changes that are set to happen, in east Asia. The second book shifts focus to China, the centre of the opium trade, detailing the Chinese government's attempt to curtail the trade and the resistance of British and Indian merchants.

The final book focuses on the First Opium War, recording its impact on the characters, and in classical Ghosh style, the broader geopolitical landscape. The 'Ibis', notably, serves as a metaphorical and literal link between characters as they navigate war, displacement, and personal ambitions.

In his most recent book, *Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories* (2023), Ghosh again tails one commodity, opium, focusing on its colonial history and legacy in India and China, and its connection to modern corporate practices.

There are many more books and essays from the body of work of this beloved 'sutradhar of the east'. For him, certainly, lying in wait are many more awards from the world he's trying to hold a mirror to.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid activist, on his death anniversary

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1

What is Nelson Mandela's birthname, which meant 'to pull a branch off a tree' and 'troublemaker' in his Xhosa tribe?

QUESTION 2

Nelson Mandela had a nickname inspired from a popular novel about a hero with a secret identity. What is it?

QUESTION 3

Name the island where Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in imprisonment.

QUESTION 4

Who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela?

QUESTION 5

Name the Spike Lee movie in which Mandela appeared in a guest role?



Visual question:
How is Mandela linked to this flower?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific panel has these many countries and was founded in this year. Ans: 13 countries; since 2004

2. The name of the next cyclone that was named by this country. Ans: Shakthi; Sri Lanka

3. Cyclone Ockhi was named by this country. Ans: Bangladesh

4. The meaning of Cyclone Dana. Ans: Generosity

5. This cyclone, named by India, is regarded as the worst tropical cyclone to ever strike the Yemeni island of Socotra. Ans: Megh

6. The maximum number of letters the name of a cyclone can have. Ans: Eight

Visual: This 1970 cyclone was named in East Pakistan, which is now Bangladesh. Ans: Cyclone Bhola

Early Birds: Basavaraj Metli| Jose Jojil| Tanishka Gour| M. Suresh Kumar| Lekshmy Harikumar

Word of the day

Umber:

an earth pigment; a medium brown to dark-brown colour; of the colour of any of various natural brown earth pigments

Synonyms: deep brown

Usage: It resembled a refurbished house with umber bricks.

Pronunciation: newsthr.live/umberpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʌmber/

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

From Page One

Fadnavis to be sworn in as Maharashtra CM

Later, Mr. Fadnavis, along with outgoing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and their colleague in the alliance, NCP president Ajit Pawar, held a meeting at Varsha, the official residence of the Chief Minister. Then they went to Raj Bhavan to meet the Governor to stake claim to form the next government.

United front

Speaking at Raj Bhavan after accepting Mr. Radhakrishnan's invitation, Mr. Fadnavis downplayed the importance of titles, stating, "Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister is just a technical arrangement. The three of us – myself, Mr. Shinde, and Mr. Pawar – will work together and make joint decisions, as we have done so far." This comes amid speculation that Mr. Shinde was upset over being denied a second term.

"I met Mr. Shinde yesterday [Tuesday] and requested him to be part of the government. Shiv Sena MLAs also support this collective leadership. Together, we will work to provide the best government for Maharashtra and fulfil all our promises," he said. Asked if he would take the oath as the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Shinde, who headed the Mahayuti government from July 2022, said, "That will be revealed soon."

Mr. Shinde pledged his full support for Mr. Fadnavis, stressing the spirit of teamwork and collective decision-making.

Reaffirming Shiv Sena's commitment to the BJP-led alliance, he added, "I had earlier stated that the Shiv Sena will fully support any decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and J.P. Nadda. Our sole focus has always been on delivering what is best for the people of Maharashtra." Mr. Pawar also said that the new government would function unitedly.

Badal escapes bid on life, shooter arrested

Mr. Mann said he had directed officers to maintain maximum vigil against anti-social elements. He said the Director-General of Police had been directed to conduct a thorough probe into the matter.

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former Minister Daljit Singh Cheema said the incident was condemnable and spoke volumes about Punjab's poor law and order.

Demanding a high-level judicial probe into the incident, Mr. Cheema said "We don't have any faith in the State government. Conspiracies are being hatched to demolish the leadership of Akali Dal. It's not just about the man who fired but the entire conspiracy behind the incident needs to be exposed."

Senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa said the incident was a stark reminder of the need for responsible discourse and vigilance in Punjab. "The attack is a grim reminder of the deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab. Such incidents undermine the very fabric of societal harmony and have no place in a civilised society," said Mr. Bajwa.

The Akal Takht - the highest Sikh temporal seat – on December 2 awarded religious punishment to Mr. Badal and several other Akali Dal leaders, who were part of the SAD-led government between 2007 and 2017 in Punjab after they were found to be *tankhaiya* or guilty of religious misconduct. Mr. Badal and other leaders were directed to perform different duties, including cleaning utensils and shoes of devotees.

Before the pronouncement of punishments, Mr. Badal admitted the mistakes, which included the pardoning granted to Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim in a 2007 blasphemy case.



Protesters demonstrate against South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol in Seoul on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

South Korea's Yoon faces impeachment

Mr. Yoon's senior policy advisers and Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun offered to resign as the nation struggles to make sense of what appeared to be a poorly-thought-out stunt. The Democratic Party on Wednesday submitted a separate motion to impeach Mr. Kim, who it alleged recommended the martial law declaration to Mr. Yoon.

In his speech announcing the abrupt order on Tuesday night, Mr. Yoon vowed to eliminate "anti-state" forces and continued to criticise the Democratic Party's attempts to impeach key government officials and senior prosecutors. But martial law lasted only about six hours, as the National Assembly voted to overrule Mr. Yoon before his Cabinet formally lifted it around 4.30 a.m.

The Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the 300-seat parliament, said on Wednesday that its lawmakers decided to call on Mr. Yoon to quit immediately or they would take steps to impeach him.

Wish men menstruated, says SC while flaying M.P. HC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Wish men have menstruation, the Supreme Court has remarked, censuring the Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision to sack a woman judge in the State based on performance and not considering her predicament due to a miscarriage.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and N. Kotiswar Singh sought a clarification from the High Court on the criteria for the termination of civil judges.

"I hope such criteria is also imposed on male judges. I have no hesitation in saying this. The lady, she has got pregnant and she had miscarriage. The mental and physical trauma of a lady who has undergone a miscarriage. What is this? I wish men had menstruation. Then they will know what it is," remarked Justice Nagarathna, questioning the assessment of the woman judicial officer which had ignored the mental and physical trauma endured by her due to the miscarriage.

On November 11, 2023, the top court had taken a *suo motu* cognisance of the termination of six women civil judges by the State government over their alleged unsatisfactory performance.

Rahul, Priyanka stopped from visiting U.P.'s Sambhal

As his plan to go alone to meet victims was also turned down, Rahul slams police for violating his constitutional right; police barricades along Congress delegation route lead to massive traffic jams

Mayan Kumar
LUCKNOW

Congress delegation led by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MP, was stopped at the Ghazipur boundary between Delhi and Uttar Pradesh while it was on its way to violence-hit Sambhal on Wednesday. Officials denied Mr. Gandhi's request to go alone to visit the victims of the violence.

Police officers cited the sensitive law and order situation in the western U.P. town while halting the Gandhi siblings, Congress MPs from U.P., and several Congress workers. Since violence broke out on November 24 during a survey of Sambhal's 500-year-old mosque, outsiders have been restricted from entering the town and prohibitory orders are in effect till December 10.

"As Leader of the Opposition, it is my responsibility to go and meet the victims. I am being stopped from discharging my duty," Mr. Rahul Gandhi said. In a video of his exchange with a police officer at the border, he can be heard ask-



Rising tension: Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at the Ghazipur boundary in New Delhi on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

ing, "On what basis have you denied the LoP permission to go?" The officer responded: "It is an issue of law and order."

Mr. Gandhi returned to Delhi, but criticised the U.P. Police for violating his constitutional right. The police stopped the delegation from going to Sambhal, the Congress leader said on X. Being the Leader of the Opposition, he had the right and duty to go there.

"Why was the BJP scared, why was it using the police to hide its failures, he asked.

Ms. Vadra, who was in charge of the U.P. Congress till recently, attributed the move to the BJP's fears. "The BJP is afraid of the voice of justice. They are

afraid of brotherhood and unity. It wants to barricade every message of love to save its market of hate," she said.

Describing the U.P. Police action as "dictatorship", Congress leaders alleged that the Sambhal violence, during a survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid, was a "conspiracy" by the ruling BJP.

"What is witnessed today is murder of democracy. If the U.P. administration – which today has deployed such a large number of police personnel to prevent Rahulji, Priyanka ji and other Congress leaders from visiting Sambhal – had taken similar measures on November 24, the violence would not

have taken place," said U.P. Congress general secretary Anil Yadav, who was at the Ghazipur boundary to join the Congress delegation.

In view of the Congress delegation's proposed visit, the U.P. police placed barricades at various locations on the Delhi-Sambhal route. Vehicle inspections were carried out at every checkpoint, leading to massive traffic jams along the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, especially at the Ghazipur boundary, which connects Delhi to Noida.

The BJP accused the Congress of politicising the Sambhal issue, and asked the Opposition party to follow police restrictions.

On Tuesday, the Sambhal District Magistrate, Rajendra Pensiya, had requested neighbouring districts to stop the Congress leaders before they entered the district, in a letter to police officials.

"Sambhal district administration has issued prohibitory orders restricting outsiders from visiting the district till December 10. I request you to please monitor movement of Mr. Rahul Gandhi and make arrangements to him from reaching Sambhal in your jurisdiction," it said.

India backs UN resolution calling for Israel's exit

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly resolution that called for the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem. The resolution reiterated the call for achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in West Asia.

The draft resolution, "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine", tabled by Senegal, was overwhelmingly adopted in the 193-member General Assembly on Tuesday.

India was among the 157 nations that voted in favour, while eight member states including the U.S. voted against it.

Through the resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed its unwavering support, per international law, for the two-state solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognised borders, based on the pre-1967 borders.

It rejected any attempt at demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip.

The resolution further stressed the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all Acts of violence.

Assam govt. bans public consumption of beef

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has banned the public consumption of beef with immediate effect.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said his Cabinet had taken the decision in this regard after analysing the statements of State Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah and Dhurbi MP Rakib Hussain, who "resented" the distribution of beef by political parties to influence voters.

Hafiz Rafiqul Islam, an MLA and general secretary of the minority-based All India United Democratic Front, said the Cabinet should not be deciding what people eat or wear. "If they cannot ban beef in Goa or other northeastern States, why in Assam? We do not pay much heed to this decision," he said.

Attack on Sukhbir Badal attempt to finish moderate space in Punjab: SAD leader

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Former Rajya Sabha member and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Naresh Gujral on Wednesday described the attempt on the life of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal as an "attempt to finish the moderate space in Punjab politics".

Speaking to *The Hindu* immediately after the assassination attempt, captured on camera, came to light, Mr. Gujral said that the murderous attack was "an attempt to take Punjab and the country back to the dark days of the 1980s" when Sikh militancy in the State was at its height.

"It is an attempt to destabilise the State of Punjab, and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) should look into whether there is



Sukhbir Singh Badal

involvement of Pakistan or other forces, in terms of trying to revive the demand for Khalistan," he said. Amity and peace between the Sikh and Hindu community was being sought to be broken, he added, with law and order in a precarious state under the Bhagwant Mann-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

"We have been saying for months that law and order is in a bad way in the

State, that gangs are roaming free. Punjab Police are demoralised, with officers being arbitrarily transferred here and there," he said.

The SAD was a former ally of the Punjab BJP before the two parties parted ways on the issue of the three farm laws passed by the Union government in 2019.

"When the old alliance was formed between Badal saab [former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal] and Vajpayeeji [former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee] it was to foster bhaichara [brotherhood] between the Hindu and Sikh community after the 1980s, and it did result in a peaceful Punjab," Mr. Gujral said. "The new NDA does not follow the same coalition dharma as the old one," he added.

AAP govt. has failed to maintain law and order in Punjab: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday condemned the assassination attempt on Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and criticised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab for its "failure to maintain law and order" in the State.

At a press conference, BJP MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said Punjab's financial condition and law and order situation deteriorated considerably after the AAP came to power there, attributing it to an ongoing "internal rift" in the party.

The mismanagement of the State government had resulted in the criminals getting emboldened. The attempt on a former Chief Minister and party president outside the Golden

Temple showed to what extent the situation had reached in Punjab, he said.

Quoting media reports, Mr. Trivedi said under the AAP government, investments in Punjab had declined by 80%. The State received ₹23,000 crore in 2021-22 and the figure declined to ₹3,400 last year, said the BJP leader.

HC exempts Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren from personal appearance in MP-MLA court

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Jharkhand High Court on Wednesday exempted Chief Minister Hemant Soren from appearing personally in the MP-MLA court in a case related to alleged non-compliance of summonses issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary directed the ED to submit its response by December 16, while granting Mr. Soren an exemption from personal appearance until that date.

In February, the ED had filed a complaint in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's

court stating that 10 summonses were sent to Mr. Soren for questioning in an alleged land scam, but he appeared only twice. The agency said this was punishable under Section 63 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Section 174 of the IPC. On No-

ember 26, the court rejected Mr. Soren's plea for exemption from personal appearance and told him to appear before the MP-MLA court on Wednesday. Subsequently, Mr. Soren moved the High Court.

The agency had sent the first summons to Mr. Soren on August 14, 2023. On the 10th summons, he was interrogated and then arrested on January 31, 2024. On June 28, the Jharkhand High Court granted him bail stating that he was neither specifically nor indirectly involved in the acquisition of land.

The Soren government will expand its Cabinet on Thursday.

President lauds the Navy as it displays its operational prowess at event in Odisha

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Navy showcased its impressive technological capabilities and human expertise at the Puria Beach on Wednesday, in a grand operational demonstration witnessed by President Droupadi Murmu.

The operational demonstration was the Navy's second large-scale event hosted away from a major naval base.

The demonstration featured units with a total tonnage of 90,000 tonnes, equipped with advanced weapons and sensors capable of neutralising threats

from surface, subsurface, or aerial sources within a 300-km radius.

More than 3,500 personnel participated in the demonstration from various platforms at sea, while an additional 350 personnel managed coordination from the shore for

the event.

Addressing the event, Ms. Droupadi said, "The operational demonstration gave a glimpse of how our Indian Navy operates at sea. India's geography has endowed us with all elements necessary to be a great maritime nation."

Ms. Murmu said, "Over the last year, Indian Navy was at the forefront of all operational activities in the region ensuring safety of seafarers and security of maritime trade. The seamless integration of technology, tactical acumen and sheer courage on display today aptly showcased the evolution of our Navy into a future ready force."



Droupadi Murmu

A ND-NDE

RS passes
Boilers Bill
for safety
at factories

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Boilers Bill replacing the Boilers Act of 1923 brought by the colonial administration. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the Bill would ensure safety at factories where industrial boilers were used.

Mr. Goyal said the Bill was for ensuring uniformity throughout India in all technical aspects pertaining to the regulation of boilers.

"This included standards of construction, maximum pressure specifications, as well as the registration and periodic inspection of all boilers, with particular focus on matters concerning the safety of life and property," he said.

Mr. Goyal added that the Bill would provide for the regulation of the manufacture and use of boilers, ensuring the safety of life and property of persons from the danger of explosions in boilers.

The amendments moved by the Opposition to the Boilers Bill were defeated in a voice vote.

Opposition opposes stand of Dhankhar, stages a walkout

Chairman stops MPs from seeking clarifications on Jaishankar's statement on India-China ties; Congress wonders who will answer Opposition's questions on India's integrity and sovereignty

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar listens as Union Minister S. Jaishankar speaks in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

MPs, however, did not join.

Talking to presspersons outside the House, senior Congress MP Randeep Singh Bhullar said they wanted to ask the Minister certain questions, particularly that "when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that no one had entered the country, then what was the basis of the agreement with China?" It is clear that the Prime Minister had given a wrong statement in 2020 and an unsuccessful attempt has been made by the government to clarify it in Parliament. We walked out as the Centre failed to answer any of our questions. In

such circumstances, who will reply to our questions on the country's integrity and sovereignty," he asked.

'Indecorous behaviour' Later, Mr. Dhankhar said the rule on a statement was explicit. "The Minister, in detail, has taken the House in confidence. He could be as exhaustive as could be possible. Even on such an issue... when I refer every time to the kind of indecorous behaviour seen and the kind of body language reflected, it doesn't earn me any accolades. But I do it only to restore, honourable members, your dignity. I want you to

kindly contribute and believe in some kind of rules," Mr. Dhankhar said.

Mr. Jaishankar said in his statement that as a result of the sustained tension and specific developments in the border areas, India's overall relationship with China was bound to be impacted adversely.

"In the new circumstances, it was obviously not possible to continue the normal exchanges, interactions and activities as in the past. In this regard, we made clear that the development of our ties were contingent on the principles of mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interests. Throughout this period, honourable members would also be aware that the government has maintained that India-China relations cannot be normal in the absence of peace and tranquillity in the border areas... we have been very clear that the restoration of peace and tranquillity would be the basis for the rest of the relationship to move forward," said Mr. Jaishankar.

Uproar in Upper House over Centre's farm polices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress and other Opposition MPs staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday in protest at the government's "anti-farmer" policies and for not fulfilling the promise of increasing the minimum support price (MSP) for various crops.

The Congress members raised slogans after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar disallowed motions seeking the business of the day to be set aside to discuss the farmers issue.

Mr. Dhankhar said that the "interest of farmers is not served by sloganising and [shedding] crocodile tears". "You are only politicising it. You don't want a solution. Kisan [farmers] is your last priority," he told Congress members and other Opposition MPs.

Amid the din, the Chairman took up Zero Hour motions.

Initially, Mr. Dhankhar did not allow the Opposition MPs to raise the issue but later relented and allowed Congress member Pramod Tiwari to make a brief one-minute mention.

IN BRIEF



Birla urges MPs not to protest at Parliament building gate

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday urged MPs not to protest at the entrance of the Parliament building, causing obstruction to other MPs. His appeal came on a day when the INDIA (Indian National Development, Inclusive Alliance) bloc MPs, for the second day in a row, protested on the steps of the Makar Dwar of the Parliament building on the issue of bribery charges levelled against industrialist Gautam Adani in a United States court. "I request all political parties not to obstruct the entry gate when others are entering the building [to attend proceedings]."

Cong. MP seeks legislation to protect gig economy workers

A Congress member in the Lok Sabha has sought legislation to protect gig economy workers by ensuring fair wages, job security and social benefits for them. Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Virudhunagar MP and Congress Whip Manickam Tagore asserted that the problems faced by these workers were more of human rights rather than a labour issue. "I want to bring your attention to the plight of gig economy workers including the warehouse staff and delivery persons who are protesting against unfair wages and unsafe working conditions. These workers earn less than ₹10,000 a month while enduring long hours," Mr. Tagore said.

Chief Commissioner of PwDs post vacant for over five years

The post of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has remained vacant for over five years now, the Social Justice Ministry told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. The Ministry said its latest attempt to fill the position had failed at the stage of approval by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), which is part of a Ministry directly managed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Ministry's statement came in response to an unstarred question from Rashtriya Janata Dal Rajya Sabha member Manoj Kumar Jha, who has asked why the Chief Commissioner's position has not been filled yet.

'Govt. claim on MGNREGA wage payment is untrue'

Days after the Union government said in Parliament that the Centre had no role in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) job card deletions and that funds under the schemes are being disbursed on time, the office-bearers of NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, an organisation that works for MGNREGA workers, on Wednesday said that what Parliament was told is "untrue" and the government is "far away from the realities on the ground".

We all live in the shadow of Nehru, says Cong. leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday said that the idea of Nehru had to be reinterpreted for a changing India.

Speaking at the launch of a book, *Nehru's India: Past, Present and Future*, on the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru by historian Aditya Mukherjee, Mr. Ramesh noted some people had assimilated Nehru and some contested him. "Even those who contest him cannot run away from his shadow. We all live in the shadow of Nehru."

"The constituency for Nehruvian legacy is much larger than we give credit to. We are getting ammunition from the current regime to build on the Nehruvian ideology," the Rajya Sabha member said.

At Railways Bill discussion, MPs raise concern over privatisation, safety, and ticket charges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

tent of the Bill could be to spur the administrative structure, it could potentially lead to basic powers of the Railways being diluted and weakened further, inadvertently bringing about unwanted bureaucracy.

The MP further said the appointments to the Railway Board must not be made on political consider-

ations, but based on merit, skill and established expertise. Any divergence, he said, would lead to a compromise on efficiency.

Work hours regulation He further said the government should consider increasing the number of general coaches on trains and filling appointment backlogs.

The Bill intends to amend the Railways Act of 1989 to enhance powers of the Railway Board, improve operational efficiencies

duled Tribe communities," he said.

Amrit Kaal will not be possible if dignified rail travel cannot be ensured, Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP Sudama Prasad said.

Mr. Prasad too asked the government to prioritise filling vacancies.

He said this would ensure that railway employees were not overburdened with work.

The Arra MP further expressed concerns about employees of the Railways, including loco pilots, ticket collectors and ticket examiners not being provided decent space for rest and work.

Referring to multiple projects and repairs in his constituency lying pending with no determined date for completion, the MP demanded that the government focus on completing projects on time.

Top court directs five States to provide facts and figures on illegal sand-mining

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Directing five States to be ready with facts and figures showing the extent of sand-mining, the Supreme Court on Wednesday made it clear that authorities have to check the illegal exploitation.

"Certainly, sand-mining has to be checked... There has to be control. There is illegal sand-mining," Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna observed.

The Bench, including Justice Sanjay Kumar, was hearing a petition filed by M. Alagarsamy, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, who has sought an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation into rampant illegal mining of beach and river beds.

The petition said sand-mining caused severe ecological imbalance, disturbance in the water table, and degradation of land

Certainly, sand-mining has to be checked... There has to be control. There is illegal sand-mining
SANJIV KHANNA
Chief Justice of India



The Tamil Nadu Additional Advocate-General, senior advocate Amit Anand Tiwari, said closed-circuit television cameras had been installed in various sand-mining spots across the State.

Mr. Bhushan sought a direction to the Tamil Nadu government to place the first information reports registered in sand-mining cases on record in the top court.

"Unscientific mining has caused degradation of land, topographical disorder and damage to land use patterns in and around mining regions," the petition filed by M. Alagarsamy said.

The case has been listed for the week commencing January 27.

Indiscriminate mining Mr. Alagarsamy had referred to media reports saying that investigations in Tamil Nadu had revealed illegal mining of one crore tonnes of beach sand from Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanyakumari districts.

The petition also said that there was indiscriminate mining on the basins of the Godavari, Krishna, Penna, Mahanadi, Tungabhadra, Vamsadhara, Bahuda and Mahendratanaya rivers flowing in Andhra Pradesh.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA Deemed To Be University (Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)

Jorawar Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur-302002 (Rajasthan)

Website: www.nia.nic.in

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE OF VACANCY NOTIFICATION NO. 1/2024

The Last Date for Receipt of Online Applications for various Posts notified in Vacancy Notification No. 1/2024 Dated 25-10-2024 published in National Level Newspapers, Employment News, NIA Website etc. is hereby extended till 20-12-2024. Rest of the said Vacancy Notification will remain the same. The Vacant Posts notified are: 1 Post of Vaidya (Medical Officer), 2 Posts of Clinical Registrar (Tenure Basis for 3 Years), 1 Post of Nursing Officer (Ayurved), 2 Posts of Pharmacist (Ayurved), 22 Posts of Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) and 1 Post of Accounts Officer (On Deputation), all for NIA Deemed to be University, Jaipur; and 1 Post of Administrative Officer and 1 Post of Matron (both to be filled on Deputation) for National Institute of Ayurveda, Panchkula (Haryana), an Extension Centre of NIA, Jaipur.

Dated: 04-12-2024 **(JP SHARMA)** **JOINT DIRECTOR (ADMN.)**

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE RAJ JAIPUR

V-15(3)PS/SAMGRU/Mod./2024-25/12469

DATED- 27-11-24

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NIB NO. POL2425WSOB00076

Bids for Installation of Set of equipment for Police Mobile Investigation Units of estimated value of ₹ 3,08,77,000/- are invited from interested bidders up to 27.12.2024 at 11:00 am. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>) (<https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/>) of the state, and <https://www.police.rajasthan.gov.in>.

UBN. No-POL2425WSOB00076

Supdt. of Police

Central Stores, PHQ Raj. Jaipur

Tel: 0141-2744289

Mail ID-sp.ctstore.pmw@rajpolice.gov.in

DIPR/C/1211/2024

No. :- FV - RLDB/sheath-Sleeve/2024/6725 Dated - 02/12/2024

Corrigendum

This is with reference to RLDB Bid No. 5961 dated 28.10.2024 published on <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (Tender ID- 2024_RLDB_429563_1) and <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> (UBN No-ANH2425GLRC00199), some amendments are made. Details of amendments can be seen and may be downloaded from the above mentioned websites and RLDB website (rldb.rajasthan.gov.in). Raj.Samad/C/24/8618 Chief Executive Officer

Raj.Samad/C/24/8618

RAJASTHAN LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Pashchiman Bhawan Parikh, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Phone : 0141-406474

Email - rldb.sheath@gmail.com, rldb.raja@rajasthan.gov.in, rldb.raja@gmail.com

Dated - 02/12/2024

This is with reference to RLDB Bid No. 5961 dated 28.10.2024 published on <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (Tender ID- 2024_RLDB_429563_1) and <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> (UBN No-ANH2425GLRC00199), some amendments are made. Details of amendments can be seen and may be downloaded from the above mentioned websites and RLDB website (rldb.rajasthan.gov.in). Raj.Samad/C/24/8618 Chief Executive Officer

Raj.Samad/C/24/8618

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Fax: 91 499 2355880. Email: mccf@nic.in, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in

540/MCC/3107/2024-25/GAD

02/12/2024

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES

Immediately require on PERMANENT basis:

Professor - Radiology/Radio Diagnosis and Nuclear Medicine

Scale of pay - 16890/-22040/- Level 12 A of 7th CPC

<p

IN BRIEF



HC refuses to entertain plea against Navjot Singh Sidhu

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea against Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's claims that certain remedies helped his wife in her battle against Stage 4 cancer. A Bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said the former cricketer had only voiced his opinion, and the petitioner was free to counter the claims. "He is just voicing his opinion. Counter his claims by holding a press conference. Counter free speech by free speech and not by curtailing his free speech under the fear of legal action or contempt. We still have freedom of speech in this country," the court said.

Manipur probe panel gets another extension till May

The three-member Commission of Inquiry (CoI) notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to probe the Manipur ethnic violence has received another extension and has been asked to submit its report to the Centre as soon as possible but not later than May 20, 2025. The CoI, headed by Ajai Lamba, former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, constituted in June 2023, received nearly 11,000 affidavits. The last date to submit the affidavits was January 24.

SJM says low fertility will affect India's economy

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Days after Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat urged couples to have more than two children, another branch of the Sangh Parivar has warned of the economic repercussions of slowing population growth.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said on Wednesday the challenge facing India's economy today is to maintain its population so that development efforts do not face any hurdles. "If we fail to rise to the occasion, it may cause dangerous imbalance in the population in the form of raising the dependency burden, slowing down our growth," he said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, however, has said on many occasions that India needs plans to manage challenges posed by population growth.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefs parliamentary panel on Canada, China

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Vikram Misri

A day after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar made a *suo motu* statement in Parliament on the disengagement process with China, the External Affairs Ministry briefed a parliamentary panel on China and Canada.

Another meeting of the parliamentary panel is likely on December 11 where the government is expected to brief on the latest situation in Bangladesh.

Echoing the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Misri told the panel that the process had progressed well so far.

'Unfriendly policies'

On frosty relations with Canada, the Foreign Secretary blamed the Canadian government's "unfriendly policies" for the souring of relations with India.

Referring to Canada's allegation of Indian involvement in the murder of Khalistani activist Hardeep

After anomaly alert, ISRO sets PROBA-3 launch for today

The mission was scheduled to launch at 4.08 p.m. on Wednesday; the 44.5-metre PSLV-C59 rocket will carry 550-kg satellites to their orbit

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 mission, initially scheduled for launch at 4.08 p.m. on Wednesday, has been rescheduled to 4.12 p.m. on Thursday after the detection of an anomaly.

At 3.19 p.m. the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced on its official page on X: "Due to an anomaly detected in PROBA-3 spacecraft PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 launch rescheduled to tomorrow December 5, 2024 at 16.12 hours."

Key ISRO officials communicated the same to presspersons gathered at the launch venue.

Even at 3.08 p.m., the ISRO said the countdown had been progressing smoothly. "Countdown is progressing smoothly as PSLV-C59, an initiative led by NSIL and supported by ISRO's expertise, prepares



This mission is the 61st flight of PSLV and the 26th using the PSLV-XL configuration. PTI

to launch ESA's PROBA-3 satellites into a highly elliptical orbit," it said.

Josef Aschbacher, Director-General of the European Space Agency, posted a message on social media saying: "During Proba3's pre-launch preparations at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in India, an anomaly in the redundant propulsion system of the Coronagraph Spacecraft occurred.

This propulsion system is part of the attitude and orbit control subsystem of the satellite and used to maintain orientation and pointing in space."

He further said: "The anomaly is currently under detailed investigation. The use of a software solution by the mission control team at European Space Agency's ESEC centre at Redu, Belgium, is being evaluated to allow a launch on Thursday, December 5."

The PSLV-C59/Proba-3 Mission, the 61st flight of PSLV and the 26th using its XL configuration, is set to carry the ESA's PROBA-3 (Project for Onboard Autonomy) satellites into a highly elliptical orbit from the First Launch Pad (FLP), Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota.

The 44.5-metre rocket will carry the 550-kg PROBA-3 satellites to their designated orbit in a mission lasting about 18 minutes.

Bhutan King Jigme Wangchuck to pay 2-day visit to India

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



Jigme Khesar Wangchuck

ter Tshering Tobgay visited India around 10 days ago. The King's visit to New Delhi comes amid China's efforts to establish formal diplomatic relations with Bhutan.

The two sides are also looking at a resolution of their boundary row that could have implications for India's security interests.

In August last year, China and Bhutan agreed to take simultaneous steps to implement a "three-step road map" to resolve their festering boundary dispute, it said in a statement.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and other senior officials of the government will also call on the King, it said.

Bhutanese Prime Minis-

ponents to meet the needs of both the Indian market and export to other BRICS countries," Mr. Lipa said.

While Kinet and Indian Railways are in the process of freezing design of the Vande Bharat Sleeper train sets, Mr. Lipa said the process of setting up production capacities is under way in parallel to design discussions.

Mr. Lipa said the total working capital which will be needed for upfront investment exceeds \$150 million, and the revenue will start rolling in for Kinet only after first prototypes are delivered next year.

According to tender requirements, Kinet is set to supply 1,920 Vande Bharat Sleeper coaches to Indian Railways. G. MOORTHY

Indo-Russian venture to set up 3 depots for Vande Bharat project

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI



The joint venture Kinet is set to supply 1,920 Vande Bharat sleeper coaches to Indian Railways. G. MOORTHY

training for production staff are progressing to ensure operational readiness," TMH CEO Kirill Lipa told *The Hindu* in an interview.

Following Western sanctions due to the Russia-Ukraine War, Mr. Lipa said that India has emerged as a key hub for development and procurement of spare parts. "The supply chain team is collaborating closely with Indian suppliers to ensure the project's success. A number of contracts have been signed al-

FAITH

God will protect devotees

God saves us from multiple difficulties, just as a mother would when caring for her child. Sri Krishna has vowed to protect Pandavas at all costs because they astutely followed the path of Dharma. Yudhisthira says Sri Krishna is the Dharma who holds the universe.

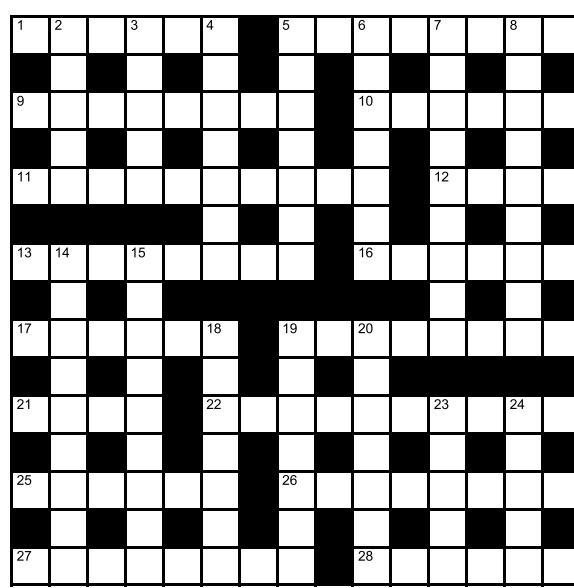
Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that God has strived hard to uphold Dharma by Himself and sent various noblemen. Following their words and advice will help people cross hurdles. They are to be respected, as their advice will be nectar-like.

The conversation between Lord Krishna and Arjuna gave us the Bhagavad Gita; between Bhishma and Yudhisthira gave us Sri Vishnu Sahasranamam; between sage Sukha and King Parikshit gave us Srimad Bhagavatam; between Parasara and Maithreya gave us Vishnu Puranam and the conversation between Nammazhwar and Maduravani gave us Thiruvalmozhி.

The wicked Duryodhana performed a yaga to kill the Pandavas when they were in forest, and he sent a ghost to execute it. The ghost would kill only those who were alive. Sensing this, Sri Krishna instructed Lord Yama Dharmaraja to take the form of a yaksha. The yaksha intercepted all the Pandavas who came to drink water in a pond, except Yudhisthira, and turned them dead. Before Yudhisthira came in search of his brothers, the ghost came over there to kill the Pandavas but went off, seeing them already dead. Finally, Yudhisthira arrived and retrieved his brothers by answering the yaksha's questions. It is called Yaksha Prasna, a treasure trove containing righteous principles. Thus, Lord Krishna saved Pandavas from being killed.

TH CROSSWORD + 14348

(set by Pixie Dust)



Across

- Catch burn working! (6)
- Expert's loved one gets caught in anticipation (8)
- Bully's trap on hindsight, inspired change of heart (8)
- Boy breaking a path overseas (6)
- Boycouting ingot, crept all over the place (10)
- Interested in mint olive sandwiches? (4)

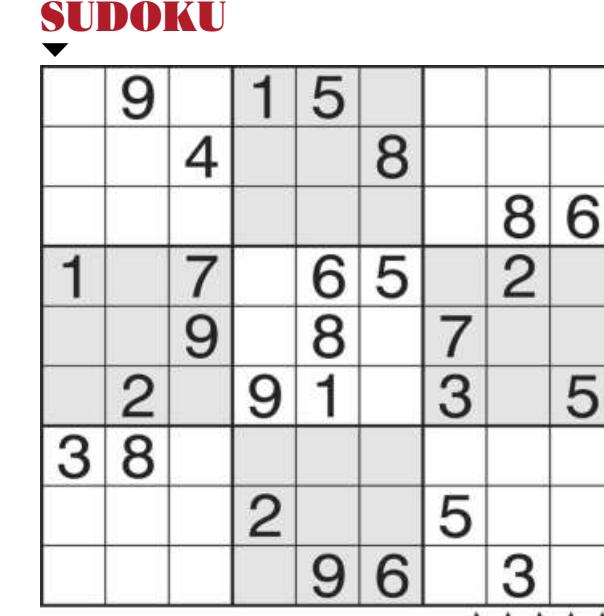
Down

- A little political group welcoming one and all (9)
- Smith & Co, start to meet small boat transporter? (9)
- One man and son struggling to get sex education? (2,5,2)
- Spots a colonist running wild (9)
- First petition to restrict love in Lucknow? (7)
- Questions partner as wrens fly away (7)
- Anaesthetics for digits (7)
- Chased and tracked down missing model (5)
- Moderate student's stand (5)

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



SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

V	M	S	F	A	L			
E	L	E	G	O	A			
R	J	U	R	A	C			
W	O	B	B	D	O			
D	I	S	N	A	A			
P	E	T	M	E	P			
T	R	E	C	R	E			
E	U	E	E	P	R			
E	M	U	D	I	S			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

IN BRIEF



Honda introduces third-gen Amaze in India at ₹7.99 lakh

Japanese carmaker Honda plans to introduce three new models by the 2026-27 fiscal in India as it looks to tap growth opportunities in the robustly growing SUV segment, according to its India president and CEO Takuwa Tsunuma. The company on Wednesday introduced the third generation of its compact sedan Amaze, priced between ₹7.99 lakh and ₹10.89 lakh (ex-showroom). The company currently sells just one SUV model – Elevate – in India market.

L&T Technology Services bags \$50-mn North America order

L&T Technology Services (LTTS) said it had secured a \$50-million deal from a global network solutions firm to provide product integration services in North America. This multi-year agreement would enable the company to provide comprehensive support for the client's advanced networking solutions, ensuring seamless integration and success for customers across the North American region, the technology services firm said on Wednesday.

ICRA expects status quo on rates as MPC begins meeting

Amid a growth slowdown, with GDP rising just 5.4% in Q2, and high inflation reported in October, the RBI's monetary policy committee began its three-day meeting on Wednesday. "With CPI inflation having breached the 6% upper limit of the medium term range of 2-6% in October, we anticipate status quo in spite of the GDP growth print for Q2 under shooting MPC's expectations," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist and Head of Research & Outreach, ICRA.

Amazon launches new AI models

Sobhana K. Nair
LAS VEGAS



Amazon introduced a range of artificial intelligence foundational models at its flagship annual event Amazon Web Services (AWS) re: Invent, called Nova, which will allow for text, image and video generation.

It marks Amazon's biggest step towards into the Generative AI space and it is widely believed that it pits them directly against Microsoft, Google, Meta and Open AI, the creator of ChatGPT. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy announced the "Nova" models at the keynote address by AWS CEO Matt Garman on Tuesday morning. Mr. Jassy said that the Nova is a result of demand from developers who wanted "better latency", "lower cost" and ability to fine-tune. These will help customers automate their services.

The AWS is providing a range of Nova models to cover the entire delta of utility and price range. Four of these models - micro, lite, pro and premier are text generating models. In addition to those, it also introduced image-generation model Nova Canvas and video generating model Nova Reel.

"Inside Amazon, we have about 1,000 generative AI applications in motion, and we have had a bird's eye view of what application builders are still grappling with," Rohit Prasad senior Vice President of Amazon Artificial General Intelligence said. "Our new Amazon Nova models are intended to help with these challenges for internal and external builders and provide compelling intelligence and content generation while also delivering meaningful progress."

Andy Jassy

on latency, cost-effectiveness, customisation, information grounding and agentic capabilities," Mr. Prasad added.

There is a growing demand for video generation from a single image or text prompt. Many platforms including OpenAI already offer it. Amazon on Tuesday said its Nova Reel software allows users to make six-second videos that can be useful for companies to display their products on their website or marketplace. Videos of up to two minutes will be available in the coming months.

AWS is projecting the Amazon Nova creative generation models as tools to barriers for sellers and advertisers. Giving an example, on AWS blog, the company shared a video advertisement for a fictional boxed pasta brand. In the whimsical "Pasta City", buildings are sculpted from towering tubes of cannelloni noodles, the neighbourhood is sprinkled with Italian spice landscaping and the streets are lined with marinara sauce. The 18-second video is being shown as a sampler of what advertisers can do with the tool.

AWS CEO Matt Garman also announced a host of new capabilities for Amazon Bedrock, one of its flagship products.

(The writer is at AWS re:Invent 2024 in Las Vegas at the invitation of AWS)

Nov. services activity cools a bit

Optimism levels among firms surveyed for the HSBC India Services PMI improve to their best since May, hiring ramped up at the largest scale since survey began in 2005; service providers more confident regarding the year-ahead outlook

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Services sector growth in India's private sector receded a tad in November, but new international orders expanded at the fastest pace in three months and players reported 'an unprecedented' uptick in new hires of permanent and temporary staff, as per a private gauge based on a survey of 400-odd firms.

The surveyed firms also reported an intensification of price pressures as input costs rose to the greatest extent in 15 months, led by



Cost surge: Pricing pressures intensified as input costs rose to the greatest extent in 15 months. REUTERS

higher food and labour costs, while firms ramped up selling prices at the fastest rate in close to 12 years. Some firms suggested the price hikes they im-

plemented were supported by rosy demand.

The HSBC India Services Business Activity Index in November came in at 58.4, marginally lower than the

58.5 reading in October. A reading of over 50 indicates an expansion.

"While growth of new orders and output moderated a bit from October, firms reported that new export orders increased at a solid rate, though this was still well below the expansions seen around the middle of this year. Firms that reported improved order books cited gains from clients in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the U.S.

"During November, services sector employment notably grew at the fastest pace ever recorded since this survey began in 2005. Service providers were also more confident regarding the year-ahead outlook.

Overall, private sector services and manufacturing firms' saw growth slowdown in November with the HSBC India Composite Output Index down to 58.6 from 59.1 in October.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,956	0.14
US Dollar	84.75	-0.08
Gold	78,850	-0.18
Brent oil	73.58	-0.10

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2494.75	-19.45
Adani Ports	1269.55	-19.10
Apollo Hosp.	7232.35	105.80
Asian Paints	2459.45	-9.95
Axis Bank	1159.45	-1.05
Bajaj Auto	8999.15	-162.65
Bajaj Finance	1628.10	-21.00
Bharat Elec.	312.85	0.75
Bharti Airtel	1584.10	-36.45
BPCL	293.65	-0.60
Brilliant Ind.	4851.85	-58.05
Cipla	1500.85	-33.05
Coal India	416.65	-5.45
D Dr Reddys Lab.	1215.55	-8.95
Eicher Motors	4797.05	-47.30
Grasim Ind.	2717.30	3.30
HCL Tech.	1897.65	6.90
HFDC Bank	1860.10	33.80
HFDC Life	650.25	16.25
Hero MotoCorp	4635.85	-61.15
Hindalco	663.05	-4.50
Hind Unilever	2464.50	-18.35
ICICI Bank	1316.05	7.65
IndusInd Bank	998.85	0.50
Infosys	1889.25	2.85
ITC	467.10	-5.45
JSW Steel	994.85	-3.95
Kotak Bank	1757.50	7.60
L&T	3789.90	2.85
M&M	3031.75	4.45
Maruti Suzuki	1129.85	-149.40
NestleIndia	2257.80	-3.90
NTPC	372.75	5.30
ONGC	260.70	-1.65
PowerGrid Corp	325.05	-4.60
Reliance Ind.	1308.95	-14.35
SBI Life	1452.60	11.65
State Bank.	859.70	5.75
Shriram Finance	3132.30	-23.25
Ltd.	1800.20	0.15
Tata Consumer Product	961.20	6.20
Tata Motors	788.10	-13.15
Tata Steel	145.85	-0.69
TCS	4354.40	51.65
Tech Mahindra	1759.60	10.10
Titan	3364.45	31.70
Trent Ltd.	6823.80	-17.55
UltraTech Cement	11766.80	-85.55
Wipro	294.00	2.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.54	84.86
Euro	88.81	89.16
British Pound	107.12	107.53
Japanese Yen (100)	56.03	56.24
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.67
Swiss Franc	95.41	95.78
Singapore Dollar	62.80	63.05
Canadian Dollar	60.11	60.34
Malaysian Ringgit	18.98	19.06
Australian Dollar	54.22	54.43

Source: Indian Bank

Trump tariffs an opportunity for India, says NITI CEO

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI



B. V. R. Subrahmanyam

Maintaining that India's relationship with the U.S. is deep and multi-dimensional, NITI Aayog CEO B. V. R. Subrahmanyam said there is going to be a huge disruption in global trade relations because of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's proposal to impose high tariffs on three of its trading partners and this would open up 'huge opportunities' for India.

Mr. Subrahmanyam was talking to reporters at the launch of "Trade Watch Quarterly" report prepared by the NITI Aayog.

He said the domestic in-

dstry should prepare itself to tap the opportunities.

Last week, Mr. Trump announced he would slap 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada and an additional 10% on those from China.

"Whatever [Mr.] Trump has announced so far... I

think there are opportunities for India. We are a man at first slip, the ball is coming in our direction. Are we going to hold it or drop the catch, it's for us to see... and I think, you will see some steps in next few months," he said, adding "the question is if we actually prepare ourselves, it can lead to a massive boom because there is going to be trade diversion."

The relationship with the U.S. is multi-dimensional, he stressed.

According to the NITI Aayog report, in the first quarter of 2024-25, North America accounted for 21% of India's exports followed by the EU at 18.61%.

Apparel GST rejig to hit MSMEs, cost jobs

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) is concerned over the rate-rationalisation proposal of the Group of Ministers led by Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary involving 'significant changes to GST rates' for the apparel sector.

As per the recommendations, while readymade garments priced up to ₹1,500 will continue to attract 5% GST, those costing ₹1,500-₹10,000 will face a sharp surge in GST with a levy of 18%. Apparel worth more than ₹10,000 may face 28% tax.

This risks severely disrupting formal retail sector driving consumers and businesses towards informal channels. The textile industry could face potential one lakh job losses," it said.

"This could lead to closures of MSMEs in our sector," said Santosh Kataria, president, CMAI.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA200ZSC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)
BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for "Replacement of existing HT/LT overhead bare conductors by HT covered conductor and LT AB Cable in densely populated areas with smaller width roads and other hazardous locations on item wise fixed price Rate Contract in Doddaballapura Urban & Rural Sub Division Jurisdiction of Nelamangala Division of Bangalore Rural Circle, BESCOM for a period of One Year under Total Turnkey Basis."

Enquiry Nos.	Description
BESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT 279	Doddaballapura Urban Sub-Division
BESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT 280	Doddaballapura Rural Sub-Division

Bid Documents available: From 06.12.2024, Last Date for Bid Submission: 06.01.2025, 17:00Hrs. Opening of Bid Documents: 07.01.2025, 17:15 Hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP Portal Web-site <https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk Contact Numbers: +91-80460 10000, +91-80689 48777 or e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM, 4th Floor, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 560001, Ph. No.: 080 - 2254939.

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

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For any enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

BEIRUT

Death toll from Israel-Hezbollah war stands at 4,047, says Lebanon



The death toll in Lebanon in more than a year of war between Israel and Hezbollah has reached 4,047 people, most of them since a September escalation, authorities said on Wednesday. 316 children and 790 women were among the dead. On the Israeli side, authorities reported at least 82 soldiers and 47 civilians dead. AFP

BANGKOK

Second major Myanmar rebel group calls for talks with junta



A second major Myanmar ethnic rebel group has said it is ready for Beijing-mediated talks with the junta to end more than a year of renewed fighting. The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army has fought the junta for more than a decade for autonomy for the Kokang ethnic minority in northern Shan State. AFP

PARIS

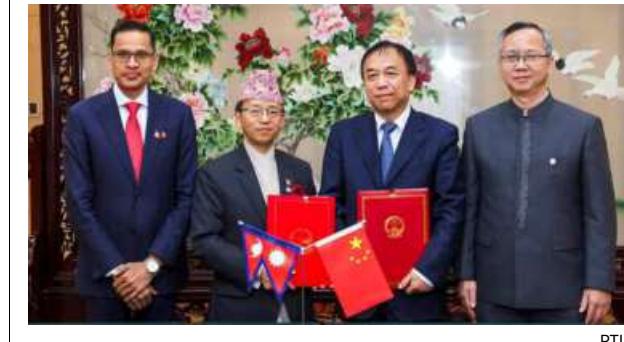
Iran frees Nobel winner for three weeks on medical grounds



Iranian authorities freed Nobel peace prize Narges Mohammadi from prison for three weeks on medical grounds, a move supporters decried as "too little too late" with the Nobel committee urging a permanent release. Her 18-year-old son said he had been able to speak by phone to his mother for the first time in two years. AFP

BEIJING

Nepal and China sign a deal on BRI cooperation framework



Nepal and China on Wednesday signed the much-awaited Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Cooperation Framework, an agreement which is expected to pave the way for the implementation of the BRI projects. The agreement was inked during Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's official visit to China. PTI

After setbacks, Syrian troops launch offensive against militants in Hama

Hama, strategically located in central Syria, is key to safeguarding the capital and seat of power, Damascus; compared to the battle in Aleppo where militants faced little resistance from the regime troops, the battle around Hama has been fierce

Agence France-Presse

BEIRUT

Syrian government forces launched a counterattack against Islamist militants around the key city of Hama on Wednesday after suffering a string of staggering losses, a war monitor said.

Hama is strategically located in central Syria and for the Army, it is key to safeguarding the capital and seat of power Damascus.

The fighting around Hama follows a lightning offensive by the militants who in a matter of days seized swathes of territory



Line of duty: Mourners carry the body of Syrian photojournalist Anas Alkharboutli during his funeral in Idlib on Wednesday. AFP

from President Bashar al-Assad's control.

Key in the rebels' successes since the start of the offensive last week has

been the takeover of Aleppo, Syria's second largest city, which in more than a decade had never fallen from government hands.

While the advancing militants found little resistance earlier in their offensive, the fighting around Hama has been especially fierce.

Hama massacre

The city was the scene of a massacre by the Army under Mr. Assad's father in the 1980s targeting people accused of loyalty to the banned Muslim Brotherhood. Decades on, the scars of the massacre that sent thousands of Syrians into exile have yet to heal, and Hama was the site of some of the biggest protests early on in the pro-democracy revolt that erupted

in 2011 and sparked the civil war. By Tuesday, rebel forces had reached the gates of Hama city, as the fighting sparked a wave of displacement.

According to the Britain-based Observatory, "regime forces launched a counterattack" in Hama province on Wednesday with air support on the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) rebels and allied factions.

Government forces pushed HTS away from the provincial capital by about 10 km, the Observatory said, reporting fierce battles as rebels failed in their bid to capture an area near the city.

Tensions flared again on

Agence France-Presse

MANILA

The Philippines said the China Coast Guard fired water cannon and "sideswiped" a government vessel on Wednesday during a maritime patrol near the disputed Scarborough Shoal, after Beijing said it had "exercised control" over the ship.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, brushing off rival claims from other countries – including the Philippines – and an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

Vessels from the two sides have clashed frequently in the past year, resulting in injuries and damage.



Collision course: A Chinese coast guard vessel, left, fires water cannon at a Philippine vessel in the South China Sea. AP

Wednesday, with Manila releasing a video appearing to show a Chinese coast guard ship in the South China Sea firing a torrent of water at the Philippines fisheries department vessel BRP Datu Pagbuaya.

The water cannon was aimed "directly at the vessel's navigational anten-

nas", the Philippine coast guard and fisheries ministry said in a joint statement.

China's coast guard said in an initial statement that Philippine ships "came dangerously close" and that its crew's actions had been "in accordance with the law".

Yunus involved in genocide, places of worship are under attack in Bangladesh: Hasina

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

In her first public address after fleeing Bangladesh four months back, ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has mounted a stinging attack on the country's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, accusing him of perpetrating "genocide" and failing to protect minorities including Hindus.

In the remarks delivered virtually to her supporters at an event in New York, Ms. Hasina, now living in India, also claimed that there were plans to kill her and her sister Sheikh Rehana just like their father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in 1975.

'Power-hungry' Describing Mr. Yunus as "power-hungry", Ms. Hasina alleged that the places of worship in Bangladesh are under attack and the current dispensation has totally failed to deal with the situation.

Ms. Hasina was speaking to supporters of her Awami League party at the event organised on Sunday to mark "Bijoy Dibos" or Victory Day that falls on December 16.

Though Ms. Hasina made several statements in the last few months, it was her first public address after taking shelter, said an expert closely tracking developments in Bangladesh.

"The armed protesters were directed towards Ganabhaban (official residence of the Prime Minister). If the security guards opened fire, many lives would have been lost. It was a matter of 25-30 minutes, and I was forced to leave. I told them not to fire no matter what happened," Ms. Hasina said.



Sheikh Hasina

said I should leave," she said.

The Awami League leader has been staying in India since she left Bangladesh following massive anti-government protests in July and August.

Strained ties The relations between India and Bangladesh came under strain after the interim government headed by Mr. Yunus came to power.

India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country.

There have been spate of attacks on minorities including on the Hindu community in Bangladesh in the last few months.

India last week said the interim government in Bangladesh must live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities as it expressed serious concern over the "surge" of extremist rhetoric and increasing incidents of violence against Hindus.

New Delhi also hoped that the case relating to Mr. Das, arrested on a charge of sedition, will be dealt with in a just, fair and transparent manner.

Minorities' cause "What is this persecution of minorities for? Why are they being ruthlessly persecuted and attacked," she asked.

"People no longer have the right to justice...I never even got the time to re-sign," she said.

Ms. Hasina said she left Bangladesh in August with an aim to stop the violence. However, the situation has deteriorated further, she said.

"When people were dying indiscriminately, I de-

Political parties ask Yunus to hold early elections

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Several political parties in Bangladesh on Wednesday urged Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus to hold early election in the country. Mr. Yunus called the meeting seeking suggestions from political parties on how to counter what was described as "aggression against the nation". The meeting, however, did not include the Awami League and its allies.

"Electoral process has its own dynamics and announce-

Chief Adviser Yunus had called a meeting that did not include the Awami League and its allies

ment of election will activate public enthusiasm. That will be helpful for the country and that is why we raised the matter though it was not on the main agenda of today's meeting with [the] Chief Adviser," said Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, standing committee member of the Ban-

gladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to The Hindu over the phone from Dhaka.

Since taking power in August, Mr. Yunus has met with the political parties on multiple occasions but this is the first time such a large meeting was held under the interim government.

Mr. Yunus had promised to hold consultation with political parties for shaping the path ahead for election but it is not yet clear if a future election would include the Awami League and its allies who were in

power till August 5.

The meeting was called to seek suggestions from political parties about what strategy the interim government should adopt to steer Bangladesh-India relationship, especially in the backdrop of vandalism at the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Tripura's capital Agartala.

Following the meeting, adviser of law affairs Asif Nazrul said: "Apart from the fascist Awami League and their allies, all political parties of Bangladesh participated in the meeting. There were difference of opinions among us but we were united in our approach to safeguard independence, sovereignty and honour of Bangladesh."

supporter of the Sheikh Hasina government is unable to come to terms with the changes that have taken place in Bangladesh," said Mr. Chowdhury.

Telangana Tourism Development Corporation LTD				
"Tourism House" # 3-5-891, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029				
e-procurement Tender Notice No.03/EE/SD/TGTD/2024-25, Dt.04.12.2024				
Sl. No	Name of the Work	Est. Cost Rs. In Lakhs	Bid downloading Start date	
1	2	3	4	
1.	Selection of Agency under Swadesha Darshan 2.0 Scheme for Development, Operations, Maintenance and Management of "Eco-Tourism Zone at Ananthagiri, Vizirabad District, Telangana State.	3800.60	06.12.2024	

Bids are invited on e-Procurement platform from eligible contractors. Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in
R.O. No.: 754-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer, TGTD Ltd, Hyderabad.

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT	
Bid Identification No.CCEKC - 29 / 2024-25	
Letter No.5603, dt.26.11.2024	
1. No. of the work	4 number Building Works
2. Estimated cost	Rs.116.39 Lakhs to Rs.279.06 Lakhs.
3. Class of Contractor	"B" Class & "A" Class
4. Period of completion	09 (Nine) Calendar Months to 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	From 11.00 Hours of 06.12.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 20.12.2024
6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	16.00 Hours of 20.12.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	11.30 Hours on 21.12.2024
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
B-723:
Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.
OPR-3403/1/2024/2425

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike	
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Mahadevapura Zone, Bengaluru.	
No. SADH/MZ/TENDER/04/2024-25 Date: 04.12.2024	
INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)	
(Two Cover System) Through GOK KPP Portal only	
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Mahadevapura Zone (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl. No	Name of the Work
1.	Providing Fencing/Chain Link Fencing to PHC Hospital Park in Mahadevapura Zone. Amount (in ₹) 1,64,29,609.15/- EMD (in ₹) 2,46,44/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Notification: 06.12.2024. (2) Tender can be downloaded from: 07.12.2024. (3) Pre-bid Meeting : 10.12.2024 at 11:30 a.m. (4) Tender Closing Date : 13.12.2024 at 4:30 p.m. (5) Technical bid opening date : 16.12.2024 at 4:30 p.m. (6) Financial bid opening date : After Approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS CIRCLE, MADURAI TENDER NOTICE	

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SUPER MOVES

Team doing a great job, Gukesh on the preparation for openings



After the eighth game of the World chess championship against Ding Liren, challenger D. Gukesh praised the fine work his team put in his preparation for the openings. "They have been doing a great job, not only Grzegorz Gajewski, but other team members as well," he said. "We managed to surprise him in the openings..."

BACK-UP

Ding reveals his funny side again, says his mother is doing her job



Ding Liren had reporters in splits at the World championship press conference. Asked about the role of his relatives that have accompanied him to Singapore, he said, "My mother gives me food sometimes," he said. "So she is doing her job." Gukesh acknowledged the help received from his father Rajinikanth, an ENT surgeon, who travels with him.

FILLING LARGE SHOES

Pant's performances in Tests have been sensational, says Dravid



The void left by M.S. Dhoni's retirement in Indian cricket lineup was quickly filled by Rishabh Pant, who embraced Test cricket like a "duck to water", feels former head coach Rahul Dravid. "I'm not saying he's replaced [Dhoni], but certainly in Test cricket, his performances have been absolutely sensational," Dravid told Star Sports.

GAME-CHANGER

Gagan sparks Yoddhas' revival against Titans in exciting match



UP Yoddhas and Telugu Titans were involved in a keen battle before the former won 36-33 in a PKL 11 match in Pune on Wednesday. Yoddhas, trailing at half-time, roared back through Gagan Gowda (15 points) and Bhavani Rajput (6). Maninder (11) powered Bengal Warriors to a 39-32 win over Haryana Steelers in the second match.

The battle of attrition continues as Game 8 ends in action-packed draw

Gukesh misses another opportunity to force a win; Ding displays his resilience in a roller-coaster; match tied 4-4 with six games remaining

P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

There has been no decisive result since Game 3. But nobody is complaining. Ding Liren and D. Gukesh are playing some exciting chess in their World championship match here in this small island of Sentosa.

The eighth game was drawn on Wednesday. So, after the fifth straight draw, the score is 4-4 at World Resorts Sentosa. The one who moves to 7.5 points will be the champion. Six games of classical chess remain.

Game 8 may not have lasted as long as Game 7 - it was a five-and-a-half-hour thriller and 72 moves were made - but there was plenty of action. As in the seventh game, Gukesh had an excellent opportunity to force a win, but as in the seventh game, he missed.

Ding showed his resourcefulness yet again, and even had his younger rival in trouble. But, Gukesh de-



Intense affair: Ding and Gukesh were involved in their fifth successive draw. FIDE

fended well enough. He also showed his willingness to strive hard, letting go of the chance for an easier draw, which he could have got by choosing three-fold repetition. He had done the same thing in the sixth game.

The eighth game saw the English Opening, but Gukesh seemed to be prepared for it, as he played his moves quickly. White, on the other hand, needed

much more time to respond. At one stage, he had to make some 21 moves in 33 minutes, while Gukesh had more than an hour.

The Chennai lad could be ruining his 26th move, though. He missed the opportunity to create a potentially winning position by taking the wrong knight to the 'c5' square. Now his advantage had disappeared, and just two moves later, following an

unwise bishop move, the tables turned.

It was now Ding who could put Gukesh under real pressure, but he too erred with a knight move. He manoeuvred the knight to the wrong square, 'd4', instead of the ideal 'e1'. He may have gone an exchange up, but gone was the chance for a possibly decisive advantage.

On the 41st move, Gukesh averted the three-fold

repetition with a queen check. His decision to avoid a draw and play on was met with cheers by the audience watching the action on the big screen from the fan zone, but it took most people by surprise.

American Grandmaster Maurice Ashley, who moderates the press conference, admitted he had begun making his way to the media room and had to retreat.

GAME 8: MOVES

Ding vs Gukesh

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Bb4 3. Nd5 Be7 4. Nf3 d6 5. g3 c6 6. Nxe7 Nxe7 7. Bg2 f6 8. O-O Be6 9. b3 d5 10. Ba3 O-O 11. Rc1 a5 12. Ne1 Re8 13. f4 exf4 14. Rxf4 dx4 15. bxc4 Ng6 16. Re4 Na6 17. Nc2 Qc7 18. Nd4 Bf7 19. d3 Ne5 20. Nf3 Nd7 21. Rx e8+ Rx e8 22. Rb1 b5 23. cxb5 Qb6+ 24. Kf1 cxb5 25. Bb2 Bxa2 26. Bd4



- 26... Nac5 27. Rc1 Bb3 28. Qe1 Be6 29. Qf2 Rc8 30. Be3 Rc7 31. Nd4 Bf7 32. Nc6 Rxcc6 33. Bxc6 Qxc6 34. Bxc5 h6 35. Ke1 b4 36. Qd4 Ne5 37. Kd2 Qg2 38. Qf2 Qd5 39. Qd4 Qg2 40. Qf2 Qd5 41. Qd4 Qa2+ 42. Rc2 Qe6 43. Qd8+ Kh7 44. Qxa5 b3 45. Rc1 Qd5 46. Qb4 Qg2 47. Qe4+ Qxe4 48. dx4 b2 49. Rb1 Ba2 50. Rxb2 Nc4+ 51. Kc3 Nxb2.

Game drawn

The game, however, was drawn 10 moves later, after the queens were exchanged, and an ending featuring opposite-coloured bishops.

Just want to be in the playing XI and bat for the team, says Rahul

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

Australia is the land where it all began for K.L. Rahul. Back in the December of 2014, the Karnataka star made his Test debut at Melbourne and has had quite the ride over the last decade. Be it strong limbs and fractured bones or hundreds and noughts, Rahul has seen them all.

With vital runs (26 and 77) at Perth, the batter is now set for the second Test here from Friday. Rahul was all about the measured answer while addressing the media at the Adelaide Oval's basement hall on Wednesday afternoon.

However, the million-dollar question about whether he will open, was dealt with a cryptic response: "I have been told (about where I will bat), but I have also been told not to share it. You will have to wait for day one (of the Test) or maybe when the captain (Rohit Sharma) comes tomorrow (Thursday)."

Evolving batting positions, ranging from opening to the number six slot, have shadowed Rahul's decade-long International ca-



New challenge: Rahul will be looking forward to his first pink-ball Test. AFP

reer. He has made his peace with it: "I just want to be in the playing XI and bat for the team. Early on, when I was asked to bat in different places, it was a challenge mentally. But now that I have played in ODIs and in Test cricket, and all over the place, it has given me an idea as to how I need to manage my innings, especially the start. The first 30-40 balls matter, if I can manage that, then everything else seems like regular batting."

"I shared whatever I have learnt from playing in Australia and facing the new ball. I saw a little bit of myself (in Jaiswal) like when I was here 10 years ago, opening the batting for the first time."

"A lot of doubts, a lot of nerves. A lot happens in your head. The only thing that you can do is to slow things, try and take a few deep breaths and focus on one thing. And that's what was passed on to me by my then opening partner Murali Vijay. So I just passed

that on to Jaiswal," Rahul said.

The imminent fixture at Adelaide will also pit Rahul against the pink ball: "This will be my first pink-ball Test. It is a bit different to the red ball in terms of how well you see and pick the ball from the bowler's hand. That's been a challenge. Hopefully by the time the game starts, we will have had enough practice sessions."

The batter hopes that his latest sojourn in Australia would help him chart a fresh path. "Planning to get a tattoo after the Sydney Test," he said, and it is another ritual he indulges in while being Down Under.

Adelaide pitch will have something for quicks and spinners: Head curator Hough

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

The guardians of the 22-yards that matter in cricket, are often secretive about the surfaces they offer. The Adelaide Oval's head curator Damian Hough, while believing in the mystique of a pitch, still held a mirror to the turf that would play host to the second Test, a day-and-night fixture, between Australia and India here from Friday.

Talking to the media on a sunny Wednesday morning, Damian said: "We are happy about where we are today, the compaction and the moisture is where we want it to be. You do adapt every year, get some finer details in. It is coarse matted grass, even grass cover, good with regard to moisture, but dry and hard, so something where the quicks will get a bit out of it, spinners will be able to get some light turn and bounce, but also important for us to get some partnerships with the players and the batters to be able to play their shots."

As for the granular detail about the grass, Da-

'Hazlewood will be missed but Australia has enough talent'

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

From being among the ground staff tending to the pitch at the Adelaide Oval to being a champion spinner excelling on its surface, Nathan Lyon has traversed an incredible journey. Back in a familiar environment, Lyon was at ease while also promoting his sport-for-all initiative, and these words were etched both in English and in Braille upon his bat.

Raising the bat, he wryly said: "Well, this is a first for me, raising the bat." After the laughter subsided, he spoke about the need to promote sport across varied classes and categories, especially for the physically challenged.

Talk then veered towards the second Test against India and Lyon stressed that Australia will begin afresh at the venue: "We have had a break and in a five-Test series there is always an opportunity to comeback. India is a world class team and it is not just about Jasprit Bumrah and Virat Kohli, all their players are excellent and we are prepared."

Admitting that an injured Josh Hazlewood will



be missed, Lyon felt that the host had enough talent to move ahead. He also praised the depth in India's squad and claimed that he was not surprised by Nitish Kumar's success in the first Test at Perth: "We know that all their players are good and his performance wasn't a surprise."

As for the pink-ball Test's pitch, Lyon said: "It is one of those world class surfaces and it is good for the spinners too." When probed about the ball, he quipped: "Mate, be it a red ball, white ball or pink ball, it is all the same."

IN BRIEF



Iran crushes India's hopes in Asian women's handball

Iran came up with a spirited performance to beat host India 32-30, after leading 16-15 at half time in a group-B league match of the 20th Asian women's handball championship at the KD Jadhav arena of the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday.

With Japan as the formidable team in the group, the loss to Iran was a knock-out punch for India's aspirations to make the semifinals and qualify for the World Championship next year.

The results (league): Group A: Korea bt Kazakhstan 30-20; China bt Singapore 47-10. **Group B:** Japan bt Hong Kong 47-6; Iran bt India 32-30.

Nabin and Deepak power CAG XI into the semifinals

Comptroller and Auditor General XI confirmed its semifinal berth with a 7-3 victory over Central Bureau of Direct Taxes in a quarterfinal league match of the SNBP 60th Nehru hockey tournament at the Shivaji Stadium here on Wednesday. Nabin Kujur (3) and Deepak Malik (2) did the bulk of scoring for the CAG XI.

The results (quarterfinal league): Comptroller and Auditor General XI 7 (Nabin Kujur 3, Deepak Malik 2, Bharath Kuratkoti, NM Surya) bt Central Bureau of Direct Taxes 3 (Pranam Gowda, Vikash Choudhary, Samir Khan). RSPB 4 (Gursahibjit Singh 2, Pratap Lakra, Pankaj) bt Army XI 2 (Sumeet Pal, Cyril Lugun).

Coaching debut for Joshna; India's squash team named

India will send an eight-member team for the WSF World squash team championships to be held in Hong Kong from December 9 to 15.

Asian Games medallists and National champions Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu and Joshana Chinappa will be the coaches.

The teams:

Men: Abhay Singh, Velavan Senthilkumar, Veer Chotani, Suraj Chand.

Women: Anahat Singh, Akanksha Salunkhe, Nirupama Dubey, Anjali Semwal.

Real Kashmir shines on at home with win over Delhi FC

Real Kashmir FC continued to shine at home by picking up its second win in three matches, beating Delhi FC 2-1 in their I-League match here on Wednesday. Bouba Aminou (72nd minute) and Lalramdinsanga Ralte (84th) scored for the Snow Leopards while Stephane Samir Binong (89th) pulled one back for Delhi.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia Women vs India Women: 1st ODI, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.50 a.m.

SMAT: JioCinema, 9 a.m.

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

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

Zimbabwe vs Pakistan: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5 p.m.

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

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

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

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

New Zealand vs England: 2nd Test day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Friday)

FC Goa prevails over spirited HFC

V.V. Subrahmanyam

HYDERABAD

FC Goa ensured its head coach Manolo Marquez could celebrate his 100th match as a coach ISL when it scored a 2-0 win over former champion Hyderabad FC at the Gachibowli Stadium here on Wednesday. This also meant HFC's dismal run at home continued since February 2023 – no win in 17 games.

It was Goa which dominated the first 15 minutes and made quite a few forays into the rival citadel with Ayush Dev Chhetri, Udanta Singh and Armando Sadiku working in tandem.



Closing it out: Guarrotxena of FC Goa seals the deal against HFC.

FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

But to the credit of HFC defence, it was equal to the task and even changed gears soon thanks to a few smart moves by Edmilson Correia and Ramilchunguha. Substitutes Abhijit and Stephen Goddard looked good once each to score but were off target.

However, it was Goa which shot into the lead thanks to a superb effort by Mohammad Yasir. He and Stephen Goddard looked good once each to score but were off target.

In the 44th minute, Goa made it 2-0 thanks to an opportunistic goal by Iker Guarrotxena, who latched on to a swift, short pass from Armando and then saw his left-footer deflect off HFC's Stefan Sapic into the goal.

The result: FC Goa 2 (Udanta Singh 33, Iker Guarrotxena 44) bt HFC 0.

sprinted down the right flank and essayed a beautiful through pass to Udanta Singh on left-corner and he dodged past a couple of defenders to essay a right-footer which caught the HFC goalkeeper Lalbiakhlua Jongte on the wrong foot in the 33rd minute.

In the 44th minute, Goa made it 2-0 thanks to an opportunistic goal by Iker Guarrotxena, who latched on to a swift, short pass from Armando and then saw his left-footer deflect off HFC's Stefan Sapic into the goal.

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Sonmez helps Eagles soar; Strikers in smashing form

Sports Bureau

MUMBAI

World No. 90 Zeynep Sonmez played a significant role in Yash Mumbai Eagles' 54-46 victory over Rajasthan Rangers in the Tenis Premier League at the CCI here on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old from Turkey won her singles match 17-8 against Cristina Dinu and partnered Jeevan Nedunczezhian for an entertaining 15-10 victory over Rohan Bopanna and Cristina in mixed doubles.

Hyderabad Strikers, with a 55-45 win over

Chennai Smashes that took its tally to 112 points, climbed to the top. Vishnu Vardhan played a key role, winning his mixed doubles and doubles matches.

The results (league):

Bengaluru SG Pipers bt Bengal Wizards 52-48 (Gabriela Knutson lost to Kamilla Rakhimova 11-14; Bernabe Miralles lost to Niki Poonacha 12-13; Gabriela & Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Kamilla & Sriram Balaji 14-11; Bernabe & Anirudh bt Balaji & Poonacha 15-10).

Gujarat Panthers bt Punjab Patriots 54-46 (Ekaterina Kazionova bt Akanksha Nitture 16-9; Sumit Nagal lost to S

Mukund 10-15; Kazionova & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Akanksha & Saketh Myneni 15-10; Sumit & Vijay lost to Mukund & Saketh 10-15).

Hyderabad Strikers bt Chennai Smashes 55-45 (Harriet Dart bt Conny Perrin 14-11; Benjamin Lock lost to Hugo Gaston 11-14; Darrt & Vishnu Vardhan bt Rithvik Bolipalli & Conny 16-9; Benjamin & Vishnu bt Gaston & Rithvik 14-11).

Yash Mumbai Eagles bt Rajasthan Rangers 54-46 (Zeynep Sonmez bt Cristina Dinu 17-8; Karan Singh lost to Arthur Fery 11-14; Zeynep & Jeevan Nedunczezhian bt Cristina & Rohan Bopanna 15-10; Karan & Jeevan lost to Arthur & Bopanna 11-14).

Girls: Tamil Nadu 73 (Jefrin 16, Sumitra Devi 15, Angelina Arun George 14; Kerla 62 (Artika 25, Vaisha 15); Karnataka 77 (Nithi Umesh 16, Tanushree Taum 16, Deepika 15, Mahek Sharma 11) bt Maharashtra 61 (Aarya Phatangare 25, Reva Kulkarni 17).



On the attack: Vaibhav toyed with the UAE bowlers. AP

Suryavanshi powers India into semifinals of U-19 Asia Cup

Press Trust of India

SHARJAH

₹1.10 crore, becoming the youngest pick in the league's history.

While left-hander Suryavanshi had three hits to the fence as well as one over it, Mhatre struck four boundaries and as many sixes during his knock. The majority of the 13-year-old's sixes came in the wide midwicket region.

India had started its campaign on a disappointing note, losing to Pakistan by 43 runs in its group opener before thrashing minnows Japan by 211 runs.

Meets Sri Lanka
India will play Group B top-performing Sri Lanka in the semifinals while Group A leader Pakistan will be up against Bangladesh on Friday.

Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka were unbeaten in the group stages.

The scores: UAE 137 in 44 overs (Rayan 35, Yudhajit Guha 3/15) lost to India 143/0 in 16.1 overs (Vaibhav 76 n.o., Ayush 67 n.o.).

Taijul spins Bangladesh to victory

Associated Press

KINGSTON

Bangladesh won a Test in the Caribbean for the first time in 15 years by beating the West Indies by 101 runs at Sabina Park on Tuesday.

The scores: Bangladesh 164 & 268 (Jaker 91, Shadman 64, Jayden Seales 4/5) bt West Indies 146 & 185 in 50 overs (Cart 40, Hodge 55, Taijul 5/50).

TN girls meet Karnataka

Sports Bureau

KOLKATA

Title holder Tamil Nadu and Karnataka set up a repeat of last year's girls' final in the National youth basketball championships at the Sabuj Sathi Indoor Stadium, Howrah, on Wednesday.

Tamil Nadu, which led a keenly fought affair 39-31 at half-time, went on to beat Kerala 73-62 while Karnataka defeated Maharashtra 77-61.

Karnataka's fine day continued as its boys also made it to the summit clash, beating Haryana 84-77 in the semifinal. It will meet defending champion Rajasthan, which cruised past Tamil Nadu 88-54.

The results (semifinals):

Boys: Rajasthan 88 (Piyush Choudhary 25, Bhupendra Singh Rathore 18, Zuben Khan 12) bt Tamil Nadu 54 (Priyadarshan 12, R. Hariram 12); Karnataka 84 (Khushal Singh 28, Adithya Shenoi 11, Samarth Manur 15, Viabhab Gowda 14, Harsh Yatish 11) bt Haryana 77 (Chirag 23, Veer Singh 16, Rahul 16, Shekhar Rathee 15).

Girls: Tamil Nadu 73 (Jefrin 16, Sumitra Devi 15, Angelina Arun George 14; Kerla 62 (Artika 25, Vaisha 15); Karnataka 77 (Nithi Umesh 16, Tanushree Taum 16, Deepika 15, Mahek Sharma 11) bt Maharashtra 61 (Aarya Phatangare 25, Reva Kulkarni 17).

Countries like China and India could be dominant forces

People watch rowing because their countries are racing or because they've done it before. It'd be really nice if clubs like this would have an open day where people can just come and try and see. And then they might think, 'Oh! I like this, I'll give it a go'



DEBASISH BHADURI

INTERVIEW

JACK BEAUMONT

Y.B. Sarangi

Jack Beaumont, the son of Olympian rower Peter Beaumont, may have retired from international rowing after securing a silver medal in men's quad, Great Britain's first ever medal in the boat class, in the delayed Tokyo Olympics, but he still loves sculling for fun.

So, Beaumont, a two-time Olympian representing the Leander Club, grabbed an opportunity to take part in the International Friendship Regatta organised by the Calcutta Rowing Club, a 166-year-old club celebrating its 100 years of its relocation to the iconic Rabindra Sarobar in Kolkata, in late November.

The 31-year-old took some time out to speak to *The Hindu* about different aspects of rowing, including his willingness to coach the Indian rowers. Excerpts:

After the Tokyo Olympics, you quit competitive rowing. Why was that?

I quit international rowing for Great Britain. I still do the odd competition, I now want to row just for fun. I've done years of very hard competition, very committed training and I wanted to do something that was a little bit more casual and more about the community in the sport. I get to have a really amazing community event, visit a place I've never been to before and still row. So it's like all of my favourite things together.

Are you visiting Kolkata for the first time?

Yeah... I actually have an Indian stepfather and some Indian family, but I've never been to India. When I found out about this race, of course, we had to come and see what it was all about.

How do you like the ambience and the water here at the Rabindra Sarobar?

The water's beautiful, the lake's beautiful, really calm water, it's just nice. I'm so interested in the city

because it's so busy, there's so many people, like India is so big and (has got) densely populated places. We eat Indian food in England, but I wanted to eat Indian food in India. It's the same, but different. All of these things are so exciting to try.

How do you look back at your silver medal in Tokyo?

I still pinch myself and think if I'm dreaming, because it was a dream to try and win a medal at the Olympics. It's hard to believe you've actually done this thing. I went to watch the Paris Olympics this year and it was funny to sit there and think three years ago, that was me (on the podium). And we did it. So now I'm so very proud of it.

Also, you achieved that medal during very difficult times, the Games were held during COVID times...

Yeah, and it was a shame, our families could not come and watch. But, also a privilege that we were still able to do when the world was closed. In a way, we were really very lucky to still do it.

How do you compare Great Britain's performance in 2020 and 2024?

There is much improvement. 2020 was very close to being an amazing Olympics for Great Britain. Instead, it was our worst for 40 years (Great Britain was 14th with one silver and one bronze). But a lot of people came fourth, who were very close to third. This time, a lot of people went home from Tokyo angry, trained very hard and came back better (Great Britain was second with three gold, two silver and three bronze). I was very proud of them.

How do you see the overall scenario in rowing because mostly Europe, Australia, New Zealand are dominating. How can it be spread?

Well, I was excited a little bit by China in 2019, 2020, 2021, they started to be quite good. But now it seems like they've dropped off a little bit. It's nice when there's another country winning medals.

Countries like China and India, they have the population, they could be the

dominant forces. They just need to have the knowledge and if they employ some more coaches from New Zealand, Australia, Europe, who have had success, they might help build the culture within the country to actually be at the top.

Rowing is an expensive sport. It's not the one that everyone watches on TV and thinks I want to be (legendary British rower five-time Olympic gold medallist) Steve Redgrave. I was sitting at home thinking 'I want to be David Beckham.'

People watch football, cricket, rugby, they want to be this. Rowing is difficult because it's not the one that people know about. People accidentally start rowing. Maybe, we need to encourage people to (take to rowing), even more in the countries that have had less success.

Rowing is an old sport and it has been there in every Olympics but

still it's not so popular. Why?

The thing is, it's difficult. Like you have to have a lake, you have to have a boat. Everybody knows what it's like to run. Everybody knows what it's like to cycle. Everybody knows what lifting something heavy is like. Everybody knows what playing football is like. But rowing, only rowers know what rowing is like.

People watch it because their countries are racing or because they've done it before. It'd be really nice if clubs like this would have an open day where people can just come and try and see. And then they might think, 'Oh! I like this, I'll give it a go.'

How has the sport been able to sustain its popularity in Europe?

We have smaller countries, so you can have more communities around the country. Very easy to regularly race the

same people. I think, tradition. It's just been often linked with universities or with, in the past, like companies would have a rowing club, a bank would have a rowing club. History has stayed. And then the success, of course, helps. If it's successful, people do it.

Do you think having a good physique also helps in being successful?

It definitely helps. It helps to be tall and strong. But your heart helps a lot too, how much you try. If you can be very determined, if you have a good technique, all those things come together. I beat lots of people who are taller than me. It's not just being taller means better.

Do you have any idea about Indian rowers or Indian rowing?

I've raced against (rowers from) India before. I know there's a guy (Bajrang Lal Takhar) here at the moment who competed in the Beijing Olympics and then he won the (2010) Asian Games. That's pretty amazing. I'd love to see someone do that again.

How can rowing become popular in India?

The most important thing is to just give people opportunities to row. It's such a big country, so many people. Just have some wealthy people or some people, who have companies that can support this, can build a club where young people can come and enjoy the sport. Maybe you can make it easier for people from all backgrounds to come and enjoy the sport. And you will find the people who are good.

Are you open if someone approaches you to coach India or some Indian rowers?

I'd be open to it. Yeah, of course. It'd be an exciting challenge.

Since it's a big country, you may have to go around and find the talent.

Exactly. You'd have to really understand the culture of the country, the place and the challenges that are there. It would be a very difficult job, but it's one with a great opportunity.



How is science affected when companies fund research?

For scientists, the challenge is toeing the line between guarding their trade secrets in the current economy and advocating for transparency and reproducibility. The fundamental tension is that IP necessitates secrecy, whereas, historically, science isn't encouraged to stay behind closed doors

Rohini Subrahmanyam

In May 2024, Google DeepMind released AlphaFold 3, a tool that could predict protein structures. It used an artificial intelligence (AI) model to predict how different proteins were shaped and how they might interact with each other and with DNA, RNA, and other biomolecules of merit. Nobel laureates John Jumper and Demis Hassabis built the new model based on DeepMind's previous versions of the tool, namely AlphaFold and AlphaFold 2. Both those models were released open source, i.e., with their associated programming scripts and inner workings open and transparent to all.

AlphaFold 3 was different: its senior authors didn't release the full code when they published their findings in *Nature*. How exactly the model worked was unclear to scientists who wished to probe deeper. They also couldn't make full use of AlphaFold 3's new abilities because its protein-drug interactions simulator wasn't fully accessible.

Google had a reason to withhold information in the paper. A DeepMind spinoff company called Isomorphic Labs was using AlphaFold 3 to develop its own drugs.

"We have to strike a balance between making sure this is accessible and has an impact in the scientific community as well as not compromising Isomorphic's ability to pursue commercial drug discovery," Pushmeet Kohli, DeepMind's head of AI science and a study co-author, told *Nature* in a news article earlier this year. But many scientists weren't convinced, leading them to sign an open letter saying publishing the paper without the code prevents scientific efforts to reproduce and verify the original findings.

A fundamental tension

The controversy brought a broader conundrum surrounding scientific research today, especially research with commercial potential. Commercialisation is driven by competition and profit, so the creators and/or owners invoke property and patent laws to protect their intellectual property (IP).

The fundamental tension here is that IP necessitates secrecy, whereas, historically, science isn't encouraged to stay behind closed doors. Science progresses when scientists are open and transparent about their work and when their methods and results are reproducible and falsifiable.

"If you make this fantastic discovery and you're the only person in the universe who can do it, nobody cares. It's not helpful for mankind," Benjamin Haibe-Kains, a professor using AI to study cancer at the University of Toronto, said. He openly advocates for scientists to be more open with their software and data when they publish papers based on AI. "How can you advance science if you keep everything closed source? Nobody can see your data. Nobody can see the algorithm. Nobody can see the model, right?"

"As a scientist, there is fundamentally a major conflict between doing things in secret versus advancing science. Those things are incompatible," he added.

Then again, hospitals, research institutes, and universities also need money to operate and hence bank on commercialisation for revenue. "Universities and research institutions are putting us [academics] in a very, very tricky spot," he said. "They actually want us to patent so that we can generate revenue and sustain this research enterprise."

Door half-closed or half-open?

How can scientists toe the line between guarding their trade secrets in the current economy and advocating for transparency and reproducibility?

One option Haibe-Kains suggested, especially for computational scientists, is to publish all the code and details of any algorithm they are working on – but hold on to a premium, ready-to-use version of the software that could be commercialised. With the help of software engineers in his lab, he works on bringing the software to a level that's accessible to a broader group of people, which he then sells.

"Most of the discoveries have been disclosed already; it's just the packaging that I'm selling, right?" Haibe-Kains explained. "That's the way we do it in the lab – we do everything open source at the beginning, and if there is commercial potential, we work on an enterprise version that's more robust and deployable. That added value we keep secret, and that's what we would sell as a



A technician uses a microtome at the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research in Maryland, USA. Intellectual property necessitates secrecy whereas science doesn't, but research institutes also need money to operate. US NCI

product."

"I can do my mission as a scientist, but I can also commercialise and potentially generate revenue that way," he added.

Thomas Hemmerling, MD, a professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the same university, expressed a belief that divulging some of the basic algorithms but holding back some specific source code is a way to strike a balance between the "black box" that comes with full patent protection and scientific transparency.

He also agreed there is always a risk in such cases where someone else could commercialise the published work. But other scientists will at least be able to understand and potentially replicate the findings.

Decency and deals

Hemmerling and his team developed an anaesthesia robot in 2008 that they named "McSleepy" (after Patrick Dempsey's character Derek "McDreamy" Shepherd, in the popular medical TV drama 'Grey's Anatomy'). The robot could autonomously administer drugs to induce general anaesthesia and monitor the effects. The scientists decided to explain the algorithms at work in the robot in detail in their paper.

"Because we described it quite well, certain parts were then put into other automated machines, but they referenced our method. So that's then basically a matter of scientific integrity," Hemmerling said. "If you use somebody else's algorithm, you should at least quote them and say, 'That's based on that machine or on that technology or that finding.'"

But not all scientists have access to large amounts of public funding, which can affect their inclination to be fully open about any research that can be patented. Based on the researchers' financial needs, Hemmerling said the



These firms will fund your research, so you can move it forward, but on the other hand, they will obviously tighten your studies much more into some kind of IP protection, probably more than you want to

closer they are to a commercial product, the fewer details they'd feel comfortable divulging in their paper.

Collaborations with smaller start-ups or large corporations help some researchers get more money for their science. "These [large corporations] will fund your research, so you can move the research forward, but on the other hand, they will obviously tighten your [research] much more into some kind of IP protection, probably more than you want to."

That's the dilemma in front of many researchers around the world.

Some scientists strike deals with the companies: they study and develop a product the way the company likes it. In exchange, the company gives their lab unrestricted funds to continue other avenues of research (in which the company has no say).

"All over the world, there's very little governmental funding to do research," Hemmerling said. "So researchers need to find creative ways to find funding."

I think it's human nature'

More government funding is a way to circumvent the conflict between patented and open science, according to Hemmerling. "At the end of the day, it gives you a different head start. Whenever I have governmental funding, it has secured me funding for a certain time. I

don't have to declare a conflict of interest. Science is just... science – you innovate, and you're free to be creative; you're free to develop anything you want. Whereas if you have company funding, it might limit you to developing certain areas because the company might have a conflicting interest."

The government can also subsidise the costs of products made by companies such that the latter can still hold on to their IP even as the products are available for sale at a lower price. This is what happened with the COVID-19 vaccines made by Moderna and Pfizer.

But according to Haibe-Kains, even with more public funding, universities will still want to continue commercialising some research. "I think it's human nature. If you think you're doing amazing research and you see those industries generating billions of dollars in revenue, you cannot stop universities thinking, 'Oh, maybe I should generate revenue on my own stuff,' right?"

He believes additional funding will help academic researchers breathe a little easier and invest in doing science the right way: by being as open as possible. "It's more a matter of creating the right paradigm so that there is a healthy environment for researchers to do the right thing," Haibe Kains said. "But also, there is a path to commercialisation so that we can generate revenue."

At the end of the day

For researchers working in a company, however, the primary objective is likelier to be to generate revenue, not necessarily to advance science, according to Haibe-Kains. Yet he also said it was unfair that sometimes big companies can blur the lines between industry and academia to their advantage, such as using academic tools like journals to advertise their science and also get away with withholding most of the data.

Thus, to him, the manner of AlphaFold 3's release exposed a deep misalignment of incentives between researchers, journals, and the industry.

Responding to criticism from the academic community, senior authors of the AlphaFold 3 paper had said they would publish their code within six months and did so early in November.

Haibe-Kains said publishing the paper first and fixing it six months later by releasing the full code is still a problematic move.

"But look, at the end of the day, it's a good thing they published the code out there."

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist in Bengaluru. roh.subb@gmail.com)



Nobel laureates John Jumper and Demis Hassabis. AP



The Nilphamari narrow-mouthed frog, which is found in the lateritic plateaus of the northern Western Ghats. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Study flags agroforestry threat to frogs

Rahul Karmakar

Researchers have found that agroforestry practices may be harmful to some species of endemic frogs, while a few are less affected by modified habitats. The study was conducted by researchers from the Mysuru-based Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF-India), and the Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG).

The study was conducted by Vijayan Jithin and Rohit Naniwadekar of the NCF. The BEAG's researchers were Manali Rane and Aparna Watve. The findings were published in *Ecological Applications*, a journal of the Ecological Society of America.

They studied the amphibian diversity and abundance in the low-elevation lateritic plateau of Maharashtra's northern Western Ghats across orchards, paddy fields, and unmodified stretches during the monsoon season between June and September 2022. Four geographically separated plateaus – Devi Hasol, Devache Gothame, Gaonkhadi, and Bakale – were sampled to capture the spatial variability.

The research team found amphibian diversity was lowest in paddy and abundance was the least in orchards compared to the relatively undisturbed plateaus. Endemic species, including the CEPF burrowing frog (*Minervarya cepfi*) and Goan Fejervarya (*Minervarya gomantaki*), were less abundant in modified habitats, indicating that agroforestry practices may be particularly detrimental to these vulnerable amphibians.

"The conversion of plateaus into agricultural lands is a significant threat to these habitats and the species they support," Jithin, the lead author of the study, said.

"Given the expansion of orchards, we recommend adapting agroforestry

Amphibian diversity was lowest in paddy, and abundance was the least in orchards compared to the undisturbed plateaus

practices to be more frog-friendly. Retaining natural water bodies and adding water sources in orchards, combined with sensitisation and incentives for landowners, could help mitigate habitat loss," he said.

On the other hand, species such as the *Minervarya sahyadrensis* commonly found across South Asia were more prevalent in paddy fields, suggesting shifts in community composition due to habitat changes.

"We cannot say the more generalist species are adapting to modified habitats since that needs a longer period in the time scale of evolution. They are spreading into such habitats," Jithin, the lead author, told *The Hindu*.

The lateritic plateaus, formed through volcanic activity millions of years ago, are rich in endemic biodiversity but largely unprotected. Traditional conversion of these plateaus into paddy fields has now given way to blasting and transforming the landscape into mango and cashew orchards.

The study highlights how these conversions reduce critical habitats for frogs, such as rock pools that protect tadpoles and eggs during monsoon dry spells.

"Low-elevation plateaus are home to endemic and threatened species of plants and animals that rely on clean water sources. Their presence indicates the health of aquatic resources, which are the lifeline of local communities. It is necessary to conserve and restore the freshwater habitats to ensure the well-being of all life forms," Watve, also the coordinator of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission's Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group, said.

The study was funded by the United Kingdom-based On the Edge Conservation, BEAG, The Habitat Trust, and NCF-India.

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