



**FIGHTER JET SHORTAGE**  
Centre looks for efficient procurement model

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Importing toxic work culture into India

The practices in MNCs must be regulated

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**HIGHER PENSION**  
PSU officers write to Modi against EPFO's formula

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**BIG ANNOUNCEMENT**  
IPL retention list to be released today

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## Shah 'ordered' campaign to target Sikh activists: Canada

Associated Press  
OTTAWA

A Canadian official on Tuesday alleged that Home Minister Amit Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence gathering targeting Sikh separatists inside Canada.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison told Parliament members of the national security committee that he had confirmed Mr. Shah's name to *The Washington Post*, which first reported the allegations. "The journalist called me and asked if it was that person. I confirmed it was that person,"



Mr. Morrison told the committee. Mr. Morrison did not say how Canada knew of Mr. Shah's alleged involvement.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a year ago that Canada had credible evidence that agents of the Indian government were

involved in the murder of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June 2023.

Canadian authorities have repeatedly said they have shared evidence of the same with Indian authorities.

Indian government officials have repeatedly denied Canada has provided evidence and have called the allegations "absurd".

India's embassy in Ottawa did not immediately respond to messages for a request for comment on the allegation against Mr. Shah.

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## City of lights



Festive facade: On the eve of Deepavali, an aerial view of Ayodhya shows the temple town ablaze with lights for the 'Deepotsav 2024' in its eighth year, and the first one since the consecration of the Ram Temple. PTI

## Delhi's air quality plummets to 'very poor', likely to worsen after Deepavali



People throng Kamlanagar market for Deepavali shopping amid police surveillance in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

On the eve of Deepavali, the national capital witnessed a rise in air pollution on Wednesday with as many as 10 monitoring stations in the city recording 'very poor' quality air.

The air quality is likely to worsen further, potentially reaching 'severe' levels, with firecrackers already being burst in different parts of the city, violating an existing ban.

In the past, too, Delhites have burst firecrackers during Deepavali, openly flouting the ban.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 307 ('very poor') at 4 p.m., up from 268 ('poor') on Tuesday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Of the 40 air quality monitoring stations in the Capital, data from 38 were shared by the CPCB on Wednesday. The AQI in Anand Vihar and Mundka

remained 'severe', with AQI levels above 400. It was in the 'very poor' category in Alipur, Ashok Vihar, Bawana, Burari, Wazirpur, Nehru Nagar, North Campus, Vivek Vihar, Narela, and Jahangirpuri.

The city's air quality is expected to remain poor in the coming days, posing serious health risks to residents, particularly those with respiratory issues.

According to the Central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Air Quality

Delhi, air quality is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category till November 2. It may enter the 'severe' category on October 31 and November 1 in case of additional emissions from firecrackers and stubble and waste fires, it stated.

Vehicular emission was the biggest contributor to Delhi's pollution on Wednesday, accounting for 16.2%; it was 15.7% on Tuesday, according to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality

Management.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said 377 teams have been formed to enforce the ban on firecrackers. A senior Delhi Police officer said all DCPs have been asked to form teams to ensure that firecrackers are not burst in their respective districts.

"Legal action will be taken against those found bursting firecrackers. They may also be booked under the BNS for violating government orders," he said.

Bomb hoax call chaos:  
U.S., Interpol help sought

Suhasini Haidar  
Vijata Singh  
NEW DELHI

With over 400 bomb hoax threats disrupting international and domestic air travel in India in the past two weeks, New Delhi has reached out to the U.S. government and Interpol to help investigate the calls.

In particular, it is learnt that Indian officials want to pursue any leads that might connect the calls to Khalistani groups in the U.S. In a broadcast last week, Sikhs for Justice chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, who is wanted in India, had called for a "boycott" of Air India from November 1 to November 19, to "destroy India economically".

According to sources, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has been cooperating with the request from India, to trace the calls and emails that have been sent across the country to airlines using social media. In the 15 days between October 13 and October 28, over 410 domestic and international flights operated by Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats, with Air India receiving dozens of such calls.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 12

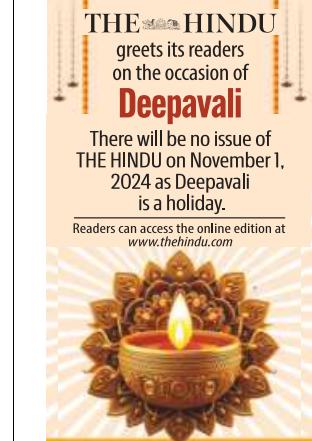
## IN BRIEF

**Delhi does not need Ayushman Bharat: Kejriwal**

**NEW DELHI**  
A day after the PM slammed Delhi and West Bengal for not joining the Ayushman Bharat scheme "due to their political interests", AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said there is no need to implement it in Delhi as the AAP government provides free treatment of up to ₹1 crore to the city's residents. » Page 4

**Orissa HC grants bail to 3 in train accident case**

**BHUBANESWAR**  
The Orissa High Court has attributed one of India's deadliest train accidents, which claimed the lives of 296 passengers in Balasore last year, to composite negligence of railway authorities who failed to ensure the functioning of the signal system at the Bahanaga station. » Page 14





Government of Haryana

वीरता शौर्य की गाथा वाला,  
सर पै पगड़ी का बाण  
देश का बढ़ाया मान सदा,  
ऐसा व्यारा म्हारा हरियाणा

Mhara Haryana  
Non-Stop Haryana

Greetings on the  
59<sup>th</sup>  
**Haryana Day**  
November 1, 2024

“हरियाणा के अपने सभी परिवारजनों को राज्य के स्थापना दिवस पर मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। मेरी कामना है कि विकास के हर मानदंड पर यह राज्य नए-नए कीर्तिमान गढ़ता रहे।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



**देशोऽस्ति हरयाणाख्यः पृथिव्यां स्वर्गसिन्निभः\***

(हरियाणा नाम का एक देश (प्रदेश) है जो इस धरती पर स्वर्ग के समान है।)

\*दिल्ली के निकट साटवान गांव से गिले विक्रमी संवत् 1385 के शिलालेख से उछृत



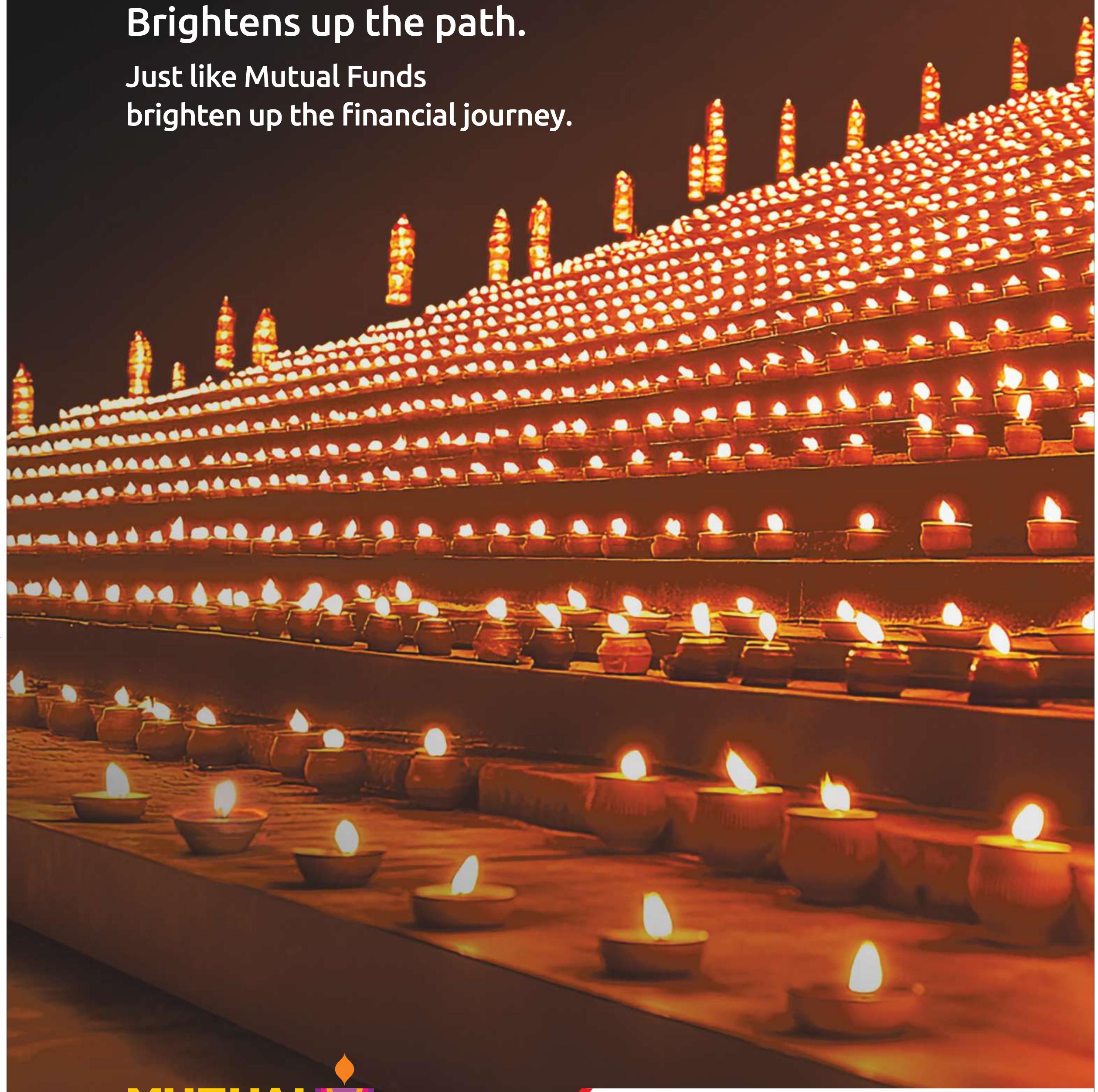
Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana [www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in) | Follow us on @diprharyana



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## IN BRIEF



## AAP protests against 'tardy' paddy procurement in Punjab

Police in Chandigarh on Wednesday used water cannons on Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Punjab unit leaders and workers as they tried to march towards the State BJP office to "gherao" it in protest over the "tardy" lifting of paddy in the State. Several Punjab Ministers as well as party legislators were part of the protest. As AAP workers tried to jump over the barricades and move towards the BJP office, police used water cannons to stop them. PTI

## After 5 candidates withdraw, 10 in fray for bypoll in Vav

Ten candidates, including those from the Congress and the BJP, remain in the fray for the bypoll to the Vav Assembly seat in Gujarat's Banaskantha district after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended on Wednesday, officials said. Of the total 21 candidates, who had submitted their nominations, five withdrew their candidature on Wednesday, the last date for opting out of the race, said Returning Officer Kartik Jivani. "Six candidates had withdrawn their nominations earlier," he said. PTI

## 3 booked for 'molestation, forced conversion' of minor

A barber, his brother, and another man were arrested for allegedly molesting and forcing a minor girl to undergo religious conversion in Uttarakhand's Tehri, police here said on Wednesday. Salman, the barber, his brother, and a local named Rakesh Bhatt were arrested from Najibabad in U.P. on Tuesday, Tehri SSP Ayush Aggrawal said. A complaint in connection with the incident was lodged on Monday by the mother of the Class 10 student, he said. PTI

## Rift among doctors in Kolkata seeking justice for R.G. Kar victim

**Movurie Som**  
KOLKATA

Cracks have emerged among junior doctors in West Bengal who have been agitating since August 9 to seek justice for the doctor who was raped and killed on duty at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital (RGKMCH). One faction is at odds with the ruling establishment, and the other appears soft on the State government.

With the unveiling of the newly formed West Bengal Junior Doctors' Association (WBJDA) on Saturday, a counter-movement has emerged among the State's

junior doctors. The new group has taken a stand against the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WBJDF). The former purportedly comprises doctors who have been accused of enforcing "threat culture" across State-run hospitals.

Annihilation of "threat culture", i.e., an environment of threats, intimidation, and blackmail that allegedly prevails across institutions in the State-run healthcare system, has been one of the key demands of the WBJDA.

While the WBJDF has been at loggerheads with the State government on

multiple occasions, the WBJDA appears to be going soft on the administration.

"When the rape and murder took place, we were the first to start this movement. When we disagreed with 'cease work' as part of the protest, false allegations of perpetuating threat culture were pinned on us," one of the WBJDA doctors said earlier this week.

He added that during the meeting with the West Bengal Chief Minister on October 21, one of the representatives of the WBJDF had referred to them as "notorious criminals and molesters."

## Delhi court orders fresh probe in cheating case against Gambhir

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Ordering a fresh investigation, a Delhi court has set aside the discharge of former cricketer and current head coach of the Indian cricket team Gautam Gambhir and others in a case where flat buyers were reportedly cheated.

Special Judge Vishal Gogte set aside a magistrate court order, saying it reflected "inadequate expression of mind" in deciding the allegations against Mr. Gambhir. "The allegations

also merit further investigation into the role of Gautam Gambhir," the court said in its October 29 order.

An alleged cheating case was filed against real estate firms Rudra Buildwell Realty Pvt. Ltd, H.R. InfraCity Pvt. Ltd., U.M. Architectures and Contractors Ltd., and Mr. Gambhir, who was a director and brand ambassador of the companies' joint venture. The judge also noted Mr. Gambhir was the only accused who had a "direct interface with the investors" in his capacity as a brand ambassador.

## Courtroom clash: lawyers' bodies seek judicial probe

**Lawyers have sought action against the judge who summoned the police force to remove lawyers slogan against him over a disagreement**

on Tuesday after lawyers clashed with District and Sessions Judge Anil Kumar following an argument over a case.

As the issue escalated, the police used lathicharge to disperse the lawyers. Several lawyers suffered injuries during the incident. The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and Supreme Court Bar Association also condemned the incident.

In separate statements, the associations called for a thorough investigation to be conducted under the supervision of a judge from the Allahabad High Court.

## J&amp;K govt. reverts to pre-2022 academic calendar in schools

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday reversed the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) administration's change in the academic calendar in the Kashmir Valley by switching from the March session to the traditional November session in the winter zones of the Union Territory.

"We are announcing a change of academic session back to November-December from this year for non-board classes i.e., up to Class 9, for Kashmir Province and winter zones of the Jammu Province," Education Minister Sakina Ma-

sood Itoo said.

In 2022, the L-G administration, in a bid to bring the academic calendar on a par with the rest of the country, decided to implement a uniform academic session across the Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir, comprising different topographical and climatic zones, saw a one-time admission and examination system in place, irrespective of seasonal and climatic challenges posed by tough terrains and unpredictable winters.

"Both parents and students were demanding that the school examination schedule be changed as per the old system," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said.

## T.N. Cyber Crime Wing unearths fraud network; two arrested from Chandigarh

**R. Sivaraman**  
CHENNAI

It is a 'digital arrest scam' in which a fraudster impersonates a TRAI customer service executive, and threatens to suspend the victim's phone number because he/she is involved in a money laundering case, and demands payment

**SANDEEP MITTAL**,  
Additional Director-General of Police, Cyber Crime Wing

be suspended and legal action would be taken for his involvement in a money laundering case. To drop the charges, the victim was asked to contact a "CBI officer" on WhatsApp video call. During the video call,

the fraudster appeared in a police uniform and asked him to isolate himself because he was in "digital custody". The fraudster also threatened the victim by showing fake documents, including a fake Supreme Court arrest warrant and fake documents from the RBI, falsely implicating the victim in a money laundering case. The victim was pressured to deposit money into the fraudster's bank account to "prove" his innocence.

Believing the claims, the victim transferred ₹1 crore in "verification charges", which the fraudsters said would be returned. After the money transfer, the victim realised that he was scammed and filed a complaint on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

A First Information Report was registered at the Cyber Crime Wing headquarters, Chennai. A special team found the bank account involved in the transaction. It belonged to D and D Enterprises, which was registered in the name of Pardeep Singh, 24, of Rajasthan, living in Chandigarh. The team rushed to Chandigarh and, with the help of the Cyber Crime Police Station, Chandigarh, it arrested Pardeep Singh, and his associate Yashdeep Singh, also aged 24.

The probe revealed that Pardeep and Yashdeep were instructed to open mule bank accounts. All accounts were given to the main accused in exchange for a commission of ₹1 lakh apiece. They have been remanded in judicial custody.

## Amid public outcry, Assam CM agrees not to cut trees for flyover

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

A day after citizens' groups took to the streets demanding the preservation of trees around a historic tank in the central part of Guwahati, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said his government would explore an alternative alignment for a five-km flyover.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and environment while advancing infrastructure. In constructing the flyover, we are sincerely working to protect the old trees in the area. I urge all stakeholders to allow the PWD a few days to explore an alternative proposal and assess its feasibility."



One of the oldest trees around Guwahati's Dighalipukhuri marked for felling for a flyover.

AN-NO-NDE

## Delhi does not need Ayushman Bharat as medicines, treatment, tests are free here, says Kejriwal

AAP govt. provides free treatment of up to ₹1 crore, PM must study our health care model and implement it across nation, says party chief day after Modi slammed govt. of Delhi, West Bengal for not joining PM-JAY due to their 'political interests'

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed the governments of Delhi and West Bengal for not joining the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) "due to their political interests", Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal hit back, claiming that the programme was "a major scam".

Mr. Modi had on Tuesday, while announcing the expansion of the Centre's health insurance scheme to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, expressed concern that senior citizens in the two States would not be able to avail themselves of free treatment under the expanded programme.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Mr. Kejriwal said there is no need to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the national capital as the AAP government provides free treatment of up to ₹1 crore to all city residents.

He also cited news reports on the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s 2023 performance audit of the Union government's flagship health insurance scheme and claimed it was riddled with



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal cited a 2023 CAG report and claimed the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme was riddled with scams, at a press conference in Delhi on Wednesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

scams.

The CAG report on PM-JAY had noted multiple cases of treatment being provided to patients who had already been declared dead, as well as for thousands of people using the same Aadhaar number or invalid mobile phone number.

Mr. Kejriwal said, "Every resident of Delhi, whether they have a simple cold or need hospitalisation, receives treatment, medication, and tests free of charge – no limits, no caps. In Delhi, whether it's a five-rupee tablet or a treatment costing ₹1 crore, everything is provided free of charge."

"If medicines, tests, and treatment are all free in

Delhi, then there is no need for the Ayushman Bharat scheme only because you wanted your name to be associated with this scheme in any way".

In an official statement, the L-G said the Delhi government's Health Department had recommended the implementation of PM-JAY in 2018, and then

Health Minister Manish Sisodia had approved it. He added that Mr. Sisodia had subsequently, in the capacity of Delhi Finance Minister, announced that the programme would be implemented.

However, Mr. Saxena added, "Your narcissism and hunger for publicity has not allowed the Delhi government to implement this scheme till now."

## BJP files writ petition in HC over PM-JAY's non-execution

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court against the non-implementation of the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme – Ayushman Bharat – in the Capital.

The plea was signed by all seven Delhi BJP Lok Sabha members.

Delhi BJP president Viresh Sachdeva said the scheme is not being implemented "purely for political reasons", resulting in the denial of health care to the elderly and underprivileged sections.

New Delhi Lok Sabha MP Bansuri Swaraj alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party government's Arogya Nihi Scheme is replete with shortcomings, forcing patients to run from pillar to post for assistance.

North West Delhi MP Yogendra Chandolia said two of the four Delhi government hospitals lack facilities for treatment due to which patients are being referred to other facilities.

Protests have erupted in different parts of West Bengal over allegations of exclusion of names of beneficiaries from Banglar Awas Yojana, a scheme providing housing for the rural poor, which is referred to in other States as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

While there were protests in parts of South 24 Parganas district over the past few days, on Wednesday it spread to Purulia, Birbhum, and Paschim Medinipur districts.

Protesting villagers gathered outside the offices of Block Development Officer (BDO) in these districts and alleged that their names as beneficiaries have been excluded at the behest of the local Trinamool Congress leadership.

**BDOs assurance**  
The BDOs assured the people that there was no new survey for allocating houses for the rural poor and they will look into allegations of names of beneficiaries being excluded.

The protests have come at a time when by-elections are scheduled in six Assembly constituencies in the State on November 13.

Amid the protests, a notification was issued by the West Bengal government on Wednesday suggesting that fresh verification will be made to look into the names of beneficiaries who have been excluded from the scheme.

As the issue escalated, the police used lathicharge to disperse the lawyers. Several lawyers suffered injuries during the incident.

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and Supreme Court Bar Association also condemned the incident.

In separate statements, the associations called for a thorough investigation to be conducted under the supervision of a judge from the Allahabad High Court.



## King Charles, Camilla visit holistic health centre in Bengaluru

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited a Bengaluru-based luxury wellness retreat for a three-day rejuvenation session. This was their first trip to India since he ascended the throne.

The couple quietly arrived at the Soukya International Holistic Health Centre on October 27 and left on Wednesday morning. The King, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, planned this rejuvenation on the advice of his medical team after

all the chemotherapy sessions. While the rejuvenation sessions were similar to those provided to other high-profile guests, therapies were decided based on his health. "The sessions were for rejuvenation, detoxification and strengthening the immune system," sources said.

King Charles, who had celebrated his 71st birthday at Soukya in 2019, was visiting the Centre for the second time while his wife has stayed at the Centre nine times so far.

The King, who believes in integrative medicine, has a personal interest in a



The King is visiting the holistic health centre for the second time while his wife has stayed at the centre nine times so far. REUTERS

holistic approach to health, organic farming and eco-friendly practices. His main interest is in integrative medicine and he is

also patron of the Faculty of Homeopathy in the U.K. He was also a patron of the British Association for Holistic Medicine. In 2018,

with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he inaugurated an AYUSH centre in London.

### South Indian diet

The royal couple stayed at the royal presidential suite at the centre. They were put on a South Indian diet comprising vegetarian organic food, including salads and soups. The couple was said to be fond of idly, dosa and organic soups apart from organic tender coconut water, pomegranate juice and mango pulp juice.

As they were fond of organic Mallika mangoes

grown on the premises of Soukya, the mangoes were being delivered to their palace every year.

Sources said the couple's daily routine began with a yoga session in the morning, followed by breakfast and then rejuvenation therapies before lunch.

Soukya is working on expanding its base to Portugal.

"The royal couple expressed their happiness over our expansion plans," said holistic health practitioner Issac Mathai, who runs the luxury wellness retreat.

## IN BRIEF



### Film editor Nishad Yusuf found dead at home in Kochi

Film editor Nishad Yusuf, 43, was found dead at his house in Kochi on Wednesday in a suspected case of suicide. Winner of the Kerala State Film Award 2022 for his work in the film *Thallumala*, he was the editor of the Tamil movie *Kangava*, starring Suriya, set for release on November 14. His other notable editing assignments include *Unda*, *One*, *Saudi Vellakka*, *Chaver*, *Adios Amigo* and the forthcoming *Bazooka* featuring Mammootty. The Directors' Union affiliated to the Film Employees Federation of Kerala condoled his death while pointing out that he had played a key role in determining the contemporary outlook of the Malayalam cinema. (To overcome suicidal thoughts, dial Maithri - 0484 2540530)

### Hyderabad woman dies after eating momos, six arrested

Six people were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the death of a woman and hospitalisation of 40 others after allegedly eating momos in Hyderabad, the police said. A 31-year-old woman died on October 27 and 40 others were hospitalised after they allegedly consumed momos from roadside stalls at different places which was prepared by the same vendor. Corporation officials have sent the food samples to the State food lab for analysis. PTI

### CPI(M) leader Divya files bail application in Kerala court

Former Kannur district panchayat president and CPI(M) leader P.P. Divya, currently on judicial remand following the suicide of Additional District Magistrate (ADM) K. Naveen Babu, has filed a new bail application in the Thalassery Principal Sessions Court. The court, after reviewing her petition, will request a police report on the matter. Ms. Divya was arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of Naveen Babu. Naveen was found dead on October 15, shortly after a farewell speech delivered by Ms. Divya at the Collectorate. (Those who are in distress, can call suicide prevention helpline DISHA at 1056.)

## Electric buses gain popularity as private and State operators expand their fleets in Karnataka

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

Mahesh Raj, a frequent traveller between Bengaluru and Chennai, has made a significant switch in his bus preferences. For years, he relied on diesel buses for his journeys, but for the last six months, he has embraced electric ones.

The growing popularity of electric buses is mirrored by the increasing number of passengers opting for them. According to private electric bus operators, many people are becoming more aware of the benefits of these vehicles, including the environment



The KSRTC and the BMTC have introduced electric buses under the GCC model. FILE PHOTO

bus owing to lower operational costs," a private bus operator said.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) also introduced electric buses under the gross cost contract model in the last two years.

KSRTC officials said the transition to electric buses has been a success. An official at KSRTC said: "Passengers appreciate the reduced noise. The initial challenges we faced are part of the learning curve. Overall, the feedback has been positive."

Factors contributing to the growing preference for electric buses include lower operating costs for bus operators, reduced emissions, and an enhanced travel experience. "We are drawn towards buying an electric

## Wayanad officials wait with bated breath for tigress and three cubs to fall into trap

**E.M. Manoj**  
KALPETA

The Kerala Forest Department is making an attempt to capture a family of four tigers – comprising a tigress and her three cubs – in Wayanad.

Operation Royal Stripes, launched to address residents' growing concerns, comes in response to the tigers posing a major threat over the past week, roaming the vicinity of the Anapara tea estate of Harrisons Malayalam Ltd (HML) and the surrounding areas of Chundel falling under the South Wayanad forest division.

Tension peaked when the tigers reportedly at-



Forest officials giving final touches to a cage that will be used to catch the tigers in Anapara in South Wayanad on Wednesday.

tacked livestock, killing three cows grazing in the tea estate on October 21 and another cow near the estate bungalow on October 27. Following these incidents, forest officials set up

## JNU replaces seminar coordinator after nixing event featuring Iranian Ambassador

**Kalol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**The development comes days after seminars featuring the envoys of Iran, Lebanon, Palestine were cancelled**

members.

In response, Prof. Haider said, "It's only an internal communication," which is why it was not shared with others at the centre.

Earlier, Dr. Baidya had sent an email to colleagues and students of CWAS on October 22 announcing the seminar titled 'How Iran sees the Recent Developments in West Asia', which was to be addressed by Iran's Ambassador to India Dr. Iraj Elahi.

*The Hindu* has learnt that the announcement was followed by a flurry of discussion among the faculty members of the CWAS and the School of International Studies (SIS), the umbrella institution at JNU that houses the various centres where specialised research on international affairs is carried out. It has been learnt that following the discussions, Dr. Baidya was urged to cancel the academic event, indicating that the discussion could become heated.

Subsequently, apart from the programme featuring the Iranian Ambassador, two other seminars that were being planned, featuring the Palestinian and the Lebanese envoys, were also cancelled.

## Centre says panel will take a call on Wayanad landslides

Categorisation of Kerala catastrophe as L3 disaster will be finalised in two weeks, Union govt. tells High Court; L3 category will open avenues to provide aid, including international disaster relief

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOCHI

The Union government on Wednesday informed a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court that the high-level committee concerned will take a decision in two weeks on categorisation of the July 30 Wayanad landslides as Level 3 disaster.

The submission was made by Additional Solicitor General A.R.L. Sundaresan when a *suo motu* case relating to prevention and management of natural disasters registered following the Wayanad landslides came up for hearing.

During the hearing, am-



Nature's fury: A file photo shows an aerial view of the widespread devastation caused by landslides in Wayanad. AFP

icus curiae and senior counsel Ranjith Thampam submitted that the landslides were the worst ones and 403 people died in the catastrophe. Therefore, it was clear that the natural disaster could be categorised as L3 disaster.

On categorising the disaster under L3 category, various avenues for providing relief and rehabilitation, including international disaster relief, would be open.

Referring to the *amicus*

curiae's suggestion for introducing risk insurance schemes to cover natural disasters, the court said the question that needs to be asked is whether the time has come to implement a parametric insurance scheme in collaboration with the Union of India and other stakeholders, including private insurance companies, to tide over the financial constraints perceived by the State in the aftermath of natural disasters.

The State submitted that the ex gratia payment of ₹300 per day being paid to the survivors would be extended for another 30 days from October 31.

Referring to the *amicus*

## Kerala to foot medical bills of people injured in fireworks accident

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KASARAGOD

The Kerala government on Wednesday decided to bear the medical expenses of those injured in the fire accident at Anjoottanbalam Veererkavu temple near Neelamparampatti in Kasaragod district that left 154 people injured, eight of them seriously.

The decision to bear the medical expenses of those injured in the incident was taken in a Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister's Office said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the special investigation team (SIT) probing the accident arrested K.V. Vijayan, 65, a Kottarakkal resident, who is allegedly responsible for

lighting crackers close to a shed where explosives were stored.

Meanwhile, the State Human Rights Commission has *suo motu* initiated an investigation into the fireworks accident and directed the Kasaragod Collector and the District police chief to investigate the matter. An inquiry report is to be submitted within 15 days.

The forensic team and bomb squads collected evidence from the temple premises. Eight temple committee members, including president Chandrasekharan and secretary Bharathan, face charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Explosive Substances Act.

## Victory lap



Retired Indian Hockey goalkeeper and Olympian P.R. Sreejesh along with Sports Minister of Kerala V. Abdurahman arrives in an open jeep for a felicitation programme at the Jimmy George Indoor stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

## Karnataka HC grants interim bail to actor Darshan

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

In a relief to Darshan, the High Court of Karnataka granted six-week interim bail on medical grounds to enable the actor to undergo surgery at a hospital of his choice in Bengaluru for his back pain. A medical report was submitted by a neurosurgeon of the Ballari Medical College and Research Centre (BMCR), Ballari.

However, Justice S. Vishwanath Shetty who passed the order restrained Darshan from appearing before media during the term of the interim bail.

image has not yet been included in the Forest Department's records, as the tiger census utilising camera traps has not yet been completed in the territorial forest divisions.

**Separate cages**

To facilitate the capture, the Forest Department has deployed both a smaller cage and a larger trap sourced from Mysuru. The smaller cage, baited with remnants of a recently killed cow, aims to attract the mother tigress. Once captured, this tigress may help lure her cubs into the larger cage measuring 32 feet long and 10 feet tall, according to senior officials.

A ND-NDE



1089/13/1825/2025/2997/11/997

**IF DREAMS HAD A PIN CODE.**

Cities across the world usually go by several adjectives. The most popular ones being 'crowded', 'expensive', 'heartless' and 'filthy'. Crowded, because they are the most fertile ground any dream could find. Expensive, because every square foot here houses countless hopes and aspirations. Heartless, because it is seldom allowed to pause and reflect. Filthy, because we, the people that make the city, are not mindful enough. This World Cities Day, let us rewrite this narrative. Let us count the millions of prayers our cities answered. The strangers they bound together. The families they support even in distant lands. The culture they birthed. The home they grew into. The emotion they became. Cities, they are made of us as much as we are made of them.

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THE HINDU

October 31, 2024  
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Tender Notice No.10 of Year 2024-25  
"Sealed Open tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), North Eastern Railway, Itanagar for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works:-  
SL. No.-1, Description of works:- Repairing of various sensors and modules of Automatic Fire Alarm and Detection system (AFADS) make-Ravel/Honeywell over the Itanagar division. Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 24,35,937.60, Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 48,700/-, Completion Period: 06 Months.  
Date & time of closing of e-tender: 22-11-2024 at 11:00 Hrs.  
• The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.reps.gov.in>. • All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering.  
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E-Tender Notice No. DCE-BL-14-15-2024  
Executive Engineer/Bridge/Open Line/N.E. Railway/Gorakhpur acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works. SN: 1, E-Tender No.: DCE-BL-14-2024, Description of Work:- Provision of side pathway arrangement for important OWG Bridge No. 137 UP (13X30.5m) between AUNRIHAR - RAJWARI and side pathway with inspection platform for Composite Plate Girder Br. No. 119DN (7x24.4x1X12.2m) between NONAPAR BHAWAR RANI in BSB Division, N.E. Railway. Approx. Tender Value (Rs.): 2,19,63,226.01, Earnest money (Rs.): 2,59,800.00, Cost of tender document:- Nil, Completion period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:- 18(eighteen) months, SN: 2, E-Tender No.: DCE-BL-15-2024, Description of Work:- Provision of side pathway arrangement for important OWG Bridge No. 270 (8X30.5m) between SHAHI - PILIBHIT JN in IZN Division, 182 DN (6X30.5m) between DOMINGARH JAGATBELA, 183 DN (7X30.5m) between DOMINGARH JAGATBELA, 4 (5X30.5m) between MANIRAM PIPRAJNU and side pathway with inspection platform for Plain Girder Br. No. 65 (7X24.4x1X18.3) between RAIBOJHA MIHINPURWA in LNJ Division of N.E. Railway. Approx. Tender Value (Rs.): 2,13,44,256.59, Earnest money (Rs.): 2,56,700.00, Cost of tender document:- Nil, Completion period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:- 18(eighteen) months, 1. Date of E-Tender opening 11.00 Hrs on 22.11.2024., 2. Receipt of E-Tender upto 10.59 Hrs on 22.11.2024., 3. Detailed E-tender notice, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website: [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
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**लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश**

**कृपासन प्रदेश को भ्रष्टाचार/कुप्रशासन मुक्त बनाने हेतु जनता से अपील भ्रष्टाचार**

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य के समस्त लोक सेवक यथा माननीय मंत्रीगण/विधायकगण, नगर निगम, नगर पालिका, नगर पालिका तथा अन्य अधिकारी, जिला पर्यावरण/जल संग्रहालय तथा अन्य पालिका अधिकारी तथा उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य द्वारा वित्त पोषित समस्त राज्यांग/राज्यसभा/कुप्रशासन तथा सेवानिवृत्तिक देयकां से संबंधित शिकायतों की जाँच हेतु निम्न पते पर संपर्क करें—  
पता:- ई० सौ०-४६/सौ०-१, विभाति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-२२६०१० अथवा पोस्ट बाक्स नं०-१७२, जी०पी०आ०, लखनऊ, फैक्स नं०- (०५२२) २३०६६४७  
फोन नं०: (०५२२) २३०६७१७, २३०६१६० (पी०पी० एक्स),  
Web site - [www.lokayukta.up.nic.in](http://www.lokayukta.up.nic.in), E-mail :- [lokayukta@hotmail.com](mailto:lokayukta@hotmail.com)  
सचिव, लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Repair work is to be done by the Public Works Department on Mayapuri Flyover**

**Naraina Vihar to Raja Garden (Remaining Half Carriageway) will be closed for repair work from 20.10.2024 to 03.11.2024**

**Route Diversion Plan (Phase-4)**

Raja Garden to Naraina Vihar Remaining Half Carriageway (Phase-4)

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## Towards Europe

India used visits by leaders of Germany and Spain to balance ties in Europe

The back-to-back visits to India by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez indicate an attempt by New Delhi to engage with Europe's biggest economies bilaterally. While Mr. Scholz's visit was a scheduled engagement for the bi-annual Inter-Government Consultations, this was his third visit since 2023; Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Germany in 2022. Thus, there were MoUs on innovation and technology, skilling and mobility, and green energy cooperation, as well as improving trade, pegged at \$26 billion, with about \$27 billion in German investments. The conversation over trade and investment intensified with both leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business, a first in India, amidst an attempt by German businesses to reduce their exposure in China. The two-day visit of Mr. Sánchez (officially called the President of the Government of Spain) shone a spotlight on unnoticed India-Spain bilateral ties. Trade is nearly \$10 billion, and Spain is India's 16th largest investor. Despite its relatively lower stakes in India's economy, Spain is increasingly seen as a technology and engineering partner; one of the MoUs signed was for rail transport. The highlight of the visit was the inauguration of an Airbus-Tata private sector plant to assemble C-295 aircraft for the Indian Air Force. It did not go unnoticed that the visits were scheduled close to each other, even as Germany and Spain are competing for defence deals, indicating New Delhi's desire to diversify its options.

The timing of the visits followed just after Mr. Modi's Russia visit for the BRICS summit, and his meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, which show how India continues to balance ties amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India expressed deep concerns over the loss of life in the Ukraine conflict and the need for lasting peace, in the joint statements with Germany and Spain. But the statements differed to a degree in the paragraphs on the West Asian crisis. The statement with Germany squarely condemned Hamas for its actions on October 7 last year, and called for the immediate release of Israeli hostages. The statement with Spain did not name Hamas, and emphasised the need to protect civilians and for all parties to comply with international law. Spain has taken a step away from other European countries by recognising Palestine and blocking all shipments of armaments including from India to Israel. It is important that India continues to engage with European countries individually, as well as with the European Union, especially with such evidence that even the closest partners have nuanced differences on geopolitical issues of the day.

## Sun signs

States should prepare to assist the vulnerable during extreme heat events

Policy decisions that are clairvoyant are most likely to serve well, and for long. A clairvoyance that comes from reading the signs today and now, can save lives, and make living better. Tamil Nadu's move to declare heat as a State-specific disaster, rendering people so affected eligible for assistance from the State, is unequivocally a beacon shining in a country where environmental degradation goes together with unplanned cities, poverty, and limited access to shelter and health care. The World Meteorological Organization declared that 2023 was the hottest year on record. A study on 'Deadly heat waves projected in the densely populated agricultural regions of South Asia' portends that the most intense hazard from extreme future heat-waves will be concentrated around the densely populated agricultural regions of the Ganges and Indus basins. It is critical that the human body remains at the optimal temperature of 37°Celsius: living in temperatures that constantly and consistently exceed this limit can cause immeasurable stress and the breakdown of bodily functions, impact vital organs, and lead to death in vulnerable populations. Tamil Nadu's move is a laudable recognition of the inevitability of extreme weather events affecting people's health even as it prepares to address issues arising out of extreme heat events. The government order says many parts of Tamil Nadu have consistently recorded temperatures above 40°C during the summer of 2024, acknowledging that heatwaves are emerging as a threat affecting the day-to-day life of the elderly, children, those with prior illnesses, comorbidities and those who work in open environments. Tamil Nadu's vulnerability is exacerbated by its long coastline where humidity goes up during summer, giving rise to the peculiar wet-bulb temperature phenomenon. The World Economic Forum has warned that global warming is on track to reach a 'wet-bulb temperature' level of 35°C, where humans can no longer regulate safe body temperature through sweating.

While mechanisms must be alerted to mitigate the effects of global warming at the local, regional and national levels, it is also sagacious to prepare during the interim. The Tamil Nadu government's move to provide relief to the victims of heatwave under the State Disaster Response Fund will feature a comprehensive range of activities, including *ex gratia* payment to families of those who died of heat-related conditions; provision for medical care, and drinking water, including supply of ORS packets, and rescheduling working hours, will make the State and its most vulnerable at least prepared for the worst. Other States would do well to be inspired by this model.

**A**n Indian woman in her twenties, working in Pune for a major consultancy firm, died one day after returning home from work. Her mother believes that this had resulted from exhaustion due to overwork at the office.

While the deeper cause would be difficult to ascertain, her parents have spoken publicly about their daughter informing them about the long hours she faced at work and the stress she endured from unreasonably close deadlines for reports.

Moreover, soon after the news of her death broke, at least one former employee has written or spoken in the public domain regarding the work culture that they experienced at the same company, which led him to leave. Ironically, on the website of the firm's 'India Office' the first entry is a banner declaring that the company's purpose is "building a better working world"

### An American imprint

The firm concerned is a so-called multinational. This term is somewhat of an oxymoron, reflected in the reality that every multinational company has a distinct national affiliation, and national governments avidly work to further the prospects of their own multinationals (MNCs). Thus, when United States President Bill Clinton visited India in 2000, where he was mobbed by our parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha, he had come with a posse of American CEOs seeking opportunities. Most of the world's multinationals are American. This explains their work culture, the essential part of which is an emphasis on long hours apart from the relentless pressure to fulfil stringent targets, whether of sales or, in the case of accounting/consultancy firms, commissioned reports for clients ranging from for-profit firms to governments.

It is useful to understand the provenance of the work culture found in multinationals. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. came to have an outsized influence on global affairs, and its economic architecture, including the work culture, came to be seen as the gold standard. From accounting practices to what is considered normal when it comes to hours of work, 'the American way' became the norm. Now, the culture of the multinationals came to possess the cachet of being of American origin even if the company itself may not be. This culture has a history.

The German sociologist, Max Weber, showed how the reformation of Christianity in northern Europe altered the view of work. Protestantism, especially Calvinism, doctrinally supported worldly activities dedicated to economic gain, seeing them as endowed with a moral and



Pulapre Balakrishnan

Honorary Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

spiritual significance that was equal to working for the Church, which Catholicism had privileged.

Weber identified the protestant ethic as a driver of early capitalism. As America was founded by northern Europeans intent on establishing a community based on Protestant beliefs, it is not

difficult to see where the glorification of work

that came to define the American way of life

came from. Weber relies on the writings of the American thinker, Benjamin Franklin, to make his case. The point of all this is to see that the work culture at MNCs is not based on ergonomics or organisational psychology but is actually of religious extraction.

**A country comparison of work, productivity**

For the economist, it remains pertinent to ask where the American obsession with work has got Americans. I shall base my investigation on data issued by the International Labour Organisation.

If we were to make a global comparison of

national per capita incomes, a standard measure

of the standard of living of a population, we

would find that hard work has got the U.S. quite

far for sure but not as far as others without the

same approach to work. In 2023, the U.S. was

the 12th globally in terms of GNP per capita.

If we take Guyana out of this list – it was only barely

ahead – 10 countries were ahead of the U.S.

These were Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland,

Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore,

Sweden and Switzerland. Note that apart from a

tiny Asian country, the rest of the list is

exclusively of western European countries.

There is, though, an aspect of the comparison

just made that needs mentioning. As productivity

measures are based on value, the country that

makes more valuable goods would tend to rank

higher even if its physical productivity is not

higher across all goods. So as to avoid relying on a

comparison of value-based productivity levels

alone, we may compare how the value-based

productivity measure grows over time across

countries. When we do this for the period of half

a century from 1970, we find that U.S. GNP per

capita has grown faster than only Switzerland's,

and that too marginally (paucity of data meant

that Austria and Singapore had to be excluded

from the exercise). So, we find that neither is the

population of the U.S. the richest in the world nor

is its productivity growth faster. A further

assessment of the economic value of hard work is

conveyed by the following indicator.

In the above sample, except for Singapore, the

average hours worked per person in a year were

lower than that in the U.S. in every other country

listed above. So, we can see that it is possible to

get richer than the U.S. even when working less.

There appears to be a difference between

working, a creative mental and physical engagement, and just labouring, as defined by hours worked.

However, talk of national cultures glorifying work can go only this far in accounting for the long hours allegedly worked by employees of multinationals, such as the employer who died. As observed by Karl Marx 150 years ago, the length of the working day is a factor determining profits under capitalism. When only a part of a day's labour by the worker is needed to pay for their maintenance by way of the wage, the rest accrues to the capitalist as profit. As competition among capitalists lowers the rate of profit, capitalists strive to recoup profits by increasing the length of the working day or getting workers to do more and more faster. For consulting firms such as the one in question, the latter would mean producing more reports in less and less time.

### An add-on to foreign investment

It is useful to remember that the work culture allegedly existing at the firm was not always present in India. It came along with the foreign investment that was courted as part of the liberalising reforms of 1991. Foreign investment was seen as a route to raising capital formation and bringing along global best practices in management. As for the promised global best practices, the incident involving the Pune firm is at least one data point by which to gauge outcomes. Whatever may be the actual benefits for India of having kept an open house for them, the multinationals seem to have done quite well for themselves since.

It has been reported that during 2017-22, the 'Big Four' among the global consulting firms bagged 305 assignments from the Government of India. The same source reports a figure so large for the revenue that accrued to them from India that I thought it wise to ascertain it before citing it. But in all these cases, it would be of interest to know if expertise as good was not available in India. There is also a record of the governments of some southern States favouring external consultants over local experts who are far more knowledgeable on economic matters.

An upshot of the incident at Pune is that the working hours and practices in the multinationals working in India must be regulated by the government. So should the working hours at the Indian companies directly serving offshore entities, where stress-induced suicides have been reported recently. That these companies, which serve a global clientele, would require them to run shifts that cater to different time zones to ply their business is well understood, but they would have to adhere to Indian norms.

## Tackle the issue of adjournments, case pendency

**T**he President of India, Droupadi Murmu, recently said that the culture of judicial adjournments should go. She highlighted this while speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference of District Judiciary, organised by the Supreme Court of India, in New Delhi in September. She further said that the poor and the rural population suffer injustice silently rather than going to the courts out of a fear of the delay in getting the cases resolved.

The concern raised by the President is genuine. And it needs to be addressed at the earliest with a viable solution.

Under British rule and after Independence, civil courts dealt with all kinds of civil issues by following the Code of Civil Procedure. Another is criminal courts to deal with criminal cases under the Criminal Procedure Code. Besides them, the Supreme Court and High Courts deal with constitutional cases by issuing writs under the Constitution and Appellate powers. These courts are still functioning.

### Reasons for the lag

With an aim to reduce the burden of pendency on civil courts, the tribunal system was introduced through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 to deal with specialised subjects. Likewise, special laws were enacted with specialised forums or courts. Most of these statutes prescribe a time-line for adjudication of the cases. Sometimes, to end the public outcry – as it happened during the distressing case of a rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata – provision is made to decide a case in a fixed and time-bound manner. But hardly any of the cases meet the time-line fixed by the statute. The major reasons include the judge-population ratio. As in 2024, in the Law Minister's reply in the Lok Sabha, there are 21 judges per million population



Baglekar Akash Kumar

an advocate in the High Court of Telangana

against the recommendations of the 120th report of the Law Commission of India of having 50 judges per million population. The second is because of not filling vacant posts of judges in a time-bound manner. The third is about giving one judge the additional charge of two or more courts, even in the so-called specialised courts that are created in haste in order to control public outcry. The fourth is in enacting pieces of legislation without prior judicial-impact assessment, and the fifth is the inordinate delay in bringing witnesses to courts.

### Judge numbers

On the issue of pendency in High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1,114 judges (as on December 31, 2023), which itself is much less when compared to the population and number of cases being filed, the present strength of judges is 770 (as on October 30, 2024), or 30% of vacancies. Besides dealing with writ matters, as prescribed by the Constitution, almost every piece of legislation confers appeal, revision, transfer, quash, bail, contempt and other miscellaneous powers upon High Courts. In 2021, six specialised tribunals were abolished and their functions conferred on High Courts. Thus, all this is resulting in a huge backlog of cases in High Courts. On an average, it takes between six to seven years for a case to be decided in a High Court.

So far as the Supreme Court is concerned, though it is functioning with almost a full sanctioned strength of 34 judges, there are nearly two dozen statutes which provide for direct appeal to the Supreme Court, besides it exercising writ and appeal powers. Almost every decision, mostly against orders of the High Courts in north India, is challenged before the Supreme Court, under Article 136, resulting in huge case pendency.

The concern that the President of India expressed on the subject is valid, but there are major reasons for the rise

of the State. His rhetoric sounded more like a film dialogue than that by a person with vision. Tamil Nadu is a State that has seen many players from the film world, with many of them lamenting their hasty decisions. One waits to see the outcome of this venture.

**Shalini Gerald**, Chennai

The political entry of actor Vijay will certainly cause a change in Tamil Nadu politics. Sharing power is becoming the clear

expectation from the DMK's alliance partners especially after the son of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has been elevated as the Deputy Chief Minister.

**A.P. Thiruvadi**, Chennai

Actor Vijay's new political party appears to have no ideological moorings and seem to be purely dependent on the charisma of the actor and his popularity among the masses based on his acting skills. Given such a base, is

it possible to build a party by making a few attractive promises? Unless Mr. Vijay comes up with a deeper ideological foundation, backed by political, developmental and welfare programmes that are radically different, it would be an almost impossible task for him to make a strong imprint in a politically conscious State.

**Kosaraju Chandramouli**, Hyderabad

People in the State are aware of the fate of earlier political ventures. There are two essential factors that go into the founding of new parties. The first is that the founders of new parties should have the requisite experience in the political field and ought to have done their homework before building castles in the air.

The second one is that those who desire to jump into the muddy waters of politics must be prepared to face the music.

**Mani Nataraajan**, Chennai

**Justice K.S. Puttaswamy** The perspicacious judgments of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy, who passed away a few days ago, have left an indelible mark on the interpretation of tax statutes. His role in the Aadhaar case showcased his dedication to protecting individual rights. His contributions will continue to serve as a rudiment for legal jurisprudence and inspire future generations of legal minds.

**R. Sivakumar**, Chennai

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### New party, the TVK

There is no second opinion that the first conference of the Tamilaga Vettai Kazhagam, organised by its founder-actor, Vijay, has ended successfully with lakhs of the matinee idol's fans in attendance (Editorial, October 30). However, the actor failed miserably in convincing the public of the ideologies of his party and the real purpose of coming to politics other than to win the elections – read becoming the Chief Minister

political ventures. There are two essential factors that go into the founding of new parties. The first is that the founders of new parties should have the requisite experience in the political field and ought to have done their homework before building castles in the air.

The second one is that those who desire to jump into the muddy waters of politics must be prepared to face the music.

# The politics of data-based policymaking

**H**ow should India approach data collection and statistics for the next five years? Measures and datasets tell the stories of a country's growth and are important to citizens, policymakers, and the international audience. In the last few years, the accuracy and quality of India's statistical systems have been questioned. Economists and policymakers have lamented the "decade without data" since the Census has not been conducted and the release of National Sample Survey (NSS) data faced delays. They have advocated for more independence and neutrality in data collection, interpretation, and release.

## Are numbers objective?

However, simply championing values like independence and neutrality overlooks the contextual and political nature of statistics. We need to recognise that the construction of public statistics is informed by political commitments that must be aired and critiqued for good policymaking. Unless the politics are transparent, the statistics will not be as useful as they could be.

Statistics, first and foremost, are attempts at numerical representations of complex social experiences. Choices about what to count are simultaneously choices about what not to count. Consider welfare policies such as the financial inclusion scheme, Jan Dhan Yojana. India broke the Guinness World Record in 2014 for opening the maximum number of bank accounts in a week. At what cost was such speed achieved? A leader of an activist group based in Hyderabad explained that a bank had set up camps in Adivasi villages of Andhra Pradesh, hastily opened accounts for citizens, and left. "Accounts were opened but people did not know details about their accounts, and were never given passbooks," he said. Although direct benefits transfers were being sent to those accounts, they were inaccessible. Cases of



Pariroo Rattan

PhD candidate at Harvard University and a Non-Resident Research Associate at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress. Views expressed are personal

the poor being unable to access their bank accounts and welfare subsidies due to illiteracy, documentation issues, and harassment are plentiful despite the statistical narrative that numbers of bank accounts are rising. In another example, the kilogrammes of foodgrains distributed under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana are widely shown across billboards. The Global Hunger Report of 2023 records that India's ranking had slipped from 55th in 2014 to 111th in 2023. Fixating on the number of bank accounts and kilogrammes of foodgrains distributed as metrics of state success can conceal the darker story of limited banking access and poor nutrition.

Second, meeting statistical targets should not be confused with the achievement of development objectives. This is an issue across multilateral institutions, but India must take a more nuanced approach. Consider the eShram unorganised workers' database, set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment after the COVID-19 pandemic to collect data on migrant workers. A Common Service Centre operative in Gurugram explained how the database relies on self-declaration, and that many who were not eligible for the workers' database, such as housewives, teachers, and farmers, had signed up in the hope of future benefits. While eShram has rapidly met enrolment targets and been extolled as successful, the emphasis on data obscures whether eShram is reaching its target population. Documenting anecdotes, conducting audits, and collecting citizens' experiential feedback is crucial to making good development policy.

Third, scrutinising data is tougher with the digitisation of governance. For most of the 20th century, socioeconomic data-gathering in India was the work of public institutions including the National Sample Survey Organisation and the Central Statistical Office, which

Simply championing values like independence and neutrality overlooks the contextual and political nature of statistics

had robust details on research methods. With Aadhaar, the state has more data on citizens than ever before. Despite the possibility of anonymizing and aggregating for privacy protection, it has become more difficult for citizens and researchers to access this data. Most eGovernance data is stored in State Data Centres accessed by government divisions and their private partners, and data is irregularly published online. On the flipside, data collected through payment apps such as Google Pay and PhonePe are used by FinTech start-ups to create financial products to sell to citizens. Data collected on citizens is not available to citizens or journalists to hold institutions accountable; only government and private actors have access.

**Strengthening data systems**  
What are the implications of this politics of data, and how can we strengthen our data systems? Without denigrating quantification, we can create data systems to be more citizen-serving. A first step involves changing our orientation from asking whether we have the "right" data or technical methods to asking what kind of data are most useful for citizens' well-being. For instance, while the statistics on the number of newly opened bank accounts are likely to be correct, it may be useful to measure the proportion of poor who access their bank accounts.

Second, digitally collected data should not exclusively be designed for the use of the government and start-ups. It is vital to set up porous institutional structures that give civil society a voice in designing data infrastructure.

Third, policymakers need to expand their views of data collection from a mere technical exercise to a social and political undertaking that would benefit from the inputs of social scientists, citizens and activists. Ultimately, statistics ought to serve citizens; citizens should not serve the achievement of statistical targets.

# WWF's 73% wildlife decline report: what it does and doesn't mean

The number doesn't mean 73% of populations are in decline; in fact, around half of the studied populations were either increasing or stable

## DATA POINT

### Hannah Ritchie Fiona Spooner

**T**he World Wildlife Fund's 2024 Living Planet Index (LPI) report published recently makes for some grim reading. The headline is a 73% average decline in wildlife populations since 1970 (**Chart 1**). While this trend is extremely worrying, the numbers presented are often misunderstood or misreported.

First, let us clarify what this doesn't mean. It doesn't tell us anything about the species lost; the number or percentage of species or populations that are declining/lost; or the number of extinctions. Any headline claiming that we have "lost 73% of wildlife" or that "73% of species have gone extinct" or that "73% of species are declining" is incorrect.

What this metric tells us is that across the 34,836 studied wildlife populations, the average decline was 73%. As we will see later, this doesn't mean 73% of populations are in decline; in fact, around half of the studied populations were in decline, while half were either increasing or stable.

The 2022 LPI reported an average decline of 69% since 1970. The 2024 update reports a 73% decline. From this, you might assume that wildlife populations have dropped by another 4 percentage points in the additional two years of data.

But almost none of this change has happened in the last few years, and the new LPI should not be seen as a simple extension of the previous one. Instead, the whole trend line for the LPI has shifted as the project has access to data for more populations and species, and the type of populations that are included has changed. The number of populations in the LPI increased by around 3,000 (just short of a 10% rise), and the number of species increased by around 250 (a 5% rise).

The other major change is that only native species are included in this update, whereas native and non-native species were included in previous reports. This explains a lot of the difference in this year's report. **Chart 2** compares the LPI in 2022 and 2024 globally and for different regions. The lines have shifted, rather than the decline accelerating in the two most recent years.

The biggest shifts in this report, compared to the last, are for Europe and Central Asia; and Africa, where the reductions are more substantial in the most recent update. The reason for the change in Africa is a 45% increase in the number of populations included, many of which are declining. This has caused the LPI for this region to shift down. The exclusion of non-native species from the LPI has meant there are fewer populations counted in Europe and Central Asia, and this has been the main reason for the change in the trend in this region.

Across the whole data set, exactly 50% of populations were in decline; 43% were increasing; and the remaining 7% were stable. In **Chart 3**, we can see the share of populations in LPI that have trended in a given direction for different taxonomic groups. Only around half of wildlife populations declined in numbers. The rest were either increasing or stable. The share of populations are strongly or moderately increasing and decreasing.

So, not all populations are struggling. This is not to dismiss the steep decline many populations are seeing. Resources can be directed more efficiently to those areas and populations that need it most. It is more effective to target restorative and protection efforts to the populations that are in serious trouble than to assume that all populations are struggling.

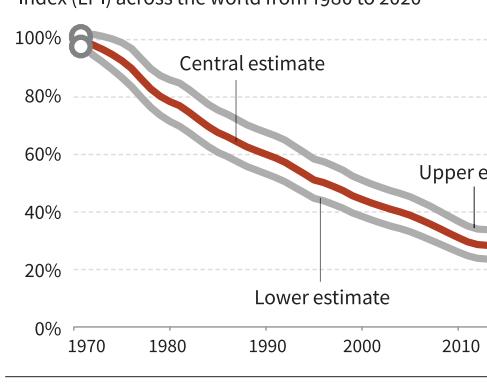
Fiona Spooner is Senior Data Scientist and Hannah Ritchie is Deputy Editor and Science Outreach Lead in Our World In Data

## Stable decline

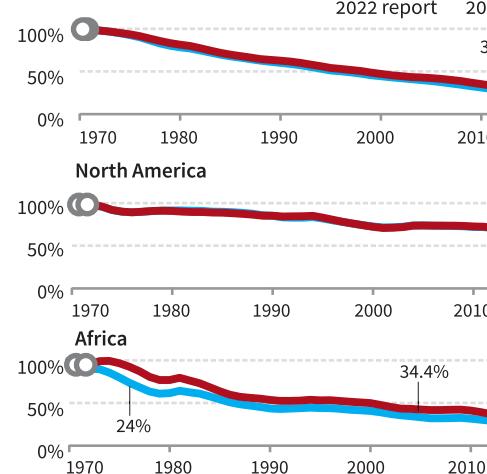
The text and data were sourced from Our World In Data. The text is a condensed version of the original report.



**Chart 1:** The chart shows decline in the Living Planet Index (LPI) across the world from 1980 to 2020



**Chart 2:** The chart compares the Living Planet Index in 2022 and 2024 globally and for different regions.



**Chart 3:** The share of studied populations in each taxonomic group with increasing, stable, or declining numbers

# Vijay cannot be ignored

His speech has drawn admiration and criticism in equal measure

## STATE OF PLAY

### T. Ramakrishnan

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

**T**he response that Tamil film actor Vijay received for his speech at the inaugural State-level conference of his party, Tamila Vetti Kazhagam (TVK), in Vikravandi on October 27 was mostly on expected lines. Mr. Vijay's indirect attack on the ruling DMK government in Tamil Nadu and the BJP-led Central government and his statement on power sharing have become talking points among the political parties of the State. While the DMK, a couple of its allies, and the BJP did not take his speech kindly, the AIADMK, the principal Opposition party, viewed it favourably in view of the perception that Mr. Vijay did not target it. If reactions on social media are any indication, the TVK leader's words created an impact on the people. Some admired the speech, while others criticised him for being vague on many serious issues.

As he laid down the broad contours of his party's policies and action plans in the already cluttered political landscape of Tamil Nadu, it became clear that Mr. Vijay was adopting the general line of thinking seen in his films. By and large, his films belong to the 'masala movie' genre. They offer nothing different either in terms of plot or narration from other movies in the same genre. In many of his films, the protagonist, played by Mr. Vijay, represents subaltern communities or identities with them.

The manner in which he spoke at Vikravandi, the contents of his speech, and the way the conference was organised indicated that the actor may want to follow a simi-



lar formula in politics too: nothing radically new; and in support of social justice.

He did differ from other politicians in some aspects, however. He spoke simple and direct Tamil and liberally used English words and puns.

The AIADMK was the only major party which seemed to support Mr. Vijay. Referring to the actor's observation that certain parties took an "anti-fascism" position but had "underground dealings" with the same forces, the general secretary of the AIADMK, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, said others too were echoing what his party had been saying all along – that the DMK and the BJP shared a "tacit understanding." He did not want to get drawn into any debate on the issue of power sharing and simply said, "Each party has its own policy..It would not be proper for me to comment on whether his [Mr. Vijay's] stand is right or wrong." When asked whether he would agree to a proposal of power sharing where he would be Chief Minister and the TVK leader, the Deputy Chief Minister, in the event of a victory in the elections, the AIADMK leader said that his party was functioning according to the policies set by its previous leaders.

Even though the film star-turned-politician did not name the DMK and the BJP in his attack, the leaders of the two parties were quick to find fault with him. Alluding to Mr. Vijay's observation that the TVK was neither the "A team" nor the "B team" of any other party, the State Law Minister, S. Regupathy, labelled the latest entrant the "C team" of the BJP, while Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and former State president of the BJP, L. Murugan, contended that Mr. Vijay's speech lacked clarity. To substantiate his point, he referred to the TVK leader calling Dravidam and Tamil nationalism as "two eyes" and said the two concepts were

contradictory to each other.

The DMK's allies were not attracted by Mr. Vijay's offer of power sharing. The principal secretary of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Durai Vaiko, said it would create confusion. The leader of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, Thol Thirumavalavan, who defended the demand for a share in power not too long ago, said Mr. Vijay's "offer" was an attempt to pre-empt the AIADMK. The Congress's State unit chief, K. Selvaranrunthai, said his party would "wait and watch" even as he welcomed Mr. Vijay's position.

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While debates continue on how long the TVK leader will remain in the field, the reactions to his speech have made one thing clear: no one is ignoring Mr. Vijay.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 31, 1974

## PLO and Jordan for Arab joint military command

Babat, Oct. 30: Arab leaders ended their summit conference here yesterday after approving \$2,350 million in aid for Arab troops and a joint command for both guerilla and regular armies facing Israel, Arab diplomatic sources said.

The summit, they said, ordered the creation of a four-power joint command over the armies of Egypt, Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan to ensure co-ordination of military strategy in the event of a new showdown with Israel.

Previously, the Arabs had a joint Egyptian-Syrian command.

The contribution agreed upon was a modification of a Syrian proposal for an initial global sum of \$13,350 million which a number of Arab States complained was too high.

Conference sources said Egypt and Syria would each get \$1,000 million from the fund. Jordan will get \$250 million and the PLO \$100 million.

An additional \$150 million would be made available to the People's Republic of (South) Yemen for constructing a base at the Bab al-Mandeb Straits, controlling the entrance to the Red Sea, the sources said. (Egyptian ships blockaded the Straits during the war last October).

In addition, \$30 million would be contributed for an Arab information campaign, they added.

The Arab leaders heard the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, warn that Israel was prepared for a fifth war with the Arabs.

Mr. Arafat said his Palestinian guerillas were willing to let Morocco benefit from their experience to "liberate" the Spanish Sahara.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 31, 1924

## Chinese civil war

Peking, Oct. 30: Feng Yub Shian is rushing troops to Langfang with a view to launching a general attack on Wu-Pei-Fu's forces. Feng has issued a proclamation offering hundred thousand dollars from the capture of Wu-Pei-Fu and fifty thousand dollars for his death.

Shanghai, Oct. 30: The defeat of Wu-Pei-Fu's army at Shanbaikuan front is decisive. Wu-Pei-Fu is in perilous position with Feng Shiang's forces barring the road to Peking.

A ND-NDE

# Text & Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**The increase in India's gold imports from April to September**

**21.78** In per cent. The country's gold imports, which

have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), rose to \$27 billion during April-September this fiscal due to strong domestic demand. It was \$22.25 billion in April-September 2023-24. PTI

**Beneficiaries who are to profit from animal keeper platform**

**11,000** To give animal keepers a marketing platform in Uttarakhand, the government signed an MoU with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police for the supply of live goats and sheep etc. to its battalion deployed along the border. PTI

**The decline in Sri Lanka's key consumer price index**

**0.8** In per cent. The country's consumer price index fell 0.8% year-on-year in October after a drop of 0.5% the previous month. The Colombo Consumer Price Index, a leading indicator for broader national prices, tracks inflation in Colombo, Sri Lanka's largest city. REUTERS

**Number of migrants intercepted by Senegal navy in 10 days**

**600** The country's navy has intercepted nearly 600 irregular migrants in the last 10 days departing from the coast of the West African country. A patrol boat picked up 183 people from a long wooden canoe known as a pirogue on Tuesday off the village of Djiffer. AFP

**Number of volunteers to be trained as first responders to disaster**

**2.37** In lakh. The 'Yuva Apada Mitra Scheme' aims to train young volunteers in 315 districts across the country as first responders to disaster preparedness. Besides, 1,300 trainers will also be prepared. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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## Why is there an upward rally in gold prices?

Why is gold considered a safety cushion by central banks? When does demand for the yellow metal peak in India? Why does the World Gold Council expect an increased demand for gold from rural areas? What factors determine gold prices?

### EXPLAINER

#### Saptaparno Ghosh

##### The story so far:

Mired amidst geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, spot price of gold scaled a record high of \$2,758.37 for an ounce on October 23. At the time of writing, the yellow metal was priced at \$2,731.45/ounce having marginally corrected course from the record high. In India, gold was mirroring the upward trajectory at ₹7,513.37/gram, 40% higher than ₹5,354.20/gram a year ago. Imperative to note, the demand for the yellow metal has historically been observed to peak in lieu of the festive season, thus, potentially translating to a positive effect on its prices.

##### What determines the price of gold?

Central to the assessment are two currents: prevailing investor appetite (compared to other assets such as bonds) but more importantly, the yellow metal's safe haven characteristic. Gold has lower co-relation with other asset classes and, therefore, provides a safety cushion during periods of geopolitical stress and prevailing economic uncertainty and/or downturn in markets.

Further, prices of gold are suggested to hold an inverse relationship with interest rates. That is, when interest rates are tightened gold becomes less attractive to investors as they do not offer any yield – even in tightened conditions. Conversely, lower interest rates coupled by a weaker dollar can prompt investors to also opt for the safety bullion cushion. However, the relationship is not airtight and has been observed to prompt exceptions owing to inflationary conditions and/or geopolitical tensions, among other factors.

The notion about gold being a safety cushion is best reflected in the purchase of the yellow metal by central banks to hedge against global uncertainties, other than diversifying their forex reserves. For



perspective, as per the World Gold Council (WGC), central banks made net purchases of 8 tonnes in August. Leading buyers were the National Bank of Poland, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey followed by the RBI.

Broadly, gold prices are determined by forces of supply and demand. Imperative to note here, that gold is finite. The gestation period from mining to production cannot effectively respond to market dynamics. According to WGC, it often takes decades to move from discovery of a mine to production.

##### What have we observed about demand dynamics in India?

Demand for the yellow metal traditionally peaks in the second half of the year with the arrival of the festive season and the onset of the wedding season. The buffer

period in between (generally, mid-September to the onset of October) is considered inauspicious for such purchases as per the Hindu calendar. According to the WGC's October update, the above stipulated buffer period further marred by high prices have kept consumers away from buying the precious metal. However, it observed from market reports, about a resurgence in gold buying with the festive season and a demand largely driven by wedding purchases. With respect to prices, the monthly report held that the price increased in September primarily because of a decline in the U.S. dollar with the Fed's rate cut. This coupled with geopolitical tensions helped the rally. Imperative to note that globally the prices of gold are referenced in U.S. dollars. Thus, the decline in dollar spurs demand

for the yellow metal seeking safe haven and hedging.

##### What happens from here?

Saiyam Mehra, Chairman at the All-India Gems and Jewellery Domestic Council told *The Hindu* that prices of the yellow metal may further continue their upward trajectory. According to Mr. Mehra, the international market rates may come down between early to mid-November by about \$50 to approximately \$2,650/ounce. However, he observes that the rates could again go up between \$2,800 and \$3,000 in the next year – about ₹92,000 to ₹96,000. The latter being 20% higher compared to the present prices. "(At present) Even after the rates have increased, there is a good footfall in the market but not what we saw last year. The volume has decreased 10% but the value has increased about 15%", Mr. Mehra informed. Separately, he further anticipated 20% sales of bullion and 80% of jewellery during the important Dhanteras season.

Kavita Chacko, Research Head (India) at the WGC further observed that investment demand has been rather strong. The investment interest is being supported by strong price performance of the yellow metal. Furthermore, WGC also expects an increased demand for the yellow metal from rural areas emanating from "improvements in overall consumption". It observes, "Favourable monsoons and higher crop sowing this year are anticipated to boost rural incomes, potentially leading to higher gold purchases."

Reflecting on the domestic economic currents and their impact on prices, Ms. Chacko observed that the reduction in gold import duties in July has "significantly boosted demand". Further, she told *The Hindu*, "Strong monsoons have raised rural consumers' spending power, which has raised demand in both rural and tier II and III cities. Gold demand is typically high throughout the festive and wedding seasons, which we are currently in."

### THE GIST

Mired amidst geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty, spot price of gold scaled a record high of \$2,758.37 for an ounce on October 23.

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Demand for the yellow metal traditionally peaks in the second half of the year with the arrival of the festive season and the onset of the wedding season. The buffer period in between (mid-September to the onset of October) is considered inauspicious for such purchases as per the Hindu calendar.

## How does the U.S. electoral college system work?

How is an electoral college formed? What is its role in the U.S. presidential election? Who are 'faithless' electors? Which is the state with the largest number of electoral votes?

### Adithya Narayan

##### The story so far:

U.S. citizens will cast their ballots on November 5, to choose largely between Republican candidate and former President Donald Trump and Vice-President and Democrat Kamala Harris as their 47th President in the 60th quadrennial elections. The U.S. Constitution mandates that instead of securing the popular vote, the winner is the candidate who clinches the maximum number of electoral college votes. Apart from three instances in the 1800s, results in the recent past such as George Bush Jr.'s victory over Al Gore in 2000 and Mr. Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton (2016) came about in this manner.

##### What is the electoral college?

The electoral college is an intermediary body or process that chooses the U.S. President. In this system, voters of each

State cast their ballots to choose members (or electors) of the electoral college who then vote to select the President.

The number of electors accorded to each State is in proportion to its population and mirrors its number of members in Congress – both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The system, whose origins can be traced back to the days of slavery, was put in place to ensure States got equal representation in the election process.

**What is the process?** In the months leading up to the election, different parties nominate their slate of would-be electors in each State. The slate of the party that wins the popular vote in a State goes on to become electors from that State in the electoral college.

Conventionally, these electors meet in December and go by the will of their citizens to vote for the candidate who won the popular vote in their State. If an

elector votes against the citizens' choice, they are called faithless electors, and some States have provisions to prosecute them. In the presidential elections of 2016, there were seven 'faithless' electors though their votes made no difference to the result. California, with 54 electoral votes, has the maximum number of seats in the electoral college, followed by Texas with 40 and Florida with 30 while States such as North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware, and Vermont have the minimum number of 3. Other than two States (Maine and Nebraska), the winner of the popular vote gets all electoral votes of that State (and the District of Columbia); in other words, "Winner takes all". There are 538 electoral votes in the college and a candidate must secure at least 270 votes to become President.

**What happens if there is a tie?** According to the U.S. government's website, the situation has transpired only

twice – in 1800 and 1824. On both occasions, the House of Representatives spawned a solution by electing Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams respectively as President.

Given the current composition of States and their voters, such a situation is highly unlikely. However, if a situation were to arise, Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution and the 12th Amendment mandate that the election moves to the House of Representatives where the newly elected 435 members are sworn in and vote on who becomes President.

Notwithstanding the number of representatives accorded to States in the House, each State gets one vote. The winning party in the State gets to poll that vote and the candidate that garners 26 votes is declared President.

The Congress is scheduled to meet in early January to count the votes, and the new President is set to take charge on January 20, 2025, for a term of four years. If the House is unable to come up with a result by then, the Vice-President becomes Acting President, and the House continues to vote until it arrives at a result. Meanwhile, the election for the Vice-President happens in the Senate. In the 100-member strong Senate, each member gets one vote and the majority mark of 51 is desired for a candidate to claim victory. By virtue of being separate elections, this can lead to a situation where the President and Vice-President are from different political parties.

### THE GIST

The electoral college is an intermediary body or process that chooses the U.S. President.

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**ABSTRACT**

# Recognising the economic value of unpaid work in India

How valuing women's unpaid contributions can reshape our understanding of economic productivity and foster policies that address inequity and promote the redistribution of gendered unpaid labour

**Rebecca Rose Varghese**

Sahoo, S., Sarkar, K. K., and Kumar A. 'Valuation of Unpaid Household Activities in India', Vol 59, Issue no. 39, September 28, 2024

The invisibility of women's contributions to the economy through unpaid care work, parenting, and domestic responsibilities has been a growing topic of research and discussion. This dialogue emphasises the need to recognise and value these contributions in national accounts, highlighting their monetary worth. While the System of National Accounts has included household production in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) calculations since 1993, it has notably excluded unpaid care work. The Time Use Survey is often employed to quantify this labour; however, its infrequent implementation limits comprehensiveness.

Through their paper, authors Satyananda Sahoo, Kaustav K. Sarkar, and Amit Kumar contribute to this discussion by measuring the monetary value of unpaid household work within the Indian context.

Their objective is to highlight the economic significance of unpaid activities, particularly as data reveal that women not in the labour force spend over seven hours daily on unpaid domestic and care work. Employed women closely follow, dedicating 5.8 hours to similar tasks. In contrast, unemployed men spend less than four hours, while employed men contribute only 2.7 hours daily. This stark contrast underscores the significant burden of unpaid labour borne by women. By addressing these disparities, the authors advocate for policy reforms that acknowledge the economic contributions of unpaid household activities, ultimately seeking more equitable recognition of women's labour in the national economy.

**Methodology**

The authors use data from the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), covering individuals aged 15 and above from September 2019 to March 2023. The CPHS gathers annual data in three waves – January to April, May to August, and September to December – on employment, health, and financial information from approximately two lakh households and nine lakh individuals each year.

To estimate the economic value of unpaid household work, the authors employ two input-based valuation approaches – Opportunity Cost (GOC) and Replacement Cost (RCM).

**Around the world**

Globally, there is a growing effort to recognise and value unpaid work, as countries increasingly understand its significant economic contributions. In 2016, the United Nations integrated this focus into its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in SDG 5, which emphasises achieving gender equality and empowering women. Target 5.4 seeks to recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through supportive



**No rest:** Women farm workers engaged in their job at a paddy field in Thiruvalarsolai village in Tiruchi on September 11. M. MOORTHY

policies and shared household responsibilities, particularly in low and middle-income countries by 2030.

Similarly, a study by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC 2022) revealed that unpaid work contributes an estimated 9% to the GDP of APEC member economies, equivalent to \$11 trillion. Contributions vary widely. Indira Hirway, in her paper, "Unpaid Work and the Economy: Linkages and Their Implications (2015)," estimates that unpaid work constitutes between 10% and 60% of GDP in most countries. For instance, while it may form up to 41.3% of Australia's GDP, it may only contribute 5.5% to Thailand's GDP. In South Africa, unpaid work accounted for between 14.6% and 38.1% of GDP in 2010, while in Canada, unpaid household labour was valued between \$516.9 billion and \$860.2 billion in 2019, amounting to 25.2% to 37.2% of Canada's nominal GDP.

**Economic value of unpaid work**

Unpaid work in India contributes approximately ₹22.7 lakh crore or about 7.5% of the country's GDP, according to a 2023 State Bank of India report. This significant figure underscores the vital role of unpaid labour in the economy, predominantly provided by women who spend about 36 hours per week on such tasks compared to just 16 hours for men. This disparity highlights the gendered nature of household responsibilities and reflects broader societal norms regarding domestic labour.

The authors explain that addressing this imbalance could have substantial economic implications. Research indicates that enhancing women's participation in the labour force could boost India's GDP by as much as 27%. For instance, Rajeswari (2021) notes that women account for nearly 88% of unpaid domestic work, while studies by

Choudhary et al. (2009) estimate that women's unpaid labour constitutes approximately 61% of India's GDP.

To harness this potential for economic growth, it is vital to create policies that recognise and value unpaid work, encouraging gender equity in the workforce and boosting India's overall productivity. It's also important to explore how the pandemic has affected these inequalities and to develop policies that effectively address these issues.

**Wage variations in calculating monetary value**

The authors estimate the monetary value of unpaid household activities using two input-based methods: opportunity cost and replacement cost.

The opportunity cost method suggests that individuals forgo other activities and their associated monetary benefits while engaged in unpaid household work. This approach calculates the value of unpaid labour by determining the annual average hourly wages for unskilled labour, assumed to be accessible to everyone within a specific region. Due to limited data, the analysis assumes wage rates do not differ by age. Average wages are categorised by various factors to evaluate the time spent on unpaid domestic tasks annually. The authors note that while some assumptions could introduce an upward bias, using unskilled labour wages may also lead to a downward bias in estimating the value of unpaid household labour.

In contrast, the replacement cost method values household tasks as if performed by hired market workers, utilising average wages for comparable occupations instead of the unpaid individuals' wage rates. This approach assumes equal productivity between household members and market substitutes, regardless of age. For example, cooking tasks are valued at the wage rate for kitchen helpers, while caregiving is aligned with wages for nursing or midwifery assistants. Unpaid tasks are matched to similar occupations to assign a value to these tasks annually. The authors explain that while this method could lower market wage rates if labour supply increases, it may also raise demand and wages for domestic help.

Monetarily, the authors found that the value of unpaid household work was ₹49.5 lakh crore based on the gross opportunity cost (GOC) method and ₹65.1 lakh crore using the replacement cost method (RCM) for 2019-20, equating to 24.6% and 32.4% of nominal GDP, respectively. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted these values, with household contributions rising to 27.2% and 42.3% of nominal GDP in 2020-21 for GOC and RCM estimates. Men's contributions to household tasks increased from 10.4% of nominal GDP in 2019-20 to 13.1% in 2020-21, indicating a shift in household labour dynamics, while women's contributions rose to 26.2% during the pandemic.

As the economy recovered in 2021-22 and 2022-23, the overall percentage of GDP attributed to unpaid household work declined, suggesting a redirection of labour toward other sectors. The authors underscore the significant contributions from women, valued at 14.5% (GOC) and 21.5% (RCM) of GDP in 2022-23. However, they caution against directly incorporating these estimates into GDP calculations, highlighting the potential for recognising unpaid labour and its contribution to the country's economy. Through this analysis, the paper calls for future research to refine methodologies, promote equitable recognition and redistribution of care responsibilities, and ultimately enhance women's labour force participation.

*The writer is a freelance journalist.*

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

## Know your English

**K. Subrahmanian Upendran**

In response to the question paper published in this column on 17 August, '93, about 100 letters were received from the readers. While thanking them for the letters, we are sorry we cannot publish all of them. Most of the writers feel that schools and colleges should teach English grammar thoroughly. Some thank God that they were not students in 1892. A few feel that a knowledge of grammar may not make one speak or write better; what is important is usage and not just grammar. The following two letters may be of interest to readers:

"The term F.A. does not stand for Fellow of Arts but denotes First of Arts. If my memory serves me right, there was also another suffix F.Sc. which stood for First of Science and both F.A. and F.Sc. were the introductory stage leading to the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science respectively. The term Fellow was usually reserved for a higher and much coveted academic standard achieved in various fields of Arts, Science, Music and Engineering, e.g. Fellow of the Archaeological Society, Geographical Society, Zoological Society, etc. (these were later conferred the status of Royal Societies under a Royal Charter), Fellow of the Trinity College of Music, Fellow of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, etc. It may be of further interest to you to note that in addition to the General English paper, there were three more papers in English, viz. Shakespeare (*Richard II, Anthony & Cleopatra, As You Like It, Midsummer Night's Dream* etc.), Poetry (of Shelley, Keats, Longfellow, etc.) and Non-fiction books by R. L. Stevenson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, etc.. There were also papers in Arts or Science subjects. This scheme of Higher Education after Matriculation or equivalent was later converted to Intermediate in Arts or Intermediate in Science when they first introduced S.S.C. (Secondary School Certificate) and later S.S.L.C. I hope the above would be of interest to you. (N. Ramachandran, 22, Thanjavur).

"... From the F.A. General English Paper (Madras University, 1892), one can understand how teachers in those days used to drill students into the elements of English grammar. Winston Churchill writes in his Autobiography: "He (my English teacher) taught it as no one else ever taught it. Not only did we learn English parsing thoroughly but we also practised continually English analysis. Mr. Somervell had a system of his own. He took a fairly long sentence and broke it up into its components by means of black, red, blue and green inks. Subject, Verb, Object, Relative clauses, Conditional clauses, Conjunctive and Disjunctive clauses! Each had its own colour and bracket. It was a kind of drill. We did it almost daily. As I remained in the Third Fourth (B) three times as long as anyone else, I had three times as much of it. I learned thoroughly. Thus I got into my bones the essential structure of the ordinary British sentence – which is a noble thing..." (V. Durga Prasada Rao, C/O. SMVM Polytechnic, Tanuku, A.P.)

*Published in The Hindu on November 2, 1993.*

**THE DAILY QUIZ**

Grey is an intermediate colour between black and white. Even though considered drab sometimes, it has played a part in history. A quiz on all things grey

**Vasudevan Mukunth**

**QUESTION 1**

Throughout ancient history until around the 16th century, grey clothes came to be associated with the poor because grey was also the colour of \_\_\_\_\_ when it wasn't dyed, and which the poor wore. Fill in the blank.

**QUESTION 2**

What is the French term for any painting that's painted in grey? Hint: Pablo Picasso's famous 1937 painting 'Guernica' was a form of this art. Two similar art forms are brunaille (painted only in brown) and verdaille (green).

**QUESTION 3**

During the American Civil War, the

\_\_\_\_\_ wore grey-coloured uniforms. This was partly because its opponents wielded rifles, and grey uniforms stood out less across long distances than blue or red garbs did. Fill in the blank.

**QUESTION 4**

Our hair grows from hair follicles. Each follicle also contains specialised cells that inject a pigment called \_\_\_\_\_ into the hair to give it its colour. As we age, the cells stop doing this and our hair turns grey. Fill in the blank.

**QUESTION 5**

Grey matter refers to neuronal cells, dendrites, axons, synapses, and other important parts of the central nervous system. The label is to distinguish it from \_\_\_\_\_ matter, which mostly contains myelinated axons. Fill in the blank.

**Visual question:**

Name this metamorphic rock type that, when powdered, produces a dark grey colour often associated with the name of this rock.

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The first and oldest winner of the Balon d' Or. **Ans:** Stanley Mathews

2. The first French footballer to win the prize. **Ans:** Raymond Kopa

3. The only goalkeeper to win the golden ball. **Ans:** Lev Yashin

4. The first non-European player to win the award. **Ans:** George Weah

5. The other woman player that has the same feat as Bonmati. **Ans:** Alexia Putellas

6. For a decade since 2008, either Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi won the prize. The

was the player to win before their streak and this player broke their streak. **Ans:** Kaka and Luka Modric

Visual: Name this player who is the only

defender to win the prize twice. **Ans:** Franz Beckenbauer

**Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan| Mouli Chakraborty| Arvind Tillway| Fathima Refidal| Ayesha Harish

**Word of the day****Chthonic:**

dwelling beneath the surface of the earth

**Synonym:**

nether

**Usage:** It was a clearly chthonic tradition of worship.

**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/chthonicpro

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /kθɒnɪk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) with the subject 'Text & Context'

**From Page One****Troops complete disengagement'**

For the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points of the 2020 stand-off, a general framework agreement was concluded first at the diplomatic level. Subsequently, a detailed agreement outlining the modalities of disengagement as well as the patrolling was concluded at the Corps Commanders' level on October 21, just before the start of the BRICS summit at Kazan, Russia. The summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who also held a bilateral meeting.

The agreement, in-principle, means that the Indian Army will be able to resume patrols up to the Patrolling Points (PP) 10, 11, IIA, 12, and 13 in the Depsang area which it last managed to access in January 2020 and also access to the traditional grazing areas in Demchok. After the stand-off, the Chinese People's Liberation Army had blocked Indian patrols from going beyond the Y-junction in the strategic Depsang plains.

**Core sector output slips to 10-month low in Sept.**

Acuité Ratings chief economist Suman Chowdhury, who expects core sectors to grow 4.5% to 5% through 2024-25, compared to 7.6% last year, said this will also drag down industrial output growth to 5%. The economic indicators for the second quarter have increased the downside risks to their 7% growth projection for the year, he noted.

**Power, oil and gas**

Five of the eight infrastructure sectors recorded year-on-year growth, compared to just two sectors in August. However, just three sectors' production levels were also higher than August: coal (up 9.8%), cement (0.85%), and refinery products, which recorded a fractional 0.07% uptick sequentially. Electricity generation contracted for the second month in a row, albeit with a milder shrinkage of 0.5% from September 2023. However, this was 3.5% below August's generation level, perhaps linked to the late withdrawal of the monsoon with above-normal rains in September.

Crude oil production contracted for the fifth successive month, with the shrinkage deepening to 3.9%, while natural gas declined 1.3%, the third straight month of contraction.

Absolute output levels in both these sectors were at a three-month low.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar reckoned that industrial output may have grown in the range of 3% to 5% in September, thanks to narrower contractions in electricity and mining output, higher growth in GST e-way bills, as well as a favourable base from last year.

**'Shah ordered campaign to target Sikh activists'**

On October 14, Canada expelled the High Commissioner and five other diplomats, alleging they were persons of interest in multiple cases of coercion, intimidation and violence aimed at quieting a campaign for an independent Sikh State known as Khalistan.

Nathalie Drouin, Mr. Trudeau's national security adviser, told the committee on Tuesday that Canada has evidence the Indian government first gathered information on Indian nationals and Canadian citizens in Canada through diplomatic channels and proxies. She said the information was then passed to the government in New Delhi, which allegedly works with a criminal network affiliated with Lawrence Bishnoi.

Ms. Drouin said a meeting was held with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national security adviser, Ajit Doval, in Singapore two days earlier. She said the decision was made to go public when it became evident the Indian government would not cooperate with Canada on proposed accountability measures.

The Indian government has denied the allegations and expelled six Canadian diplomats.

**Hoax call chaos: U.S., Interpol help sought**

"U.S. law enforcement officials are in touch with Indian counterparts to support investigations into airline bomb threats affecting U.S. citizens," confirmed the U.S. Embassy spokesperson in Delhi, in response to a question from *The Hindu*.

A second government source said that India has sought Interpol's assistance to seek information from Germany and the United Kingdom as well.

"We need specific information about the hoax calls from Germany and U.K. as the Virtual Private Network (VPN) servers from which these calls and messages are routed are located in these countries," the second government source said.

The cooperation from the FBI is significant as it comes at a time when India-U.S. ties have been under a cloud over the trial of an Indian government official and an Indian businessman accused of ordering an assassination attempt on Mr. Pannun.

While India has denied the allegations, first formally revealed in a Department of Justice indictment in November 2023, it has appointed a high-level inquiry into the case.

**U.S. repatriates 1,100 Indians who tried to enter it illegally**

Citing figures for 2023-24, a U.S. official says there has been a steady increase in the number of Indians repatriated over the past few years; warns of tough measures such as bar on re-entry

**Kallop Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

The United States has repatriated 1,100 Indians over the past year for trying to enter the U.S. illegally, said a senior official from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The official added there has been a "steady increase" in the number of Indians in recent years who have been repatriated from the United States.

Briefing journalists on Tuesday, Royce Murray, Assistant Secretary for Border and Immigration Policy at the DHS, said she had travelled to India last week to witness the flight that flew illegal immigrants back to India. "Let me start by saying that in fiscal year 2024, which just concluded at the end of September, the United States repatriated over 1,100 Indian nationals," said Ms. Murray in her remarks at the briefing.

The remarks from the official came days after the DHS flew a "large-frame



**Keeping a check:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security sent back the latest batch on a charter flight on October 22. FILE PHOTO

charter removal flight" on October 22 to repatriate Indian nationals "who did not establish legal basis to remain in the United States". That move was aimed at reducing and deterring "irregular migration" to the U.S., the Department of Homeland Security had said.

**Tough consequences**  
Ms. Royce said the flight was part of the DHS's initiative to "enforce U.S. immigration laws". She reiterated that there would be "tough consequences" for

those who try to enter the U.S. unlawfully. Ms. Murray further confirmed that the special flight that repatriated Indian nationals on October 22, 2024, landed in Punjab though she could not provide specific details about the States that supply most of the U.S.-bound illegal immigrants from India.

The American official pointed out the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada borders as the two areas that are being chosen by Indian nationals to enter the U.S. illegally. People with visas

who have overstayed in the United States are also liable to be repatriated, said the official. She also specified that the deportations were not related to the recent controversy over the allegation against a Government of India official for reportedly hiring a professional hitman to assassinate a pro-Khalistan figure.

**Important partner**  
Ms. Murray described the Government of India as an "important partner" and cautioned against human smuggling organisations that try to send Indians to the U.S. She said that illegally crossing the U.S. borders may lead to deportation and a "minimum five-year bar on re-entry to the United States". She also said that "recidivists" or those who make several attempts to enter the U.S. illegally would face criminal prosecution. Ms. Murray also revealed that "India has certainly been" the "top country of migration to the United States" from South Asia.

**ARIN-AP is a multi-agency network dedicated to tackling proceeds of crime in the Asia-Pacific region**

and confiscation. It includes 28 member jurisdictions and nine observers and serves as an informal yet robust network as part of CARIN. It operates through a network of contact points, enabling effective communication among member agencies, and of over 100 jurisdictions in CARIN with the ED representing India as the nodal agency.

"This new role will enable India to contribute to ARIN-AP's decision-making and administrative responsibilities, furthering its mission to combat economic crimes and support asset recovery at a global scale," said the ED.

"...India will assume the presidency of the network and host the annual general meeting (AGM) in 2026. This milestone provides a unique platform to reinforce India's leadership in asset recovery and enhance cooperation with regional and international partners," it said. ARIN-AP was established to facilitate cross-border collaboration on asset tracing, freezing,

chines in Haryana, they were "in order" in Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan in 2018, Telangana, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, in the Lok Sabha elections and in Jammu & Kashmir.

He said, "Is this also not the same Congress party that had claimed that the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation are ruined... however, the fact is that the LIC made all-time high profit in the last quarter and the State Bank of India made an all-time high profit last May."

The BJP leader accused the Congress of targeting Indian democratic institutions, including the Election Commission and the Comptroller & Auditor General, in a bid to "create anarchy".

**India joins steering committee of asset recovery network**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

India, represented by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), has been included in the steering committee of the Asset Recovery Interagency Network-Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP), a prominent multi-agency network dedicated to tackling the proceeds of crime in the Asia-Pacific region.

"This new role will enable India to contribute to ARIN-AP's decision-making and administrative responsibilities, furthering its mission to combat economic crimes and support asset recovery at a global scale," said the ED.

"...India will assume the presidency of the network and host the annual general meeting (AGM) in 2026. This milestone provides a unique platform to reinforce India's leadership in asset recovery and enhance cooperation with regional and international partners," it said. ARIN-AP was established to facilitate cross-border collaboration on asset tracing, freezing,

**'Cronyism' of Modi govt. has led to price rise and wage stagnation, says Congress**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday alleged that the price rise of the last few years was "directly attributable" to the Modi government's "cronyism" and patronage to conglomerates, and that India's consumption-driven growth story had gone into a "reverse swing".

In a statement, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said India was in its "most precarious and difficult" economic situation as wage stagnation, inflation and inequality had undermined consumption growth. "They undermine India's consumption growth and deprive the private sector of its single-most important incentive



Jairam Ramesh

to invest. These chokepoints will strangulate growth in the years to come if not taken seriously now, in a spirit of humility," he added.

Mr. Ramesh said multiple data sources, including the government's own official statistics such as the recently released Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2022-2023, had shown clear evidence that workers were able to buy less to

day than they could 10 years ago.

He quoted former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Viral Acharya, to argue that the last decade had seen the emergence of five big conglomerates, including the Adani Group, who were building monopolies in 40 sectors, including cement, chemicals, petrol and construction.

In 2015, when a common man used to purchase ₹100 worth of goods, he was paying 18% to the industrialist owner. Today, he is now paying ₹36 in profits to the same owner. The price rise of the last few years is directly attributable to the government's cronyism and patronage of these conglomerates," Mr. Ramesh said.

**Cong. should apologise for 'baseless' allegations during Haryana election, says BJP**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday said the Congress should apologise to the people for making "baseless" allegations of irregularities in the Haryana Assembly election, following a detailed response from the Election Commission of India.

On Tuesday, the Election Commission rejected as "baseless" the charges made by the Congress, and also cautioned and other political parties against levelling "unfounded and sensational" complaints at sensitive junctures such as polling and counting days.

At a press conference on Wednesday, BJP national spokesperson and MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said the al-



Sudhanshu Trivedi

legations were not "ridiculous", instead they raised suspicion that the move was part of the Congress' "design to question the credibility of a constitutional institution".

"This may be the first time in the history of India such a detailed response has come from the Election Commission," he said.

Mr. Trivedi said while the Congress cried foul over Electronic Voting Ma-

Elephant toll in M.P. reserve rises to 7; govt. orders probe

**Press Trust of India**  
UMARIA

Three more elephants have died in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh's Umaria district, taking the toll to seven, while the condition of three other tuskers were serious, a forest official said on Wednesday.

Madhya Pradesh's Forest Minister Ramniwas Rawat has ordered a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the death of the tuskers and asked officials to ensure strict action against culprits.

BTB's Deputy Director Prakash Kumar Verma said, prime facie, the elephants seemed to have died after consuming Kodo millet, but the exact cause will be known after the autopsy.

Mr. Verma on Wednesday said so far seven elephants have died. They were part of a herd of 13 pachyderms, he stated.

**Local people must get first right to land, says J&K CM**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
SRINAGAR

Pledging to fight for the "dignity of people", Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said local people should have the first right to land, employment and resources.

"If we cannot live with dignity, and our identity lacks value and honour, then all of this [issues] hold no real meaning. I want to assure you that we will fight for all that matters, but my first priority is to restore our dignity. We should have the first right to our lands, our employment, and our resources. Only then can we truly say that this country respects our honour and dignity," Mr. Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister's remarks came during a meeting with civil society groups representing trade, tourism, education, industry, health, transport etc.

**Hindu groups dismayed after Canadian Oppn. leader pulls out of Deepavali event**

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

Amid escalating tensions between India and Canada over the killing of separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Canadian Leader of the Opposition Conservative Party, Pierre Poilievre, withdrew from hosting the annual Deepavali celebrations at the Parliament House in Ottawa.

The decision to cancel the event, which has been held for 23 years, was met with deep disappointment from a number of Indo-Canadian institutions, including the Overseas Friends of India Canada (OFIC). While the OFIC-organised event planned with the Conservative Party for October 30 was put off, the Deepavali event will be held by the ruling Liberal party's MP Chandra Arya on November 16 at the same venue.

"For the past 23 years, Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs have looked forward to participating in this joyous occasion to



Leader of the Opposition Conservative Party Pierre Poilievre in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. REUTERS

share and celebrate this joyous day with all our Canadian brothers and sisters," wrote Shiv Bhasker, president of OFIC in an open letter to Mr. Poilievre.

**Key distinction'**

"By cancelling their participation, our political leaders have failed to draw a necessary distinction between the Canadian Indian community and the actions of the Indian government," he added, amid allegations by the Canadian government that the Indian government was involved, at senior levels, in

"insensitive and discriminatory act", and adding that as "proud Canadians" the Indo-Canadian community, especially about 8,50,000 Hindu Canadians would "remember its friends at the time of exercising their franchise".

Mr. Poilievre's U-turn on hosting the event at Parliament Hill has also surprised many within South Block, as the issues that have strained India-Canada ties were being seen largely as a problem with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Liberal Party, which is seen as catering to the more radical "Khalistani" vote bank in the country, ahead of the general election due in 2025.

"Unsurprisingly, Mr. Poilievre [appears to] have feared a narrative being pushed by pro-Khalistani groups of him favouring Hindus over Sikhs. He is trying to court both by building a larger tent [ahead of elections]," said a former High Commissioner to Canada.

# Bandra East set for high-octane contest

Slain NCP leader Baba Siddique's son Zeeshan will take on Aaditya Thackeray's cousin Varun Sardesai in this Mumbai suburb; it will be the sitting MLA's first election without his father, while for the debutant Shiv Sena (UBT) leader, it will mark a transition from the university polls to Assembly election

**Snehal Mutha**  
MUMBAI

The Bandra East constituency in Mumbai is set for an intriguing contest in the coming Assembly election in Maharashtra, with the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party fielding MLA Zeeshan Siddique against Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Varun Sardesai.

It is the first election for Mr. Zeeshan, 32, after his father and former Minister Baba Siddique was shot dead on October 12. For Mr. Sardesai, 31, cousin of former Minister Aaditya Thackeray, this marks an opportunity to move on from university elections to a bigger stage.

#### Dynamics in suburb

A western Mumbai suburb, Bandra East is known for the Bandra-Kurla Complex, a high-end business hub; government housing colonies; and slums. Over the years, Bandra was identified as a Congress stronghold. Of the 10 election held till 2008, the Congress won eight.

Bandra East was estab-



**Key battle:** Zeeshan Siddique arriving to file nomination papers along with NCP MLA Chhagan Bhujbal for the Maharashtra Assembly election on Monday; and, right, Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Varun Sardesai filing nomination papers. ANI/X@SHIVSENABUT



lished as a separate Assembly segment following delimitation in 2008. The Shiv Sena held control over it till 2014. In 2019, Mr. Zeeshan (then with the Congress) won the seat by a margin of 5,790 votes over Vishwanath Mahadevwar of the undivided Shiv Sena.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Zeeshan said, "I was a newbie during my first term, but now I have learnt a lot of things after serving

Maharashtra Legislative Council election. He then joined the Ajit Pawar-led NCP. Mr. Zeeshan had dismissed the allegations of cross-voting, saying, "How I can vote nine times to ensure the defeat of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) MLC candidates?"

The NCP is also banking on the sympathy votes that Mr. Zeeshan may get owing to his father's death.

An emerging face in the Shiv Sena (UBT), Mr. Sarde-

sai is known for his poll strategy. He campaigned extensively for his party candidates during the Lok Sabha election. He also played an important role in the Mumbai University senate election, where the Shiv Sena (UBT) won all 10 seats. "He is committed to the idea of bringing in new perspectives. He has been working in Bandra East for some time now and the strategy is clear: fighting

for the core issues of the people," Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi said.

In the Lok Sabha election, Bandra East had given a substantial lead of 27,480 votes to sitting Mumbai North Central MP Varsha Gaikwad of the Congress against the BJP candidate, Ujjwal Nikam.

#### Pressing issues

Bandra East has a sizeable population of Muslim, Dalit, and middle-class Marathi families.

The pressing issues in the Assembly segment are sanitation, housing, and water. Residents of slum pockets in Bandra East are fighting for land rights, housing rights, and against illegal demolition. For instance, over 5,000 families in Bharat Nagar are demanding redevelopment under the State housing authority, MHADA, and not under the Slum Rehabilitation Authority's redevelopment scheme.

The 288-member Maharashtra Assembly will vote on November 20. The results will be announced on November 23.

## IN BRIEF



### Himanta bats for inclusion of Ho language in 8th Schedule

Ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly election, Assam Chief Minister and BJP co-in-charge Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday stressed the inclusion of Ho language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Mr. Sarma said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government would make every effort to include the Ho language in the Eighth Schedule. With a population of around 25 lakh, the Ho tribal community is concentrated in the Kolhan region.

### AIMIM names 16 candidates for Maharashtra election

The Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM released its list of 16 candidates on Tuesday for the Maharashtra Assembly elections. These include MLAs Mufti Ismail Qasmi from Malegaon Central, Faruk Shah Anwar from Dhule, and incumbent MP Syed Imtiaz Jaleel from Chhatrapati Sambhaji Naggar (Aurangabad) East. In Mumbai, it has fielded party Mumbai chief Raees Lashkaria for Versova, ex-Mumbai chief Faiyaz Ahmad Khan for Byculla, Babita Kanade for Kurla, and Ateeque Ahmad Khan for Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar. Former Byculla MLA Waris Pathan will contest from Bhiwandi.



**BJP is trying to convince rebels to withdraw'**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said the Bharatiya Janata Party would try its best to convince most of its rebel candidates to withdraw their nominations.

"Rebel candidates exist in every party. We are trying to help most of the rebels understand and withdraw their nominations. However, in some places, it will be a friendly fight on November 20, the day Maharashtra votes," Mr. Fadnavis said.

#### Contest in Mahim

In the contest for the Mahim Assembly seat, Mr. Fadnavis said that the BJP and Shiv Sena were supporting Amit Thackeray, the son of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) head Raj Thackeray.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has his full support for Amit Thackeray who is making his electoral debut. Leaders from Shiv Sena have argued that if the party does not contest the election, its dedicated voters would shift to Shiv Sena (UBT). Hence, the BJP decided to support Amit Thackeray and is still firm on its stand," he said.

On Tuesday, Nationalist Congress Party chief Ajit Pawar made allegations against former State Home Minister R.R. Patil, who pushed for an open inquiry against him in an alleged multi-crore irrigation scam. On this, Mr. Fadnavis said, "The late R.R. Patil is no more with us. I do not think it is right to comment on him or say something about him that he cannot respond to," he said.

## BJP and Congress prepare to hold several rallies with star campaigners in Maharashtra

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI



With the Maharashtra Assembly election slated for November 20, the central leadership of the Congress and the BJP will focus on holding multiple rallies in the State over the next few days.

The BJP has planned 100 rallies in the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will hold several rallies.

The Congress is also planning to arrange the rallies of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge will be in Mumbai on November 6 to announce the "guarantees" of the party for the Maharashtra election. NCP(SP) president Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray

nataka, everyone will be here for campaigning," he told *The Hindu*.

#### PM to join 8 rallies

Among the 100 rallies planned by the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold at least eight, top sources in the party said. Two of them will be in Vidarbha (one in east Vidarbha, and one in west Vidarbha), two in Marathwada, two in western Maharashtra (Kolhapur and Pune), one in Mumbai, and one in Konkan. Mr. Shah will hold nearly 20 rallies.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who was one of the star campaigners for the party during the Lok Sabha election, will hold 15 rallies.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will hold 40 rallies, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will conduct 50 rallies and Maharashtra State BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankar will hold over 40 rallies. The Chief Ministers of Goa, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana will also canvass for candidates.

## BJP is killing Mahayuti by contesting majority of seats, says Congress

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

The Congress in-charge for Maharashtra, Ramesh Chennithala, on Wednesday accused the BJP of "finishing" its allies Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar in the State and "killing the Mahayuti" by contesting the most number of seats in the coming Assembly election.

Referring to these switchovers, the senior Congress leader said, "All parties involved in the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) are given 'equal treatment', and compared to Mahayuti, there is no conflict among the MVA. We will fight unitedly; all the rebels will be put in line."

## Political battles within families set up interesting contests in Jharkhand

**Amit Bhaleri**  
PATNA



Kalpana Soren (in picture) and BJP's Sita Soren, daughters-in-law of JMM founder Shibu Soren, are contesting the Assembly election. ANI

The Jharkhand Assembly election has turned into an arena for political battles within families, with candidates pitted against their own flesh and blood. In some constituencies, a son takes on his father; in others, a wife contests against husband. And all that is apart from the slew of political in-laws on the ballot.

In Dhanbad's Tundi Assembly seat, the sitting MLA is Mathura Prasad Mahato of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM). He must defend his seat not just from the BJP candidate Vikas Kumar Mahato, but also from the challenge offered by his own son, Dinesh Mahato, who has filed his nomination as an Independent candidate.

The Jharkhand Assembly constituency will also see a father-son contest. Mohammad Rustam Ansari of the Jharkhand Loktantrik Kranti Morcha (JLKM) has filed his nomination from the seat, while his son, Saddam Hussain alias Bunty, has also filed his papers as an Independent candidate.

**Spouses and in-laws**  
Another interesting fight is brewing in Jharkhand between two women who are cousins-in-law. The sitting MLA, Purnima Niraj Singh of the Congress, is the widow of the late Niraj Singh. Her rival is BJP candidate Ragini Singh, wife of former BJP MLA Sanjeev Singh.

Mr. Niraj Singh was murdered in 2017 while serving as a Deputy Mayor. His cousin and then-BJP MLA Mr. Sanjeev Singh was charged in the murder and sent to jail.

In the Gomia constituency, both Chittaranjan Sao and his wife, Sunita Devi, who is a Zila Parishad president, have filed their nomination papers to contest as Independent candidates.

Though it is quite common to see the sons and daughter of politicians contest the polls, this election has an unusual number of in-laws in the fray as well.

Office of The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Zone, Kota			
G.O./CEWRZ/KT/e-NIB-05/2024-25/10593-601			
Rptd 25/10/24			
e-NIB No.-05/2024-25			
On behalf of The Governor of Rajasthan, e-tenders are invited from interested bidders for the work(s) for Item No.01 - "Renovation work of canals of Harish Chandra Sagar Project District Kota Phase-I, District Kota" for Completion period of 18 Months (including rainy season) (Estimated Cost Rs. 2460.01 Lacs) and Item No.2 - "Renovation work of Remaining Distributaries of Sawan Bhadon Medium irrigation Project Tehsil Kanwas, Distt.-Kota" for Completion period of 24 Months (including rainy season) (Estimated Cost Rs. 1262.42 Lacs) from 28.10.2024 (9.30 AM) to 18.11.2024 till 16.00 HR other particulars, terms & conditions may be seen on the procurement portal <a href="https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> & <a href="https://sppr.rajasthan.nic.in">https://sppr.rajasthan.nic.in</a> .			
HIB No. WRD2425A0257			
VBH-1- WRD2425WLOB01038			
2- WRD2425WLOB01039			
DIPR/C/10660/2024			
Chief Engineer, Water Resources Zone, Kota			

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BEAWAR			
NIB NO.: PWD2425A2417 - PWD2425A2420			
Notice Inviting Bid No. 12/2024-25			
Bids for 04 No. Works are invited from interested bidders upto 2.00 PM 08 November 2024. Other particular of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal ( <a href="http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> , <a href="http://sppr.rajasthan.nic.in">http://sppr.rajasthan.nic.in</a> ) of the State, and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 577.53			
S. No. NIB No. UBIN No. Amount (Lac)			
1 PWD2425A2417 PWD2425WSOB08943 212.59			
2 PWD2425A2418 PWD2425WSOB08944 216.28			
3 PWD2425A2419 PWD2425WSOB08945 147.19			
4 PWD2425A2420 PWD2425WSOB08946 1.47			
(V.S. Shekhawat) Executive Engineer PWD, Division Beawar			
DIPR/C/10725/2024			

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority Civil Engineering Department, Tuticorin-628 004.				
NOTICE INVITING TENDER				
#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Construction of 4 lane road with rigid pavement including side drain & Construction of RCC drain around colony area at VOC Port	44,30,72,430	69,30,724	20.11.2024

Note: For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:  
 i) <https://etenders.gov.in/eproc/app>  
 ii) <https://www.voport.gov.in>

Sd/-  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
VOCPA

## IN BRIEF



## Salman Khan receives death threat, demand for ₹2 crore

The Mumbai Police on Wednesday said actor Salman Khan had received yet another death threat. The police said a message was sent to the control room of the Mumbai traffic police on Tuesday, threatening to kill the actor if he did not pay ₹2 crore. The Worli police have registered a case against an unidentified person. On Tuesday, the Bandra police arrested a man, identified as Gufran Maqbool, who allegedly sent a threat message on October 25. The actor had received another death threat following the killing of NCP leader Baba Siddique in Bandra East. In April, two persons on a motorcycle had opened fire outside the residence of the actor.

## ICMR invites firms for making anaemia detection device

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible organisations, companies, start-ups for manufacturing "non-invasive/minimally invasive hemoglobinometer". The device is intended to aid in the detection of anaemia, a key national health priority under the Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) programme. Aimed at expanding the effective screening network of anaemia among different age populations across India, the council said that over the past few years, several 'Make in India' non-invasive/ minimally invasive hemoglobinometers had become available.

## Teenager beheaded over land dispute in U.P.'s Jaunpur

## The Hindu Bureau

LUCKNOW

A 17-year-old boy was beheaded over a land dispute at Kabiruddinpur village in Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

The death of Anurag Yadav, a national-level taekwondo player, led to tension in the village.

"The incident is result of a land dispute between two parties for roughly 40-45 years. We are investigating the matter and have detained some persons, who are being interrogated," Superintendent of Police Ajay Pal Sharma.

A video of the victim's mother with the severed head went viral on social media. Reacting over the incident, the Samajwadi Party said that as the BJP government was becoming inactive, criminals were becoming emboldened in the State.

## Govt. notifies email policy for Ministries, Central departments

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday notified the Email Policy of Government of India, 2024, outlining which government departments and bodies must use the National Informatics Centre (NIC)'s NICeMail service.

The policy requires that email addresses be specific to government employees' individual service. For instance, an IPS officer would have an email address ending with @ips.gov.in, as opposed to simply @gov.in. The policy replaces the rules issued in 2015 on government email addresses.

The policy also allows NIC's email services to be leased by private players in exchange for a fee, while it will remain free of charge for government organisations.

government. It also provides for redirecting of emails to transferred officials, and archiving of designation-based inbox after an officer completes their tenure at a certain role.

The NICeMail service is used by much of the Union bureaucracy and States. While the NIC, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, hosts and maintains the email service, many email inbox across the government have been shifted in recent months to Zoho. Reports indicated that up to 50 lakh email inbox across the government may be handled by the Chennai-based IT firm.

The policy also allows NIC's email services to be leased by private players in exchange for a fee, while it will remain free of charge for government organisations.

## PSU officers knock on Modi's door over EPFO's way of calculating higher pension

## A.M. Jigeesh

NEW DELHI

Irk over the decision of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to calculate the higher PF pension according to pro rata basis, officers of several Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have knocked on the doors of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

They urged Mr. Modi to ask the EPFO to provide higher pension as per the Supreme Court order of November 2022 and not in proportion to the contribution to the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) made by the employees. The officers alleged that the EPFO had issued pension payment orders to some of the recently retired officers without considering the contribution they made to the scheme before September 2014.

The National Confederation of Officers' Associations (NCOA), representing



PSU officials have alleged that the EPFO has not responded to their complaints.

more than two lakh officers, and an equal number of retirees of 255 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) said in their letter to Mr. Modi, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, and several Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs that the EPFO was standing against the rightful enhancement of pensions for post-2014 retirees and serving employees. They alleged that there was no reply from the EPFO to their grievances.

The officers said the EPFO gave several extensions to its subscribers to submit the joint option with the employer to claim higher pension.

"Four months are over after this extended date and no visible improvement found on the implementation part," the NCOA said. "Many Regional Offices of EPFO are rejecting the joint applications submitted by the Employees/Retired Employees of CPSEs as well as other Institutions which are coming under the category of Exempted Trusts, simply by placing a lame excuse of trust rules which is totally irrelevant and against the clear verdict of Hon'ble Supreme Court," the letter said.

They urged the government to expedite the processing of joint option applications and ensure the correct calculation method as per the Supreme Court's order. They demanded the withdrawal of pro-rata

## ED facilitates return of assets worth ₹185 crore

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

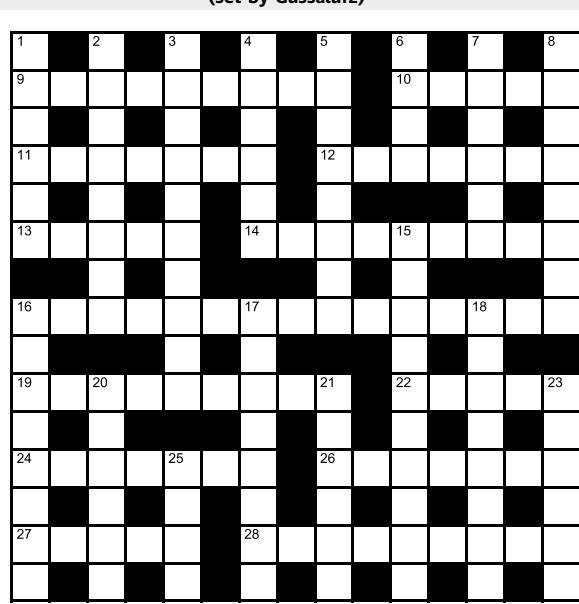
The Enforcement Directorate has facilitated the return of properties worth about ₹185.13 crore from Surya Pharmaceuticals Limited to a State Bank of India-led consortium of lenders via the official liquidator.

The agency on Wednesday said that as part of its ongoing efforts to restore the proceeds of crime to the rightful victims, it held meetings with the claimants involved. "To safeguard the interests of the nationalised banks, the Directorate provided its no objection to the Special Court for the restitution of the properties," it said. Following the clearance under the Section 8(7) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act regulations, the court issued a restitution order on October 2.

## TH CROSSWORD

14319

(set by Gussalufz)



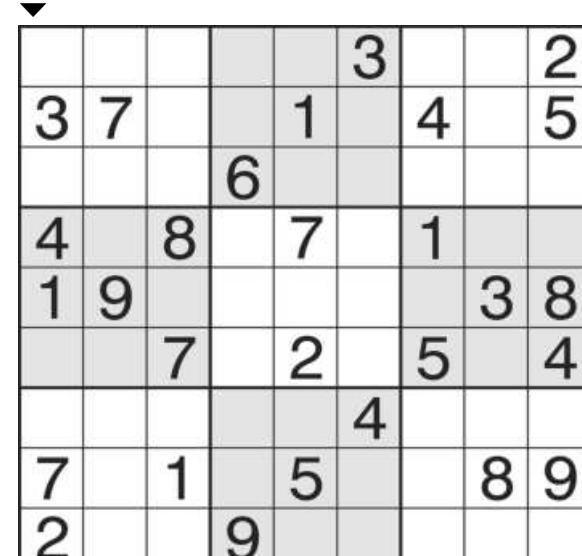
## Across

- 9 Cover nose when crap's on the other hand (1,8)
- 10 Another brag: A.I. never conceals (5)
- 11 Deep art has trouble coming to a point (7)
- 12 Is breakfast to be made regularly? Annoying (7)
- 13 It helps make wine easy to break down and digest, ultimately (5)

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



## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

## FAITH

## Significance of Deepavali

Celebrated as the festival of lights, Deepavali is one of the ancient festivals. The Pancharatra Agamam says Deepavali festival has been in existence through the yugas, starting with Krita yuga, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

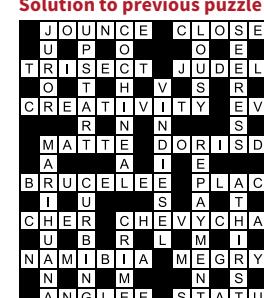
Observed on the Amavasya day in the Tamil month of Aippasi, it denotes the emergence of Goddess Lakshmi with pot of nectar following the churning of the Milky Ocean by the devas and asuras. The word Avali denotes line-up and signifies the fact that the Goddess was welcomed with diyas lit sequentially by devas, saints and the others, when she emerged. Deepavali is also referred to Lakshmi Puja due to this reason.

People believe that in Treta yuga, Lord Rama defeated Ravana on Vijayadasami Day and returned to Ayodhya on the Amavasya day in Aippasi and hence Ayodhya continues to celebrate Deepavali by staging the Lanka war followed by the burning of the Ravana in effigy.

In the Dwapara yuga, on the day preceding Amavasya in Aippasi, Lord Krishna fought with Narakasura, a rakshasa who had stolen Indra's pristine white umbrella and his mother Aditi's earrings. Following Indra's appeal to Krishna to recover the stolen items, Krishna, accompanied by Satyabhama, reached Narakasura's abode and engaged in a fight with him, defeating the asura. With his last breath the rakshasa prayed to Krishna that He should negate the sins of all those who have a Ganga snan early morning and pray to God on Aippasi Amavasya.

The real benefit of observing Deepavali lies in the fact that the festival dispels the darkness of ignorance and fetches the blessings of Lakshmi.

## Solution to previous puzzle



## Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



## INBRIEF



## Castrol India names HUL's Lele as managing director

Lubricant manufacturer Castrol India Ltd. has named Kedar Lele as its MD, effective November 1. Mr. Lele joins the firm after a two-decade-long career at Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) where he last served as executive director for sales and customer development, South Asia. Rakesh Makhija, chairman of Castrol India Ltd., said, "His vast experience in driving growth and leading large teams in complex markets makes him an outstanding choice to lead Castrol India."

## Carborundum Universal's net rises 12% in Q2 to ₹116 crore

Carborundum Universal Ltd.'s consolidated net profit for the September quarter rose 12% to ₹116 crore year-on-year on account of an increase in volume growth in all segments. Revenue from operations grew by 6.80% to ₹1,224 crore of which abrasives accounted for ₹543 crore, electro minerals ₹402 crore and ceramics ₹280 crore, the company said. The firm's debt to equity ratio stood at 0.03, and it incurred a capex of ₹124 crore in H1FY25 against ₹97 crore in H1FY24.

## Dabur net slips 17.6% in Q2 hit by inflation, demand squeeze

FMCG major Dabur India Ltd. on reported a decline of 17.65% in its consolidated net profit to ₹417.52 crore in the September quarter on account of high food inflation and squeeze in urban demand. Revenue from operations slipped 5.46% to ₹3,028.59 crore, Dabur India said in a filing. In a separate filing, the firm said its board had declared an interim dividend of 275% for FY2024-25, which is ₹2.75 per share, having a face value of ₹1 each. PTI

## Indian pharma players asked to step up amid IV fluids' shortage in U.S.

**N. Ravi Kumar**  
HYDERABAD

India's drug exporters body Pharmexcil has alerted members to a shortage of intravenous (IV) fluids that the United States is facing in the aftermath of a damage caused by Hurricane Helene to a manufacturing facility, and urged them to explore the opportunity to chip in with supplies.

"Manufacturers of intravenous fluids with approvals from the U.S. FDA/EU/SRA countries, as well as the capacity to supply intravenous fluids to the U.S., are requested to submit their willingness to supply," the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India director general Raja Bhanu said.



The communication to members that was issued recently followed the Indian Embassy in Washington D.C. informing the exporters' body under the Commerce Ministry about a critical shortage of intravenous fluids prevailing in the U.S. due to the serious damage Hurricane Helene caused to a Baxter International plant.

## Tata Power net grows 6% in Q2 to ₹927 cr.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Tata Power Co. Ltd. posted a 6% growth in its second-quarter consolidated net profit at ₹926.53 crore.

Consolidated revenue from operations remained almost unchanged at ₹15,697.57 crore compared with ₹15,738.03 crore in the same period last year.

"Our generation, transmission and distribution, and renewable businesses continue to witness sustained growth momentum as India sees record power demand and investment in the new age of electricity," said Praveer Sinha, the firm's CEO and MD said.

"All our business seg-



ments performed remarkably well during the quarter leading to the 20th consecutive quarterly PAT growth," Dr. Sinha added.

"We are well on track in terms of planned capital expenditure for the financial year, with ₹9,100 crore spent during first half of this year out of ₹20,000 crore," he noted.

## Centre's fiscal gap eases but ebbing capex pace a worry

Government accounts for the first half of 2024-25 peg fiscal deficit at just 29.4% of Budget estimate but a 15% decline in capex may make it tough to get close to year's ₹11.11 lakh infra spending target

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Halfway through FY25, the Central government's fiscal deficit improved to ₹4.74 lakh crore, or 29.4% of its 2024-25 target, relative to the fiscal gap a year ago when it stood at ₹7 lakh crore, or 39.3% of the 2023-24 Budget estimates.

However, worries emerged on whether the Centre is on track to meet this year's ambitious capital spending target of ₹11.11 lakh crore, as fiscal numbers as of September 30 released by the Controller



**Mammoth task:** The Centre now needs to spend ₹1.16 lakh crore a month on capex till March 2025 to meet its ambitious target. PTI

General of Accounts on Wednesday indicated a 15% decline in capex in the first half of the year compared to 2023-24. Non-tax

venues were bolstered 51% aided by a hefty dividend from the Reserve Bank of India, and tax revenues were up 9%, while re-

venue expenditure grew just 4%. ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar noted after Q1 lull in capex due to Lok Sabha polls, the Centre sharply raised capex in July but the momentum hasn't sustained since then. The Centre now needs to spend about ₹1.16 lakh crore a month in the second half of the year to meet its target, which is 52% over last year's spending levels and appears "rather challenging at this juncture," she reckoned.

"We expect the capex target to be missed by a margin of at least ₹50,000 crore," Ms. Nayar said.

## NSE crosses 20-cr. investor accounts milestone

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) said it has crossed the milestone of 20 crore client accounts in October 2024.

Among States, Maharashtra leads with the highest number of accounts at 3.6 crore, followed by U.P. (2.2 crore), Gujarat (1.8 crore), and Rajasthan and West Bengal at 1.2 crore each. Together, these States account for 50% of the total client accounts.

## L&amp;T's Q2 net profit rises 5% to ₹3,395 crore

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) reported a 5% uptick in its consolidated net profit to ₹3,395 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, from ₹3,223 crore a year ago.

The net profit of the previous year had been lifted by a non-recurring gain of ₹512 crore from transit-oriented development monetisation in its Hyderabad Metro concession.

"Excluding this monetisation gain, the consolidated PAT for the quarter has registered a growth of 25% year on year," the company said in a filing.

L&T's consolidated revenue grew 21% to ₹61,555 crore, aided by accelerated progress in various businesses in its projects & manufacturing portfolio.

At ₹32,057 crore, L&T's international earnings constituted 52% of its total revenues in Q2.

The company received orders of ₹80,045 crore at the group level, marking a contraction of 10% from the same period last year. International orders accounted for 63% of the firm's total order inflows.

The consolidated order book of the group now stands at ₹5,10,402 crore, up 7% over March 2024, with international orders' share at 40%. "We have delivered yet another quarter of strong financial performance despite the continuing global macroeconomic volatility," L&T chairman and managing director S.N. Subrahmanyam said.

## MARKETS

## MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,942	-0.53
US Dollar	84.05	0.00
Gold	82,400	1.22
Brent oil	72.81	2.83

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2969.30	+120.70
Adani Ports.	1396.20	+23.50
Apollo Hosp.	6982.50	-4.95
Asian Paints	2996.65	+3.80
Axis Bank	1170.40	-16.45
Bajaj Auto	9940.50	+89.80
Bajaj FinServ	1752.45	-14.25
Bajaj Finance	6955.00	-67.50
Bharti Airtel	288.55	+4.90
BPCL	311.30	-0.15
Britannia Ind.	5782.50	+11.00
Cipla	1418.40	+53.30
Coal India	449.15	+3.60
Dr Reddy's Lab.	1249.85	+24.85
Grasim Ind.	2672.55	+13.45
HCL Tech	1838.80	+32.95
HDFC Bank	1734.60	+17.25
HDFC Life	727.05	+15.35
Hero MotoCorp	4909.30	+121.85
Hindalco	688.40	+5.20
Hindustan Unilever	2554.95	+7.30
ICICI Bank	1312.15	+19.70
IndusInd Bank	1056.40	+18.25
Infosys	1802.10	+37.20
ITC	491.55	+3.60
JSW Steel	957.30	+1.50
Kotak Bank	1734.60	+25.60
L&T	3408.35	+27.45
M&M	2707.70	+39.20
Maurti Suzuki	1125.45	+210.45
NestleIndia	2276.30	+8.90
NTPC	408.50	+3.65
ONGC	261.65	+3.35
PowerGrid Corp.	318.45	+2.10
Reliance Ind.	1343.90	+3.90
SBI Life	1624.15	+37.20
State Bank	822.45	+10.25
Shriram Finance	3185.80	+80.00
Ltd.	1852.10	+19.50
Tata ConsumerProduct	1022.70	+30.65
Tata Motors	840.20	+2.55
Tata Steel	148.97	+1.09
TCS	4084.65	+9.40
Tech Mahindra	1684.45	+13.55
Titan	3308.45	+25.05
Trent Ltd.	7252.45	+157.85
UltraTech Cement	11205.10	+93.00
Wipro	565.25	+3.05

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 30

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.88	84.20
Euro	90.89	91.24
British Pound	108.83	109.25
Japanese Yen (100)	54.86	55.97
Chinese Yuan	11.78	11.82
Swiss Franc	96.74	97.12
Singapore Dollar	63.41	63.66
Canadian Dollar	60.27	60.52
Malaysian Ringgit	19.15	19.24

Source: Indian Bank

Rajasthan Livestock Development Board

Pashupati Bhawan Campus, Tonk Road, Jaipur - 302015  
Phone : 0141-4064074, Email – rldb@rajasthan.gov.in, rldbraj@gmail.com

No. FV/ ( ) RLDB/sheath-Sleeve/2024/5961 Date : 28.10.2024

## Notice Inviting E-Bids for Artificial Insemination Sheaths and Sleeves for Cattle and Buffalo

E-bids are invited from 10.00 AM on 01.11.2024 to 5.00 PM on 21.11.2024 from the Manufacturers/Authorized Distributors/Dealers for the procurement of Artificial Insemination sheaths and sleeves for Cattle and Buffalo having an estimated value of Rs. 114.54 Lakh for the institutions of Department of Animal Husbandry for a period of 1 year. Details of the bidding document may be seen on the State Public Procurement Portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://rjnlp.rajasthan.gov.in>) and RLDB website i.e. [rjnlp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://rjnlp.rajasthan.gov.in) and may be downloaded from there.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/7197 Chief Executive Officer

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED

CIN: U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)

O/0 CE (NPP), 5th Floor, Dreamax Plaza, Jaipur, Email: [sepcell@rrvn.com](mailto:sepcell@rrvn.com)

## Online Tender Notice TN-34/(RVN/2425SL0B01404)

E-tenders are invited for "Setting up of 500 MW/1000 MW Standalone Battery Energy Systems under Tariff Based Global Competitive Bidding in the premises of Power Projects Owned by RVN and GLS along with additional Green Shoe option of 500 MW/1000 MW with Viability Gap Funding Support". Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvni/](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvni/) and [www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in). Raj.Samwad/C/24/7180 RVN/PE-4084 Chief Engineer (NPP)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-BIDS

Extension of RFP dates for Selection of Project Management Consulting Agency for providing Project Management consulting support services to RSLDC.

Due to

**TEHRAN**

No interruption in production of missiles after Israeli strikes: Iran



Iran said its production of missiles remained intact, following Israeli air strikes targeting military facilities last week. "There has been no interruption in the process of producing offensive systems such as missiles," Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh said. "The enemy tried to damage both our defensive and offensive systems," he said. AFP

**BARCELONA**

At least 72 killed in devastating flash floods in eastern Spain



Flash floods in eastern Spain killed at least 72 people in the worst natural disaster to hit the European nation in recent memory. Rainstorms that started on Tuesday and continued till Wednesday caused flooding in a wide swath of southern and eastern Spain, stretching from Malaga to Valencia. AP

**BEIJING**

China, Russia discuss Ukraine as West slams North Korean troops



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed the Ukraine crisis with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister in Beijing, as Western leaders have condemned Moscow's ties with North Korea. The meeting came as North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui was due to meet with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow. AFP

**TBILISI**

Georgia prosecutors investigate charges of election 'falsification'



Georgian prosecutors on Wednesday launched a probe into the alleged "falsification" of the country's parliamentary polls and summoned pro-Western President Salome Zurabishvili, in picture, for questioning after she accused the ruling Georgian Dream party of fraud. The elections were heavily criticised by the West. AFP

## Harris offers a 'new generation of leadership'

Donald Trump is 'someone who is unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance, and out for unchecked power', says the Democratic party candidate at her closing argument in Washington; she asks her supporters to make a choice between 'freedom' and 'chaos and division'

**Sriram Lakshman**

WASHINGTON DC

**W**ith one week to go for the U.S. presidential elections, the Democratic candidate, Vice-President Kamala Harris, presented her "closing argument" on Tuesday night, for why she – and not her Republican opponent Donald Trump – should run the country.

Speaking on the Ellipse, a park between the White House and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC, Ms. Harris presented two contrasting visions of America – hers and Mr. Trump's, as she addressed a crowd of tens of thousands. The location was part of the message. Mr.

Trump delivered a speech from the Ellipse on January 6, 2021, which roused a mob of his supporters to attack the U.S. Capitol.

In her speech, Ms. Harris adopted a new, tougher, tone on illegal migration, spoke about her economic plans and drew a line between herself and the Biden administration.

She also presented herself as the unifying candidate, as opposed to Mr. Trump.

"He is the person who stood at this very spot nearly four years ago and sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol to overturn the will of the people in a free and fair election that he knew he lost," Ms. Harris said, telling sup-



**Alternate dream:** Kamala Harris arrives on stage for a campaign rally on the Ellipse in Washington DC on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

porters this was probably the "most important vote" they would ever cast, a choice between "freedom" and "chaos and division".

"This is someone who is unstable, obsessed with re-

my within".

"It is time to stop pointing fingers and start locking arms," she said, offering a "new generation of leadership", a phrase she has used before to differentiate herself from U.S. President Joe Biden as well as Mr. Trump.

Ms. Harris also said her presidency would be different from Mr. Biden's because the challenges were different.

Now that the recovery from the pandemic was complete, the focus, she said, was on cutting costs.

Ms. Harris spoke at some length about her economic plans – from capping the price of insulin to offering tax credits for new parents.

On immigration, Ms. Harris said she would "quickly remove those who arrive here lawfully" and prosecute the cartels. She blamed Mr. Trump for sabotaging legislation on border security that the Biden administration was on the verge of passing.

"At the same time, we must acknowledge, we are a nation of immigrants," she said, promising to work on a path to citizenship for some categories of migrants via immigration reform legislation.

The U.S. military would be most lethal fighting force in the world under her command, she said, adding that she would strengthen America's role in the world.

## Trump in damage control, tries to win over Latino voters

**Varghese K. George**

ALLENTHOWN

Republican Donald Trump went into damage control mode and tried to win over the Latino community on Tuesday after insulting comments about them by a speaker at a signature event of his campaign in New York on Sunday snowballed into a controversy.

"Nobody loves our Latino community and our Puerto Rican community more than I do," Mr. Trump said at a rally in Pennsylvania, a critical swing State that he won narrowly in 2016 and lost narrowly in 2020. A speaker at the Trump rally had termed the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico "a floating island of garbage."

A majority of the population of the town in eastern Pennsylvania – 150 km to the east of New York City – of 1.25 lakh, are Latino or Hispanic. In 2020, Joe Biden won Pennsylvania by 81,000 votes, and in 2016, Mr. Trump won it by 44,292 votes of the total 61.7 lakh votes polled. In both the elections, Mr. Trump lost the Lehigh County where Allentown falls – in 2020, by 14,000 votes.

Mr. Trump had Latino Senator from Florida Marco Rubio join him on stage. Mr. Biden, during a call to mobilise Latino voters simultaneous with the rally, said: "The only garbage I see floating out there is his supporters... His, his demonisation of Latinos is unconscionable and it's un-American." Mr. Trump was quick to draw parallels between Mr. Biden's comment and his 2016 opponent Hillary Clinton's reference to his supporters as a "basket of deplorables."



chanisms and both parties are urging their supporters to come out and vote. "Vote, vote, vote," Mr. Trump exhorted his supporters, and alleged the Democrats were trying to manipulate voting. While he reiterated all the issues that define his politics – promise of mass deportation of illegal immigrants, a Trump tariff to protect American manufacturing and avoiding global wars – the focus of the speech was on Latino voters.

## Hezbollah hints at ceasefire with Israel

**Agence France-Presse**

BEIRUT

Hezbollah's new leader Naim Qassem on Wednesday said the group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal has yet to be presented.

Qassem, who was named Hezbollah secre-

tary-general on Tuesday, did not explicitly link a Lebanon ceasefire to an end to fighting in Gaza, a position previously held by the Iran-backed group.

"If the Israelis decide that they want to stop the aggression, we say we accept, but under the conditions that we see as appropriate and suitable," Qassem said.

## Afghan women cannot pray loudly or recite in front of other women: Taliban

**Associated Press**

ISLAMABAD

Afghan women are forbidden from praying loudly or reciting the Koran in front of other women, according to a Taliban government minister.

It is the latest restriction on women following morality laws that ban them from raising their voice

and baring their faces outside the home. They are already excluded from education after sixth grade, many public spaces and most jobs.

Nobody from the Vice and Virtue Ministry was immediately available to clarify the official's remarks or confirm if the prohibition would also become part of the morality

laws.

During an event in eastern Logar province on Sunday, Vice and Virtue Minister Khalid Hanafi said: "It is prohibited for a grown woman to recite Koranic verses or perform recitations in front of another grown woman. Even chants of takbir (Allahu Akbar) are not permitted." He said that uttering similar expressions like

"subhanallah," another word central to the Islamic faith, was also not allowed. A woman was not permitted to perform the call to prayer, he told the gathering. "So, there is certainly no permission for singing."

Audio of Hanafi's remarks was shared on the ministry's social media platforms but was later deleted.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO,  
IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-264/20/03/04/2023/ 30513 Date:- 25.10.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value of Work (Approx.)	Period of Completion
1.	Water Supply to Bisipada Industrial Area and restoration / retrofitting of existing water supply system from River Daya to Khordha Industrial Estate.	₹ 5.70 Crore	09 (Nine) Calendar Months

Other Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From To	
1	2	3 4	
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar-751022.	Bid ID.No. P&C/EST/ E-28/2024-25	17.00 Hours of dt. 04.11.2024	17.00 Hours of dt. 20.11.2024

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) as well as IDCO website [www.idco.in](http://www.idco.in). Sd/-Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar CAD-1485; OIPR-14003/11/0065/2425

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
**HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT**  
VILLUPURAM HIGHWAYS, (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE  
TENDER NOTICE  
T.N.NO. 48/2024-25 / HDO. DATED : 29.10.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online under Two Cover System will be received upto 11.12.2024, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Villupuram Circle for CRIDP 2024-25 (CMRDP) Two works for Ariyalur (H) C&M Division (VPM-095 VPM-096)

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD (EMD through online payment Gateway of the Portal only) availability of tender document and all other details are available from 05.11.2024 onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only

Superintending Engineer (H),  
C&M Circle, Villupuram  
DIPR/ 4642 /TENDER/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
MADURAI HIGHWAYS, (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE  
TENDER NOTICE  
T.N. No. 25 / 2024-2025 / HDO, Dated: 28.10.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received up to 10.12.2024 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Madurai Circle under CRIDP-2024-25 for the Work pertaining to Sivagangai (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 08.11.2024 onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in> If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),  
C&M, Madurai Circle  
DIPR / 4659 / TENDER / 2024

**Government of Odisha**  
E-mail: ID-sectrb\_2006@yahoo.co.in;  
Tel/Fax: +91-671-2301751/2302751  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER  
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK  
(e'- PROCUREMENT NOTICE )  
Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 6 / 2024-25

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road works as mentioned below.

2. No. of work : 04 Nos.  
3. Nature of work : Road works  
4. Class of contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class.  
5. Tender paper cost : Rs.10000/- (online)  
6. Available of bid document in the web site. : From 06.11.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 21.11.2024  
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt.22.11.2024 at 11.00 Hours.  
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle.  
B-528:  
E-mail ID:cebbuildings\_orissa@yahoo.co.in; cebbuildings@rediffmail.com; Tel: +91-671-2391523.

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR  
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No. B-HV-H-(H)-77/2024  
Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No. CE (B) - 16 / 2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as mentioned below :

2. Nature of work : Building works  
3. No. of work : 02 Nos.  
4. Bid Cost : ₹ 10,000/- (each)  
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' / Special Class  
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt. 05.11.2024 to 17.00 Hours of dt.20.11.2024.  
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 21.11.2024 at 11.30 AM

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha, Bhubaneswar.  
OIPR-34091/11/0031/2425

B-504:

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
UPPER PALAR BASIN CIRCLE, VELLORE - 632 006.

Form of Contract: Lump sum - Item Rate Contract / Two Cover System  
e- Procurement Tender Notice No.04 / UPBC / Vellore / F-Tender / 2024-2025 / Date.29.10.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tender are invited by the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore-6 under "Two Cover System" through online for the below mentioned work from the eligible tenderers as prescribed in the website.

Item No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value put to Tender (including GST @ 18%) Rs.in Lakhs	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.	Period Of Completion (including Monsoon Period)	Date and time of Tender opening (as per Server Clock)
1.	Rehabilitation of Palar Anicut near Thirumalaicheri and Pudupadi Villages in Walajah and Arcot Taluk of Ranipet District.	19683.00	98,55,000/-	18 Months	06.12.2024 At 15:00 Hrs

The tender document and other details will be available up to 15:00 Hrs on 05.12.2024 in the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> to enable the tenderers to view and download the e-tender documents through online at free of cost and submission of Tenders shall be done only through online. Any Corrections or Modifications will be published on web site only.

Superintending Engineer, WRD.,  
Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore-6  
DIPR/ 4668 /TENDER/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
**MADURAI HIGHWAYS**  
(Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE  
TENDER NOTICE  
T.N. No. 26 / 2024-2025 / HDO, Dated: 29.10.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received up to 10.12.2024 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Madurai Circle under CRIDP - 2024-25 for the Work pertaining to Madurai, Dindigul (H) C&M Divisions.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 08.11.2024 onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),  
C&M, Madurai Circle  
DIPR / 4656 / TENDER / 2024

**BATTING LESSON**

**Important to focus on how the ball is coming out of the hand'**



India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar was clear about how a batter should handle a spinner. "You need to understand that when a few balls turn and a few go straight, it plays with your mind. It's important to focus on how the ball is coming out of the hand, which ones are undercutting and the ones which are over-spinning."

**TOPP(L)ER**

**Rabada dethrones Bumrah as No. 1 Test bowler in ICC rankings**



South Africa quick Kagiso Rabada dethroned Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah as the top bowler in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings released on Wednesday. Rabada has claimed the No.1 ranking on the back of strong form during the ongoing World Test Championship, taking his 300th wicket during the win over Bangladesh.

**BREAKPOINT**

**Retirement thought hit me after we lost to India in T20 WC: Wade**



Former Australia wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade has revealed that his team's defeat to India in the T20 World Cup earlier this year was probably the moment that ended his career. "It (thought of retirement) hit home after we lost against India. That was when I really sat down and reflected... it was an emotional moment".

**THE STAR**

**Narender sizzles as Thalaivas cut Giants down to size**



Tamil Thalaivas registered its third win of PKL 11, decimating Gujarat Giants 44-25, in a one-sided match in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Thalaivas' Narender Kandola scored 15 points while Sahil Gulia and Sachin contributed five each. In the other match, Haryana Steelers edged out UP Yoddhas 30-28 in a thriller.

# Nayar advocates patience with Rohit and Kohli's form

India's assistant coach says the processes the veterans are putting in will soon fetch the rewards; the home team skipper, who will feature in a Test in Mumbai after 11 years, will be desperate for a win before his side departs for Australia

**IND VS NZ MEN****Amol Karhadkar**

MUMBAI

They have been the most experienced India internationals in the current set-up. While one has been a batting mainstay across formats over the last decade, the other one has been instrumental in India's new-found approach and has even led from the front.

Neither is getting any younger, though, with both being on the wrong side of the 30s. And in a world of constant scrutiny, both have been facing a backlash from fans, especially the anonymous Gen Z on social media, due to their ordinary showing in India's whites this calendar year.

In such a backdrop, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma could not have asked for a better venue than the Wankhede Stadium to turn the tide and head to Australia high on confidence. While Rohit is playing a Test at his home ground after 11 long years, Kohli loves to dance to the rhythm of the North Stand Gang - the fan army that's a regular feature for every major game at the Big W.

Come Friday, both Kohli and Rohit will be keen to make the Kiwi spinners dance to their tune. That



**Optimistic:** Rohit and Kohli are due for a big one soon, feels Nayar. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

will be a fitting Diwali gift to the fans, who have been utterly disappointed with India's mediocre show in the first two Tests against New Zealand.

Neither Rohit nor Kohli have appeared to be anywhere near their best

in the four innings this series. While the fans - along with a few experts - have been questioning their indifferent form with the willow, the team management as expected has backed the veterans to the hilt.

"I have seen nothing but

love for them (Rohit and Virat) all over," assistant coach Abhishek Nayar said, when asked about the criticism aimed at the veteran duo.

"At times, when a top player, when someone who has been through the

journey goes through a lull, a lot of times it is about giving them their space and trusting that they will come back, and they will put in the work. Everyone works really hard, everyone wants to do well, whether you are Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma or even someone as young as Shubman Gill."

Nayar was confident that the processes that both the veterans are putting in will soon reap rewards. "The effort is there, the approach is great, and they are putting in the hard yards. Sometimes you have to be a little patient, even with the greatest of players and they can have tough times," said Nayar.

"I am pretty sure, sooner rather than later, we will have more to praise about Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma and everyone else as well. Just a bit of patience."

**The teams (from):**

**India:** Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Jasprit Bumrah (Vice-capt.), Yashavini Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant, Dhruv Jurel, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep and Washington Sundar.

**New Zealand:** Tom Latham (Capt.), Tom Blundell, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee and Will Young.

*Third Test begins on Friday.*

# Pant, Rahul, Shreyas and Russell set to be released

**Amol Karhadkar**

MUMBAI

Four of the 10 captains from the Indian Premier League's (IPL's) 2024 edition are set to be released by their teams and included in the IPL Player Auction pool. The uncertainty over the IPL Player Retention policy will be over on Thursday, with the BCCI set to announce the official retention list after the deadline expires at 5 p.m.

*The Hindu* understands that Shreyas Iyer (Kolkata Knight Riders), K.L. Rahul (Lucknow Super Giants), Faf du Plessis (Royal Challengers Bengaluru) and Rishabh Pant (Delhi Capitals) are set to be excluded from the list of retained players. While du Plessis's omission is due to him being unlikely to last the next cycle of three seasons, Pant is a case of mutual understanding after the new coaching staff took over.

Pant and Shreyas - two of the most dynamic IPL captains - are understood to have parted ways with their respective franchises in search of greener pastures. While the franchises are still within their rights to exercise the Right to Match (RTM) option to retain their services, it is understood that neither is likely to have them on their roster after multiple rounds of negotiations.

KKR is also unlikely to retain Andre Russell in its quest to enter the auction with a bigger purse.

The Sunrisers Hyderabad, meanwhile, has final-



**New beginning?** Rahul and Pant lead the list of prominent names who will be available for bidding. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

ised its five capped players to be retained. An SRH source confirmed that Heinrich Klaasen (₹23 crore), Pat Cummins (₹18 crore), Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Nitish Kumar Reddy (₹6 crore) have been finalised as retentions.

Each franchise has been allowed a maximum of six retentions and RTM cards combined. With retentions, no franchise can exceed more than five capped or more than two uncapped cricketers.

With the definition of an uncapped cricketer being modified as a player who has not been centrally contracted with BCCI or played his last international match five years ago, M.S. Dhoni is set to be retained as an uncapped cricketer.

*The Hindu* has managed to confirm various names that are set to be retained, with less than 24 hours remaining for the deadline.

While the final list will be announced at 5 p.m. on

Thursday, here are those who are set to be retained by the franchises:

**Confirmed retentions:**  
**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** Heinrich Klaasen, Pat Cummins, Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Nitish Kumar Reddy.

**Mumbai Indians:** Jasprit Bumrah, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya.

**Chennai Super Kings:** Ruturaj Gaikwad, Matheesha Pathirana, M.S. Dhoni.

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** Sunil Narine, Rinku Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana.

**Rajasthan Royals:** Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Riyan Parag.

**Lucknow Super Giants:** Nicholas Pooran, Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, Ayush Badoni.

**Royal Challengers Bengaluru:** Virat Kohli.

**Gujarat Titans:** Rashid Khan, Shubman Gill, David Miller, Shahrukh Khan.

**Delhi Capitals:** Axar Patel.

**Punjab Kings:** Shashank Singh. There may be additions to the list. Final list will be announced at 5 p.m. on October 31. (With inputs from S. Dipak Ragav)

# Perfect-10 Ajaz's emotional 'homecoming' to Mumbai

**Amol Karhadkar**

MUMBAI

"Mumbai hamaari mehbooba hai (Mumbai is my beloved)."

The dialogue from Maqbool, a Hindi film adapted from the classic play Macbeth, fits Ajaz Patel to the tee.

Born and having spent his early years in the Maximum City before migrating to New Zealand, Ajaz keeps coming back to the city quite often to see his extended family, including in-laws.

And it was at the Wankhede Stadium that Ajaz entered the history books the last time the stadium hosted a Test match. He became only the third bowler to register a Perfect 10 in India's first innings.

Cut to Tuesday and Ajaz was back at his home turf, in a bid to help New Zealand complete a whitewash in India, was overwhelmed with emotions as well. "Certainly emotional.

Being back in Mumbai is



always quite special and it's a place I call home as well.

"Having the opportunity to play out here again is quite special," Ajaz said here on Wednesday.

"To be honest, after my 10-wicket haul, I wasn't sure whether I would get another opportunity to play out here again with the city that he still calls his love."

With New Zealand on a high, Ajaz will be keen to continue his love affair with the city that he still calls his love.

With New Zealand on a high, Ajaz will be keen to continue his love affair with the city that he still calls his love.

# Mulder joins the party as South Africa takes control

**SA IN BANGLADESH****Associated Press**

CHATTOGRAM

Despite his unique feat, thanks primarily to the conditions favouring pace and seam bowlers in New Zealand, Ajaz has featured in just nine of New Zealand's 23 matches since that memorable week in December 2021.

**Few opportunities**

"After the 10-for, I haven't really had as many opportunities to play but when you do get an opportunity to play, it is very special," Ajaz said.

"You get recognised a little bit more here and there but certainly the craze for the sport is probably not the same as in India in terms of the context of the number of people that are watching the sport."

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam claimed five for 198, his second straight five-wicket haul in the series, but that mattered little as de Zorzi and David Bedingham continued their good



work after resuming at 307 for two.

**The scores:** South Africa 575/6 decl. in 144.2 overs (de Zorzi 177, Stubbs 106, Bedingham 59, Mulder 105 n.o., Muthusamy 68; Islam 5/198) vs Bangladesh 38 for four in nine overs.

# Dominant Mohun Bagan outclasses Hyderabad FC

**V. V. Subrahmanyam**

HYDERABAD

Mohun Bagan Super Giant outplayed former champions Hyderabad FC 2-0 in an ISL match at the GMC Balayogi Stadium here on Wednesday.

It was Bagan's fourth win from six games while HFC suffered its fourth defeat in six matches.

Bagan clearly dominated the first half despite Alberto Rodriguez and Subhasish Bose earning yellow cards, both pulling down the charging HFC winger Abdul Rabeeh on the right flank. The closest HFC came to scoring was when striker Ramhlunchlungha, who had a splendid run down the left flank after picking a long ball from the midfield but only to see the Bagan goalkeeper Vishal Kaith clear it to safety in the 23rd minute.

The home team's defence manned by Alex Saji and Parag Shrivats was under pressure. Not surprisingly, Bagan took the lead in the 37th minute thanks to a brilliant goal by Manvir Singh. He sprinted down the right flank after picking a ball from Anirudh Thapa, slipped into the striking zone, dodged past the advancing goalkeeper Lal Jongte and two defenders to find the net to the delight of his teammates.



The script didn't change much on resumption as Bagan continued to dominate and scored the second goal when a beautiful free-kick by Greg Stewart from the right flank saw captain Subhasish head the ball into the right corner of the post.

**The result:** Hyderabad FC 0 lost to Mohun Bagan SG 2 (Manvir Singh 37, Subhasish Bose 56).

## IN BRIEF



## Danni Wyatt traded to RCB from UP Warriorz

Star English cricketer batter Danni Wyatt will be turning out for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in next year's Women's Premier League, having been traded from UP Warriorz, the tournament organisers said on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Wyatt, who also bowls off-break occasionally, brings a wealth of experience to RCB, having played 164 T20 Internationals for England.

## Dharmawardena named ICC's ACU independent chairman

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday appointed Sri Lanka's Sumathi Dharmawardena as the new independent chairman for its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). Dharmawardena replaced Sir Ronnie Flanagan, who retired from the position after 14 years in charge.

## Former Ferrari strategy head Rueda joins Sauber F-1 team

Former Ferrari strategy head Inaki Rueda has joined the Sauber team as sporting director in a move that reunites the Spaniard with his former boss Mattia Binotto.

## Laxmi Kashyap scores seven goals for Mata Rukhmani

Laxmi Kashyap scored seven goals to guide Mata Rukhmani Government SSS, Chhattisgarh, to a 19-0 victory over Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Zinc Nagar, in a league match of the Charanjit Rai 30th Nehru girls hockey tournament.

**The results (league):** Assam Schools Hockey 13 (Rishmika Kerketa 3, Debi Bag 2, Manashi Urang 2, Kritika Upadhyay 1, 2, Moroni Barman 2, Sunita Romoni, Gorima Hazarika) bt Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar, 0.

Mata Rukhmani Government SSS, Chhattisgarh, 19 (Laxmi Kashyap 7, Jigyasa Kashyap 4, Megha Kashyap 3, Parmeshwari Sodhi, Dhaneshwari Korram, Sumani Kashyap, Sarita Mourya, Pratima Mandavi) bt Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Zinc Nagar, Odisha, 0.

## Achievers puts it across Navy-RVC

Vishwarupe Bajaj and Daniel Otamendi scored five goals between them to help Achievers to a 6-4 victory over Navy-RVC in a league match of the Baria Cup polo tournament at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Wednesday.

**The results:** League: ASC 6 (Abhimanyu Pathak 3, Mukesh Gujjar 2, Dino Dhankar) bt Sahgal Stud 3 (Gaurav Sahgal, Bautista Alberdi).

Achievers 6 (Vishwarupe Bajaj 3, Daniel Otamendi 2, Salim Azmi) bt Navy-RVC 4 (Hurr Ali 2, handicap 2).

## LIVE TELECAST

## THURSDAY

**Bangladesh vs South Africa:** 2nd Test, day 3, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

**ISL:** Sports 18-3 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

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

**Serie A:** gxr.world, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Friday).

## FRIDAY

**Bangladesh vs South Africa:** 2nd Test, day 4, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

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

**West Indies vs England:** 1st ODI, FanCode, 11.30 p.m.

**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday).

**LaLiga:** gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

money for the 24 race days is ₹15.47 crore.

In respect of local horses, a performance-linked incentive of 15% will be credited to the accounts of the owner/s concerned.

Sixty-four jockeys, including 10 jockeys claiming allowance, have been issued 'A' licence and 45 jockeys, including eight jockeys, claiming allowance have been issued 'B' licence.

One hundred jockeys are expected to ride during the season.

# Debutants to the fore as India looks ahead

Smriti's ton in the series decider and performances of newcomers Saima, Priya and Teja are the positives for the Harmanpreet-led team; Yastika's glove-work, batting catch the attention

## IND VS NZ WOMEN

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**  
AHMEDABAD

**S**mriti Mandhana was almost apologetic. When she spoke to reporters on Tuesday night, shortly after scoring a series-winning hundred for India against New Zealand, the most stylish batter in women's cricket was self-critical, for leaving so many balls alone.

It was her captain and partner for the third wicket, Harmanpreet Kaur, who assured her that it was alright to play like that. Smriti may have wanted to score at a faster rate, but if she hadn't stayed long enough, India may have struggled to chase New Zealand's 232. She may not enjoy doing it too much, but India will benefit from more such knocks in the future, not just from her, but some of the others from the top and the middle-order as well.

**Radha's heroics**  
Lack of innings like that had hurt India in the second ODI, in which the batters flopped, leaving No. 9 Radha Yadav – after flying



Shining bright: Tejal, Saima and Priya made an impressive start to their international careers.

in the field like a Superwoman to take incredible catches, apart from claiming four wickets – to top-score and reducing the margin of defeat a bit (the host lost by 76 runs still).

Even in the first match that India won, no batter could make a fifty. In next year's World Cup, which could be played on surfaces like this, India needs more innings like Smriti's.

So the Indian team management should be happy with the ease and confidence with which India chased down what was a competitive total put up by New Zealand.



Shining bright: Tejal, Saima and Priya made an impressive start to their international careers.

There were more positives for India from the three-match series that came right after the disappointment of the T20 World Cup in the UAE, such as the performances from the three debutants – Saima Thakor, Priya Misra and Tejal Hasabnis.

**Fine option**  
They showed they belonged. The 28-year-old Saima has emerged as a fine option in seam bowling.

Tejal is a year younger, and she was India's highest scorer in the victory in the first ODI. She looked a con-



fident player against a quality attack.

Priya is much younger. The 20-year-old leg-spinner seems an exciting prospect. Her dismissal of the New Zealand captain Sophie Devine with a googly was one of the highlights of the series. As a wrist spinner, she could get even better with experience. Yastika Bhatia's work behind the wicket also merited attention, as did her knock in the deciding game.

The series victory, that too against the T20 World Cup winner, could not have been timed better for India.

that he had no concerns about the playing field.

"I had an opportunity to look at the turf before coming for the interaction. I didn't see any damage. Everything should be fine tomorrow," the Greek coach said at a press conference.

For Punjab, which is playing its home games here, this is a chance to ensure that the defeat to Bengaluru FC a fortnight ago was just a blip in what has otherwise been a smooth start to the season. Punjab, with three wins in four matches, is currently fourth in the standings.

Chennaiyai is two spots below, having won only two of its five matches. It has had two draws and a loss.

## Punjab looks to return to winning ways

## ISL

**Vivek Krishnan**  
NEW DELHI

Over the past couple of days, the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in the national capital has been in the eye of a storm in the aftermath of popular singer Diljit Dosanjh's weekend concert.

While the running track was strewn with garbage that has now been cleared, there were also concerns reported over the condition of the football turf for the ISL fixture between Punjab FC and Chennaiyai FC on Thursday night.

Much to the relief of the stadium authorities, Punjab coach Panagiotis Dilmperis said on Wednesday

## Abhimanyu, Nitish, Prasidh will be under close scrutiny

## INDIA-A IN AUS

**Press Trust of India**  
MACKAY

The performance of Abhimanyu Easwaran, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Prasidh Krishna will be the primary focal points during India-A's four-day match against its Australian counterpart, starting here on Thursday.

Abhimanyu, Nitish and Prasidh have been included in India's squad for the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, beginning on November 22, and the thinktank will be eager to know how they fare in Australian conditions.

Abhimanyu's performance will, however, have far more significance as the 29-year-old opener could potentially be Rohit Sharma's replacement if the captain skips a match or two against Australia for personal reasons.

Abhimanyu is a vastly experienced campaigner, having played 99 First Class matches to score 7638 runs with 27 hundreds and 29 fifties.

He has been part of the India squad in the past, but what inspires confidence is his recent form in First



Prasidh. FILE PHOTO:  
K. MURALI KUMAR

Class matches.

The right-hander struck 157 and 116 for India B in the Duleep Trophy before making a 191 against Mumbai for Rest of India in the Irani Trophy and made another hundred in his final red-ball game before flying out to Australia – an unbeaten 127 against Uttar Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy.

Nitish, on the other

hand, does not boast of such impressive First Class numbers, as he has been drafted into squad for his perceived ability as a pace-bowling all-rounder and, even in that, batting is his stronger suit. In the Duleep Trophy earlier this year, Nitish made two ducks with a highest of 40 in five matches while grabbing just two wickets.

But the selectors have backed him ahead of senior names such as Sharad Thakur, who has resumed playing domestic matches after recovering from an injury.

Prasidh is a late addition to the India A squad in place of Yash Dayal.

**Teams (from): India A:** Ruturaj Gaikwad (capt), Abhimanyu Easwaran (vice-capt), Devdutt Padikkal, Sai Sudharshan, B Indrajith, Abhishek Porel (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Mukesh Kumar, Ricky Bhui, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Manav Suthar, Navdeep Saini, Khaleel Ahmed, Tanush Kotian, Prasidh Krishna.

**Australia A:** Nathan McSweeney (c), Cameron Bancroft, Scott Boland, Jordan Buckingham, Cooper Connolly, Ollie Davies, Brendan Doggett, Marcus Harris, Sam Konstant, Nathan McAndrew, Michael Neser, Todd Murphy, Fergus O'Neill, Jimmy Peirson, Josh Philippe, Corey Rocchiccioli, Beau Webster.

Match starts at 5.30am IST.

## Arjun, Vedit, Aronian headline Chennai GM tournament field

## CHESS

**Sports Bureau**  
CHENNAI

The second edition of the Chennai Grandmaster chess tournament will be held from November 5 to 11 at the Anna Centenary Library here.

Some of the top GMs including Arjun Erigaisi, Vedit Gujrathi, Levon Aronian, among others are expected to participate in the Masters category. In addition, for the first time, the tournament will have a Challengers section that will see only Indian GMs such as R. Vaishali, D. Harika, Raunak Sadhwani and Murali Karthikeyan among others taking part.

Speaking at a press conference here on Wednesday, J. Meghanatha Reddy, Member Secretary of SDAT, said: "When we hosted the event last time, it was a huge success. We are keen to host it every year."

As far as the seating capacity at ACL is concerned, Reddy said the venue has a seating capacity of 1,000. "Of the 1,000, 500 will be made free for young players playing in different coaching academies of the



Fronting up: Tournament director Srinath, SDAT Member Secretary Meghanatha Reddy, GM Vaishali and Sports Development Department Additional Chief Secretary Atulya Misra at the press meet. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion's 2711.

Atulya Misra, Additional Chief Secretary, Youth Welfare and Sports Development, said TN has become a centre of gravity for chess in India, and is on the way to becoming a chess super power."

GM Vaishali, said it would be a great opportunity for her to play with some of the top players.

**The participants: Masters:** Arjun Erigaisi, Vedit Gujrathi, Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind), Levon Aronian (USA), Maxime Vachier Lagrave (Fra), Parham Maghsoudloo, Amin Tabatabaei (IRI), Alexey Sarana (Rus).

**Challengers:** Raunak Sadhwani, Abhimanyu Puranik, Karthikeyan Murali, Leon Mendonca, V. Pranav, M. Pranesh, D. Harika, R. Vaishali.

## Bengaluru winter meeting from tomorrow

## RACING

**Riaz Babu**

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru winter meeting, comprising 24 race days, is scheduled to commence on Friday (Nov. 1) and conclude on March 22, 2025 (Saturday) and will be spread mainly on Fridays and Saturdays.

Briefing the media, K.A. Jagadish (chairman of the meeting & Steward) said the aggregate total prize

money for the 24 race days is ₹15.47 crore.

In respect of local horses, a performance-linked incentive of 15% will be credited to the accounts of the owner/s concerned.

Sixty-four jockeys, including 10 jockeys claiming allowance, have been issued 'A' licence and 45 jockeys, including eight jockeys, claiming allowance have been issued 'B' licence.

One hundred jockeys are expected to ride during the season.

of acceptors in respect of ordinary races will continue to be 12 except for the classic days where the maximum number of runners will be 14.

**The board of Appeal:**

Hajee Abdul Sattar Sait (chairman), L.K. Athew, B.K. Das, B. Dayananda, Kenneth Pinto and L. Vivekananda.

**Race dates:**

Nov.: 1, 9, 16, 23, 29 and 30;

Dec.: 6, 13 and 14, 21, 28;

Jan.: 4, 10, 18, 25 and 26, 31;

Feb.: 7, 14 and 15, 22;

Mar.: 8, 15 and 22.

Lian Tran survived seven match points as they recovered from being down 1-6 in the second set tie-break to prevail 0-6, 7-6(6), [10-6], winning the last eight points on the trot in doubles pre-quarterfinals.

**The results:** €6,946,835 ATP,

**Paris: Doubles**

# The Virat Kohli conundrum – what ails the master batter?

His form will be the key to the Indian team's fortunes in the crucial five-Test series Down Under; whether he can recapture form similar to the turnaround in 2014 remains to be seen; maybe a return to a quicker, truer red-soil surface at the Wankhede will work to his advantage

R. Kaushik

**W**hat ails Virat Kohli? That's the question that's been doing the rounds in cricketing circles for a while now.

There was a time when the former Indian captain did not know how not to make runs. For five years between the end of 2014 and the end of 2019, he was unstoppable, a run machine without the metronomic hue affixed to a machine. Those were huge runs, humongous runs, beautifully crafted runs, exquisitely compiled runs, impactful and aesthetic. That was when the legend of King Kohli – our propensity to attach labels is unmatched – was firmed up.

To maintain the standards he did for so long across all formats beggared belief. Kohli was master of the white-ball chase, but he was also brilliant at setting up Test matches. He averaged more than 50 in each of the three formats internationally, the gold standard against which others were judged and, often, found wanting. He didn't succeed in powering India to a significant title, but he revolutionised the Indian thinking, took overseas pitches and conditions out of the equation, set the benchmark when it came to fitness and was the epitome of leading from the front.

The trough when it came was as close to rock-bottom as the peak had been sky-high. For more than 1,000 days from the end of November 2019, Kohli went without an international century. That was particularly chastening.

During his golden run, it was assumed in various quarters that Kohli drawing abreast of, and going past, Sachin Tendulkar's 100 international hundreds was a mere formality. The folly of that assumption was shown up for nearly three years. Seventy hundreds is all fine, but No. 71 wouldn't be a long while coming.

For those who had forgotten the genius that Tendulkar was, for 24 years between 1989 and 2013, it was a timely reminder not to allow the glorious past to be overshadowed by the luminous present.

The barren run of tons was broken in the most unlikely of settings, at the T20 Asia Cup in Dubai in September 2022. By then, Kohli had ceased to be the Indian captain, voluntarily abdicating the T20 and Test thrones, and being divested of the ODI leadership role between those two developments.

His 20-over credentials were never in doubt but all his hundreds in that format till then had come exclusively in the IPL, for Royal Challengers Bengaluru. By adding a maiden T20I ton, he had a full international set, though long after several other Indians had got there – from Suresh Raina and Rohit Sharma to K.L. Rahul.

## Reinvigorated

That hundred in the desert reinvigorated Kohli and the sands of time slowed down a touch. Test hundreds came on a shirtfront against Australia in Ahmedabad and in Port of Spain against West Indies, while in the 50-over format, he stacked up one impressive edifice after another, peaking at the World Cup at home last year when he breezed to three three-figure knocks in seven innings – in 11 innings in the tournament, he also had six other scores between 51 and 95.

The last of those tons, in the semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai against New Zealand, took him past Tendulkar and made him the first batter to get to 50 ODI hundreds. Staggering, absolutely staggering.

A fortnight shy of exactly a year later, Kohli returns to the same venue against the same opposition, but in a different format with his fortunes having embarked on a downward spiral in the preceding 11 and a half or so months.

In Test cricket, he has just two 50-plus outings in 12 innings in South Africa and India; three ODIs against Sri Lanka in August yielded only 58 runs and in T20Is, apart from a Player of the Final-winning 76, he hasn't done much to write home about.

If, therefore, he is under increasing scrutiny, it isn't without good reason. India are in the middle of a packed Test calendar – four done in the last six weeks, six more to follow in the next 10 – and need Kohli to rediscover his fire and steel, especially with five of those Tests to be played in Australia, the most uncompromising of all cricket-staging countries.

Kohli has a terrific record Down Under, where he also made his first Test hundred almost 13 years back, but that doesn't guarantee anything.



ANI

In the past, he has shown the willingness and the capability to return to the drawing board, work on kinks in his batting and come back stronger, more focused, more dangerous. Never was that more obvious than in 2014, after a disastrous five-Test tour of England.

A five-match series can be very giving – if someone starts well and gets on a roll, it can give a lot of success and delight. But if technical shortcomings are exposed early in the piece, it can also give a lot of grief because there is very little time between playing and training and travel to work assiduously on ironing out the flaws that are clearly visible but that can't be wished away through sheer mental resilience.

**Brutal and unforgiving**  
Kohli has been in the wars previously and found a way to work his way out of a slump. The five Tests in England were brutal and unforgiving, with the faster bowlers spearheaded by James Anderson putting him through an examination by fire. Kohli couldn't respond immediately, managing meagre returns of 134 runs in ten innings.

But upon his return to India, he worked with Tendulkar in Mumbai, received useful advice from Ravi Shastri, who came on board as team director after the Tests in England but before the white-ball leg, and was a batter transformed. In Australia later that year, he made four hundreds in as many Tests, the beginning of a golden run that spanned half a decade until he hit a roadblock from the start of 2020.

His current run of outs isn't anywhere near as damaging as it was of a decade back, but more chinks are visible in his armour now. Of particular concern ought to be his response to spin, which has had him in a bind over the last few years.

Former internationals have pointed to an issue with length perception, among other things; Abhishek Nayar, one of India's assistant coaches is confident that Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma, who is coming off six single-digit scores in his last eight Test innings, will work their way back among the runs.

"At times, when a top player, when someone who has been through the journey, goes through a lull, a lot of times it is about giving them their space and trusting that they will come back, and they will put in the work," Nayar said, two days before the third and final Test against New Zealand.

When Kohli emerged from the England downturn, he was ten years younger, the fire was burning bright and unmatched, cricket was his foremost and perhaps only priority.

**Altering perspectives**  
The passage of time is bound to alter perspectives and contribute to subtle mindset changes; it might be impertinent, without adequate information, to speculate if there has been a dimming of Kohli's focus.

His commitment to the cause remains unaltered, even if it is not reflected in the massive numbers that were once his calling card.

Where does Kohli go from here, so many are wondering. It's a question only he, and his bat, can answer. For now, while the lack of big runs is nettlesome, it isn't a huge concern yet.

There have been signs over the last four Tests that a meaningful knock isn't too far away, but with every innings when that meaningful knock remains elusive, there will be pressure. Perhaps only the outer, perhaps only the 'outside noise' as the team has often reminded us, but

pressure there will be. That can work one of two ways – either elicit a stirring response, or...

Despite being less than a week away from his 36th birthday, Kohli is one of the fittest individuals in this squad, with a work ethic that will put far younger colleagues to shame. His discipline and unwavering attention to detail are enviable, given how long he has played at the international level alone.

His processes have been spot-on, he has done everything humanly possible to not warrant success in terms of runs scored. And yet, the same cricketing Gods that once placed their benevolent hand on his head for so long now seem to have turned their attention elsewhere.

The rub of the green that one sometimes requires during testing periods hasn't gone his way, otherwise we wouldn't be here dissecting the Kohli conundrum.

Maybe a return to a quicker, truer red-soil surface at the Wankhede will work to his advantage. Maybe he will stop worrying about stance and backlift and follow-through and where his left leg is at, and just see the ball and react to it, like he used to with such chutzpah and panache not so long back.

Maybe he will declutter his mind – assuming it is cluttered at all – and bat to enjoy himself rather than proving people wrong or right.

A Kohli in the zone is a Kohli to fear, a Kohli to marvel at, a Kohli to admire and envy. Whether and/or how he manages to find ways to get into that zone which once made him a behemoth is something only he can work out.

For someone who relishes a challenge, here's a new one at a late stage of his career. It will be interesting to see how he responds to it.



AFP

## 'Rumble in the Jungle' remembered after 50 years

Agence France-Presse

KINSHASA

Alfred Mamba was just 12 when boxing great Muhammad Ali descended on Kinshasa, at that time the capital of Zaire, in October 1974 in a bid to regain his heavyweight title.

Mamba watched as his father – a boxing referee – helped carry flags into the arena ahead of the fight between Ali and fellow-American George Foreman in the early hours of October 30.

The memory of the event, better known as The Rumble in the Jungle, has stayed with him for 50 years.

### Electric

"It was an impossible atmosphere, we have never seen an atmosphere like it," he excitedly tells AFP on the sidelines of the amateur Africa Boxing Championships in Kinshasa.

The Rumble in the Jungle, which inspired Norman Mailer's book "The Fight" and the Oscar-winning documentary "When We Were Kings", has passed into boxing myth.

Financed as a big public relations event by Zaire's dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, the fight took place in the 20th May Stadium, now called the Tata Raphael Stadium and was screened in over 100 countries.

The giant concrete structure was packed to the rafters with some 60,000 spectators, singing, dancing and chanting in anticipation of the match.

"People were screaming at every possible moment, it was really great," Mamba recalls, wide-eyed.

As he speaks he flicks through black and white paper photos from the legendary event that would turn the tide on Ali's career.

Foreman, an Olympic gold-medallist at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, was the favourite – the 25-year-old had won his first 37 fights after turning professional.

He started out the stronger but Ali, now 32 and employing his famous rope-a-dope tactics, turned the tables and landed a left hook and straight right that sent Foreman to the canvas in the eighth round.

Foreman tried to get to his feet but the referee signalled the end of the fight and a knockout win for Ali.

It was a triumph for Ali, who reclaimed the title that had been stripped from him in 1967 when his decision to refuse the draft to fight in the Vietnam War landed him a three and a half year suspension.

"People really wanted Muhammad Ali to win the fight," says Mamba.

There was no clear reason why the locals leaned in his favour but, according to magazine *The Africa Report*, Ali created one.

When Foreman arrived in Zaire – now the Democratic Republic of Congo – with his two German Shepherd dogs, a breed favoured by the Belgian colonialists, Ali said Foreman was a Belgian, and the crowd backed him.

"When Muhammad Ali gave the (final) punch, everyone screamed," says Mamba.

Martin Diabintu, also a referee in the amateur boxing competition in Kinshasa, tells AFP that the locals considered Ali "like a brother".

"Ali was Congolese," he says simply.

Tata Raphael Stadium, which has since hosted sporting events including the Francophone Games in 2023, has been updated somewhat in the half-century since The Rumble but the memories remain vivid.

"We commemorate the fight even today," says Diabintu, who was also a former boxer. "We call it 'the fight of the century'."

# SCIENCE

# Rohini Godbole: indomitable passion for high-energy physics, gender equity

Prof. Godbole was a role model for young researchers, particularly women scientists struggling against gender bias and negative attitudes

**Sunil Mukhi**

**C**ollider physics studies the outcome of high-energy collisions between microscopic particles such as protons or electrons to learn about the fundamental constituents of our universe. If one mentions this subject in the context of India, the name of Rohini Godbole will be among the first to come up. Prof. Godbole passed away on October 25 after a brief illness. She was 71.

Born into a middle-class Pune family committed to education and learning, she became an internationally renowned theoretical physicist. Her parents supported her career choice, but she faced condescension and gender bias from professional colleagues at crucial stages of her career. Yet it was not in her nature to be discouraged. She got through the difficult times with energy and determination, with a passion for research and an ability to inspire students. In time, she won global recognition as an accomplished researcher, educator, policymaker, and administrator of science.

#### Paving the way

A graduate of S.P. College in Pune, Prof. Godbole got a master's degree at IIT Bombay and went on to do a PhD at the State University of New York at Stony Brook (now Stony Brook University) in the U.S. During the 1970s, the physics department, under the leadership of Chinese-American Nobel laureate C.N. Yang, had developed a top-class doctoral programme. Unlike Ivy League colleges that could be prejudiced against students from India in those days, Stony Brook quickly became enthusiastic about Indian students, largely due to the success of early recruits such as Prof. Godbole.

Thus she helped pave the way for many others (including myself) to study at the same institution, which I joined a few years later. Our small contingent, newly arrived from India and quite nervous, was fortunate to encounter her as we entered the department on our first day. Her warm welcome contrasted sharply with the stand-offish attitude of some other Indian seniors. In the subsequent years, she continued to offer us advice and encouragement with a characteristic generosity of spirit.

Prof. Godbole was popular with both faculty members and students at Stony Brook and was perceived as one of their most talented students. Yet, when she completed her doctorate in 1979, she declined postdoctoral offers from the U.S. and Europe and returned to work at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. I remember the day her first publication from India reached us in Stony Brook. That she could continue to carry out high-quality research convinced many of us to eventually head back ourselves.

#### Tough time

Her early days in India were not easy. Despite excellent work, she was told she lacked the talent to become a high-quality independent researcher. She joined Bombay University, where she had a heavy teaching load even as the system was indifferent to her research, although she acknowledged the support and mentorship of some senior colleagues.

After a heavy day of teaching, she still had the energy to commute across town to TIFR and carry on joint research with



**Role model:** Rohini Godbole spoke openly of the hurdles she had faced in the past but was never embittered by the experience — nor did she ever gloat after achieving worldwide success. FILE PHOTO

the faculty there. Without even a small desk at which to work, she remained focused on research and did not complain about what the rest of us saw as gender-based discrimination. In 1995 she was offered a faculty position at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, where her life as a researcher became less stressful and she could recruit and guide doctoral students. At this stage, her career soared, and she soon became a celebrity.

#### A cut above the rest

Rohini Godbole was a classic "elementary particle phenomenologist" — a scientist who studies phenomena that are observed at particle colliders. Her research papers offered interpretations of experimental observations at laboratories like Fermilab in the U.S. and CERN in Geneva and proposed the so-called experimental signatures for theoretical models that are used to test their validity. She co-authored a textbook on supersymmetric models of particle physics, for which evidence is currently being sought at colliders.

She was often invited to sit on panels and working groups. For example, in 2012 she was the seniormost among only four Indians in a study group commissioned by CERN that produced a 600-page report on the feasibility of upgrading the Large Hadron Collider to include electron beams.

By this time she was personally known to all the leading particle physicists around the world and was frequently invited as a keynote speaker at international conferences on high-energy physics. She became a fellow of the national academies and received

#### Rohini Godbole was a classic 'elementary particle phenomenologist'. Her papers offered interpretations of experimental observations at laboratories like Fermilab and CERN and proposed experimental signatures for theoretical models that are used to test their validity

numerous recognitions, including awards from the governments of India and France. As a visiting professor at European universities, she taught graduate courses on the themes of her research.

At some point it became evident she had outperformed other Indian colleagues in her field, including those who had discouraged her decades earlier. She spoke openly of the hurdles she had faced in the past but was never embittered by the experience — nor did she ever gloat after achieving worldwide success.

#### Always with a smile

Prof. Godbole was by this time well placed to be a role model for young researchers, particularly women scientists struggling — as she once had — against gender bias and negative attitudes. She cheerfully took on this responsibility and became an advocate for women in science. While continuing to do high-quality research, she founded the 'Women in Science Panel' of the Indian Academy of Sciences and became its first Chair. She was a plenary speaker at the first International Conference on Women in Physics in Paris in 2001. In a

short autobiographical note, she wrote about the experience:

"I was invited to speak about my experience as a woman physicist in India who had achieved some measure of success, and it resonated with the audience. Women from Ghana, Mauritius, and Egypt came to me and said, when Western women talk, we feel that they are from a different culture, but when we listen to you, we feel — if she can do it, we can do it too!"

This experience led her to co-edit a now-famous compilation of career profiles of nearly a hundred Indian women scientists, 'Lilavati's Daughters', and she gave numerous talks and wrote articles on gender-related issues in science. On a few occasions I had the opportunity to sit in committee meetings with her and observe her remarkable style of functioning.

Despite being a talkative person in public spaces, she was an alert listener at meetings and would only express her opinions after carefully absorbing the facts.

Her remarks were direct and pointed, and she fought vigorously for what she believed to be right, but always in constructive language and with a smile.

Let me conclude with a quote from an email circulated at CERN just hours after she passed away in Pune. "It is with profound sadness that we have learnt about the passing of Rohini Godbole. A brilliant phenomenologist and a visionary leader, Rohini has inspired students and researchers across the world."

(Sunil Mukhi is a theoretical physicist at IISER Pune who carries out research in quantum field theory and string theory. sunil.mukhi@iiserpune.ac.in)

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



Visual: This map shows countries that have ratified (dark green) or signed (light green), a treaty that prohibits the import of any hazardous waste. Name X. LOUPERIVOIS (CC BY-SA 4.0)

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

### Deals to protect the planet

**Vasudevan Mukunth**

#### QUESTION 1

Name the declaration adopted by members of the United Nations in October 2021 that requires them to recognise the vision of "living in harmony with nature" by 2050 and to endeavour to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

#### QUESTION 2

The X treaty entered into force in 1989 and enjoys a reputation as an example of successful international collaboration because it helped get rid of Y. The 1985 Vienna Convention, X, and the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are also the only three treaties ratified by all 198 UN members. Name X and Y.

#### QUESTION 3

Name the supplementary agreement struck to the Convention on Biological Diversity struck in 2010. It's designed for countries to ensure the benefits of exploiting the genetic resources in a place are shared with the communities who help protect those resources.

#### QUESTION 4

The Kyoto Protocol extends the UNFCCC by requiring its member countries to lower their emissions of greenhouse gases. Name the country that "reluctantly" withdrew from this agreement in 2012 because it had missed its target and the resulting fine, \$14 billion, would have ruined its economy.

#### QUESTION 5

P is an international treaty and Q is the entity it protects worldwide. P is named for the city in Iran where it was adopted in 1971. India has 85 sites of Q. The Montreux

Record maintains a list of all Q that are currently facing challenges. Name P and Q.

#### Answers to October 24 quiz:

- Magnetism in which adjacent spins are pointing in opposite directions — **Ans: Antiferromagnetism**
- Magnetism causing spins of a material's properties to randomly flip due to temperature changes — **Ans: Superparamagnetism**
- Magnetisation whose change is disproportionate to change in applied field — **Ans: Metamagnetism**
- Simple model to show phase transitions in magnetic materials — **Ans: Ising model**
- Phenomenon with a mix of ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism — **Ans: Altermagnetism**

#### Visual:

SQUID  
First contact: Namdev Singh | Anlin Kurian | Anmol Agrawal | Sneha Naveen | Bharath Viswanathan



Chinese astronauts from left, Wang Haoze, Song Lingdong, and Cai Xuze before launch at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern China, early on Wednesday. AP

### China sends new crew to its Tiangong space station

**Associated Press**

A Chinese spaceship carrying a three-person crew docked with its orbiting space station Tuesday as the country seeks to expand its exploration of outer space in competition with the U.S., even as it looks for cooperation from other nations.

The team of two men and one woman will replace astronauts who have lived on the Tiangong space station for the last six months, conducting a variety of experiments and maintaining the structure.

They are expected to stay until April or May of next year. The new mission commander, Cai Xuze, went to space in the Shenzhou-14 mission in 2022, while the other two, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze, are first-time space travellers. Mr. Song and Ms. Wang were born in the 1990s and are graduates of the third wave of Chinese astronaut recruitment, having undergone a rigorous testing and training process taking years.

Early Wednesday morning, China declared the launch and entry into outer space a "complete success."

The Shenzhou-19 spaceship carrying the trio blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China at 4:27 am local time atop a Long March-2F rocket, the backbone of China's crewed space missions.

China built its own space station after

**The two men and one woman will replace astronauts who have lived on the space station for six months, conducting experiments and maintaining the structure**

being excluded from the International Space Station, mainly because of U.S. concerns over the control of the People's Liberation Army over the space programme. China's moon programme is part of a growing rivalry with the U.S. and others, including Japan and India.

Mr. Song was an air force pilot, and Ms. Wang was an engineer with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. She will be the crew's payload specialist and the third Chinese woman aboard a crewed mission.

Besides putting a space station into orbit, the Chinese space agency has landed an explorer on Mars. It aims to put a person on the moon before 2030, which would make China the second nation after the U.S. to do so. It also plans to build a research station on the moon and has already transferred rock and soil samples from the moon in a first for any nation in decades and placed a rover on the little-explored far side of the moon in a global first.

The U.S. still leads in space exploration and plans to land astronauts on the moon for the first time in more than 50 years, though NASA pushed the target date back to 2026 earlier this year.

The new Chinese crew will perform spacewalks and install new equipment to protect the station from space debris.

According to NASA, large pieces of debris have been created by "satellite explosions and collisions." China's firing of a rocket to destroy a redundant weather satellite in 2007 and the "accidental collision of American and Russian communications satellites in 2009 greatly increased the amount of large debris in orbit," it said.

#### For feedback and suggestions

for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'