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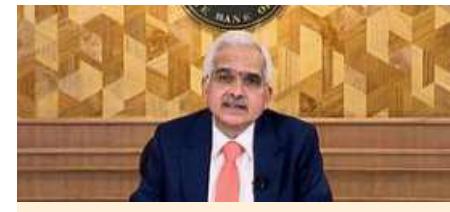
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INTEREST RATE
RBI retains 6.5%,
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CLASHES CONTINUE IN LEBANON
2 killed as Hezbollah rockets hit Israel
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CHEMISTRY NOBEL
Trio wins prize for work on proteins
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MENTAL HEALTH IN FOCUS
Transform the workplace into supportive space
Success must not be tied to brutal work culture
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DOMINANT DISPLAY
India thrashes Lanka, boosts last-four hopes
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NEARBY



HC allows SHRC to summon top police official

CHENNAI
The Madras HC on Wednesday refused to restrain the SHRC from proceeding with the summons issued to Police Commissioner A. Arun to explain his remark on 'teaching rowdies a lesson'. » PAGE 7

Air show deaths:
AIADMK files
plaint with NHRC

CHENNAI
I.S. Inbadurai of AIADMK's advocates wing wrote to NHRC, calling for an inquiry into the 'failure of' the State that led to the deaths at the IAF air show. » PAGE 7

METROPLUS » 8 PAGES

Leaders race to form govts. in J&K, Haryana

Hectic political activities begin; BJP likely to form government in Haryana after October 12; three Independents back BJP; NC and Congress likely to declare J&K's next Chief Minister in two days

Peerzada Ashiq
Vikas Vasudeva
SRINAGAR/CHANDIGARH



A day after the Assembly election results were announced, the leaders of the winning parties – the BJP in Haryana and the National Conference-Congress alliance in Jammu and Kashmir – were engaged in hectic political activity.

Several BJP leaders from Haryana, including incumbent Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini who is likely to retain his position, headed to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top leaders. The new government is expected to take charge after October 12, once the Dasara festival is over.

In Srinagar, top leaders

of the National Conference (NC) and the Congress began the spadework to form the first elected government in Jammu and Kashmir in more than six years. They plan to announce their new Chief Minister in the next two days.

The BJP got a further boost in Haryana, with all three Independents an-

nouncing their support to the party, effectively taking the saffron party's seat tally in the Assembly to 51. As lobbying began for ministerial berths in the new government, several legislators of the ruling party and senior leaders from the State made a beeline to Delhi to meet the BJP's central leadership, a party

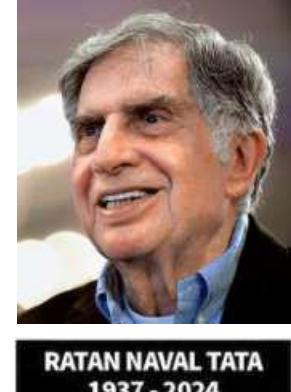
source said.

The BJP is also considering the option of appointing two Deputy Chief Ministers, as was done in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, the source added.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 13
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 10, 11, 12 & 13

Ratan Tata, a titan of Indian industry, takes his final bow

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI



Tata Group's chairman emeritus and veteran industrialist Ratan Naval Tata passed away at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai late on Wednesday. He was 86.

"It is with deep sorrow that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved Ratan," his family said in a statement.

"We his brothers, sisters, and family take solace and comfort in outpouring of love and respect from all who admired him. While he is no longer with us in person, his legacy of humility, generosity and purpose will continue to inspire future generations," the family said.

Mr. Tata is survived by his younger brothers Jimmy and Noel and step-mother Simone.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes

to Mr. Tata, describing him as a visionary business leader and an extraordinary human being. "One of the most unique aspects of Shri Ratan Tata Ji was his passion towards dreaming big and giving back. He was at the forefront of championing causes like education, healthcare, sanitation, animal welfare to name a few," he said on X.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 13

T.N. releases ₹100 crore to pay Samagra Shiksha staff

Meghna M.
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday released ₹100 crore to pay salaries of employees associated with the Centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

According to government sources, the funds were released from the State's share of 40% towards the payment of the salaries to 32,500 teachers and non-teaching staff.

However, this funding would only cover the salaries and not the schemes run under the scheme, including the scholarship for children with disabilities and teacher training.

The project approval board of the Union government had allocated a total of ₹3,586 crore for the scheme.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

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IN BRIEF



Report illegal waste dumping via 1913 helpline, says GCC

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has requested residents to report instances of illegal dumping of construction debris, sewage, and waste in public spaces and waterbodies through its 24-hour helpline, 1913. Commissioner J. Kumaragurubaran, in a statement, said that the Corporation has designated 14 locations for the free disposal of construction debris, and that citizens can report violations to ensure prompt action. Fines will be imposed on offenders found dumping waste in public spaces. The designated spots include Buckingham Canal Road in Thiruvottiyur Zone (I), Kamarajar Road in Manali Zone (II), Avadhanam Papaiya Road for Royapuram (V), and Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar Zones, among several others across the city.

THE HINDU

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In Chennai, these shelters are far from the homeless

Shankari Nivethitha B.

CHENNAI

When World Homeless Day will be observed on Thursday, in Chennai, there are two shelters for the homeless, that are being used as Urban Primary Health Care Centres (UPHC), while many are not functional.

The shelters were built under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) in Chennai. According to a report by Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC), a non-governmental organisation (NGO), two shelters, including those in zone 4 and 6, are now being utilised as UPHCs, while other shelters in zones 4, 5, 9 and 13 are currently non-functional. This scenario exists, even as the city is faced with a growing number of homeless individuals, particularly with the impending onset of north-east monsoon.

Commenting on this, a GCC official said that UPHCs functioning from the shelters were a temporary arrangement and that they will be relocated soon. At present, there were almost 1,300 people in 49 shelters and an awareness campaign about shelters for the homeless people will be launched soon, ahead of the monsoon season, he further said.

Metrowater to hold grievance redressal meeting on Oct. 19

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Chennai Metrowater will hold its monthly grievance redressal meetings across the city on October 19, instead of the usual second week of the month. The meetings will be held in all area offices between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

A press release said the meeting has been

tions and seasonal infections. Meanwhile, 48% of people in a homeless situation are sleeping on platforms with tarpaulin sheets or carboard structures to safeguard themselves, the report added. "Shelters are seen as the only solution for addressing urban homelessness. The shelter for the homeless scheme is currently a stand-alone initiative implemented by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)," said Vanessa Peter, Founder, IRCDUC. There is a need for adopting intersectional approach and evolving a comprehensive programme with co-ordination between departments and convergence of schemes, she added. The Greater Chennai Corporation needs to reaffirm (GCC) its commitment to 'Nativumigai Chennai,' under the vision 'Singara Chennai 2.0' by providing adequate shelters for homeless people in various places of the city.

Commenting on this, a GCC official said that UPHCs functioning from the shelters were a temporary arrangement and that they will be relocated soon. At present, there were almost 1,300 people in 49 shelters and an awareness campaign about shelters for the homeless people will be launched soon, ahead of the monsoon season, he further said.

Student dies days after attack in railway terminal

Sundar, a first-year Political Science student at Presidency College, was beaten up by a group of students from Pachaiyappa's College on October 4. Police bandobust beefed up near the colleges

The Hindu Bureau

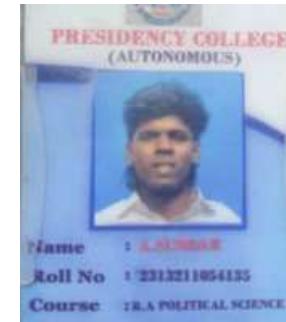
CHENNAI

A 19-year-old college student died on Wednesday after he was attacked by a group of students from another college at the suburban railway terminal in Moore market complex last week. Police said it was not the result of any 'route thala' (route supremacy) issue.

Police said they attacked him after questioning him on his daringness to wear his college ID and come in front of them.

The victim has been identified as A.Sundar, 19, of Ponpadi village near Tiruthani in Tiruvallur district. He was a first-year student of BA Political Science in Presidency College.

Police sources said on October 4 at 2.50 p.m.,



A. Sundar

Sundar was on his way to board an EMU train at the suburban terminal. A few students from Pachaiyappa's College surrounded him and beat him up.

As he tried to run away from them, his head hit a pillar and he fell near an ATM. He was bleeding from his ears and had also sustained injuries in his chest and neck.

Police rescued him and sent him to Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital where he was given treatment. Based on his father Anandan's complaint, Periamet Police registered a case and were investigating.

Police arrested five suspects – N.Chandru, 20, of Thirupachur, P. Yuvaraj, 20, of Pattarai Perumal Thur, S. Eswar, 19, of Thirumullaivoyal, M. Hari Prasad, alias Buji, 20, of Thiruvallur and K. Kamalashwaran, 19, of Sevvapet of Thiruvallur district – all students of Pachaiyappa's College, the police said.

They were arrested on charges of murder since the victim, Sundar, died in the hospital on Wednesday, without responding to the treatment.

Meanwhile, police bandobust has been beefed up near Pachaiyappa's College and Presidency College to

prevent any clash between students. Tight vigil was maintained on railway routes in northern parts of the city. Students of Presidency College attempted to protest on their campus, but the college faculty and the police held talks with them. The Principal has declared six days' leave for the college.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) has warned of stringent action against students indulging in clashes on the railway premises.

The GRP officials also said that steps have been taken to instruct college managements to suspend unruly students and added that the students who create a ruckus shall get a 10-year imprisonment as per the provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita based on video evidence.

Airtel customers to get alerts on spam calls and messages

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

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Safety and security

Mr. Virmani said unlike with other mobile operators where customers had to download some apps to protect themselves from spam calls, Airtel with the commitment to provide safety and security to its customers, has come out with a spam detection technology.

The artificial intelligence-powered spam detection system was soft launched by Airtel a fortnight ago and has helped in successfully identifying 112 million potential spam calls and 3 million SMS messages in the State.

Tarun Virmani, Chief Executive Officer (Tamil Nadu) of Bharti Airtel, addressing a media gathering in the city on Wednesday, said the spam detection system developed in-house using AI technology by the data analysts would be available to all their mobile customers of the State free of cost, without the need

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RGGGH rolls out tags for patients' attendants to ease crowding

Every patient admitted to the hospital to receive two attendant tags; in view of the rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar hospital, the Chief Secretary had instructed healthcare facilities to take measures to restrict number of attendants and visitors in a phased manner, say RGGGH authorities; restricting crowding would help in infection-control as well, says dean Theranirajan

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) has introduced a tag system for patient attendants to restrict crowding and ensure safety of healthcare professionals on the hospital premises. From now, every patient admitted to the hospital will receive two attendant tags.

In the light of the rape

and murder of a post-graduate medical student at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, the Chief Secretary had instructed healthcare facilities to take measures to restrict the number of attendants / visitors in a phased manner to ensure the safety of healthcare professionals, according to RGGGH authorities.

In a step towards this, RGGGH had put up boards specifying visiting time (7 a.m. to 9 a.m., 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) in many places, including the admission counter, emergency and outpatient

department, a month ago. On Wednesday, the hospital rolled out a tag system to allow two attendants per patient, E. Theranirajan, dean of RGGGH, said.

"Every day, there are about 400 to 450 admissions at the hospital, and nearly 350 discharges. In many instances, each patient has about 10 to 15 visitors. This leads to crowding at the hospital. We have now introduced three colour tags – yellow for atten-

dants of patients admitted to the Intensive Care Units, green for attendants of patients admitted to super speciality departments, such as vascular surgery and nephrology and blue tags for attendants of those admitted to the general wards, such as general medicine and general surgery," he explained.

The tags would be given at the admission counter. As of now, the names of the patients are being written

on the tag. "Each patient can have two attendants. This is because sometimes, one attendant may have to accompany them during investigations and they may require help in other circumstances," he further said.

"Restricting crowding would help in infection-control as well. We will review the tag system after 15 days to see if any course corrections are essential," he said.



Colour-coded: A staff strapping an identification tag on the wrist of a patient's attendant at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai on Wednesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Burns Department at KMC gets equipment worth ₹8.80 crore

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The Burns Department of Government Kilpauk Medical College (KMC) Hospital has received new equipment worth ₹8.80 crore.

According to a press release, the equipment was procured through financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency. This included Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy at a cost of ₹1.17 crore, CO2 laser at a cost of ₹62.34 lakh, three operating microscopes at a cost of ₹4.35 crore, two dermatome ma-

chines worth ₹12.28 lakh and skin graft mesher worth ₹30.80 lakh.

MBBS classes on Oct. 14 Health Minister Ma. Subramanian launched the equipment on Wednesday. He later told reporters that for this year, classes for MBBS course will begin on October 14, while classes for paramedical courses will commence on October 16. Mayor R. Priya, Mission Director of National Health Mission, Tamil Nadu Shilpa Prabhakar Satish and KMC dean Leo David were present.

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I. Lavanya Govindaraj W/o Govindaraj 2/26 Channamal Nagar, 2nd Street Kolathur, Chennai - 99. have changed my name from Lavanya to Lavanya Govindaraj vide Affidavit dt: 09.10.24

I. LEAH ANN KENNETH GEORGE, D/o Kenneth S. George Born on 19th July 2005, residing at No.21, Ponnai Str. Purasawalkam, Chennai-07, shall henceforth be known as LEAH ANN GEORGE

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The Public are hereby cautioned that, if at all even after going through this caution notice, if anybody receives the said false posts through any existing social platform and if by any circumstances he/she circulates the said false post and if that is identified by our CMR Textiles & Jewellers Private Limited then our CMR Textiles & Jewellers Private Limited will be constrained to take appropriate Legal Action as enshrined under Bharatiya Nyaya Sahit, 2023 and as well according to Civil Procedure Code against such person.

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Electrical	18	30	48
Civil	15	10	25
Control & Instrumentation	10	-	10
Total	77	90	167

Detailed version of the Advertisement indicating the number of vacancies in each discipline, qualification requirements, reservation of post and other terms & conditions including modalities for registration & the dates for opening & closure of Online Application Portal etc. will be hosted in NLC India Limited Website (www.nlcindia.in) and eligible candidates may apply online in NLC India Limited Website.

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Chennai Airport Today
34°C The weather will be warm with cloudy sky. Night will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thunder shower may occur.

Chennai Airport Tomorrow
34°C Day will be warm with cloudy sky. Night will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thunder shower will occur.

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INBRIEF



Eaton Chairman Craig Arnold calls on CM at Secretariat

Craig Arnold, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of US-based Eaton, called on Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat. Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa; Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam, Managing Director & CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu, V. Vishnu; Eaton's executive vice-president and chief financial officer Olivier Leonetti, and other officials were present.



Deputy CM distributes house pattas to 17,427 beneficiaries

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Wednesday distributed orders for house pattas to 17,427 beneficiaries at a government function organised at Avadi. Speaking on the occasion, he pointed out that, so far, pattas have been distributed to 35,603 beneficiaries in the city. The DMK government has been resolving the challenges in issuing pattas, he said. Revenue Minister K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Minister for Minorities Welfare S.M. Nasar, and other senior officials were present.

Text & Context and Science

Weekly features on The Hindu paper (paper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 10, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- On the protests against the Vizag steel plant sale newsthrive.vizagsteelsale
- New sedimentary rock made from slag is a carbon-trapping champ newsthrive.carbontrapping

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)		
S. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No
1	SE / O / Tirunelveli	ET-12
2	CE / TP-II / Trichy	E-03, C-04, C-05, C-06

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tntansco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app DIPR/4210/Tender/2024

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION STADIUM DEPARTMENT	
S.D.C.No.A3/1265/2024 E - TENDER NOTICE	
e-Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer (P&PF) for the following works as per details furnished below:-	
Zone - 3, Div - 28 Proposed Construction Of New Play Ground At Kolkatta Shop Road (Two Cover System)	
Approx. Work value : Rs.130.40 Lakhs E.M.D 1% of work value Rs.1,31,000/-	
Due Date and Time for Submission of tender : 24.10.2024 upto 3.00 p.m.	
Tender opening date and time : 25.10.2024 @ 3.30 p.m.	
For more information see http://tntenders.gov.in	
DIPR / 4197 / Tender / 2024	
Superintending Engineer (P&PF)	

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर			
ई-अल्पकालिन निविदा आवंत्रण सूचना			
ई-अल्पकालिन निविदा संख्या : 19/2024-25/RWD/EE/JSR			
दिनांक :- 09.10.2024			
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निन विवरण के अनुसार e-प्रक्रमण दफ्तर से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।			
क्रो. सं०	आई.डी.एफ.के.रन् संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्षिपित राशि (रुपये में)
		अंक में	अक्षर में
1.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 56/2024-25	कापाड़िया चौक से डुंगरी शिव मंदिर दिजली भूसान तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं-1.905 किमी०)	2,19,91,300.00
2.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 57/2024-25	बाघारुड़ा देहरीसोल होटे हुए पुरनापानी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं-2.325 किमी०)	2,57,18,700.00
3.	RWD/ JAMSHEDPUR/ 58/2024-25	बैनासोली सिटुमुडी होटा से विमल हड्डम के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं-2.005 किमी०)	2,16,56,300.00
2.	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि :- 16.10.2024।		
3.	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 24.10.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।		
4.	निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।		
5.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 25.10.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे।		
6.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :-कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक-कन्ठीड़, थाना-परसुडीड़, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन-831002।		
7.	ई-निविदा प्रक्रमण का दूसरा सं.- 0657-2298902।		
8.	विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।		
		कार्यपालक अभियंता,	
		ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर	

Health Minister chairs monsoon-preparedness meeting in Velachery

Minister instructs officials to take preventive measures for monsoon-related diseases. Residents raise concerns over sewage blocks and poor road conditions, offer suggestions to check flooding

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI



Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ma. Subramanian heads a monsoon-preparedness meeting for Adyar Zone on Wednesday in Velachery with multiple resident welfare associations (RWAs), elected representatives, including Velachery MLA Aasaan Maulana, Deputy Mayor M. Magesh Kumar, and Zone 13 Ward Committee Chairman R. Durai Raj, along with ward councillors.

Minister announced similar preparatory meetings scheduled for the South region, to be held on Thursday in Valasaravakkam (Zone IX), October 15 in Kodambakkam (Zone X), October 16 in Perungudi (Zone XIV), and October 17 in Sholinganallur (Zone XV).

During the meeting, the Minister said the progress of infrastructural work undertaken in extended areas by various departments over the last three years has

been better than in the decade preceding the DMK rule. Mr. Subramanian mentioned that preventive measures need to be taken for monsoon-related diseases in coordination with health, school, and social welfare departments and the respective regional officials.

Officials provided details of desilting and said a total of 189.8 km of storm water drains alongside roads have been desilted so far. However, 36.63 km of storm water drains still need to be desilted.

Stating that the sluice at the Adyar river disposal site near Nagi Reddy Garden and Kalaignar Hospital required attention, the officials said the Adyar river bund at Kottur needed to be raised to prevent flooding. Desilting and de-weeding operations in the South Buckingham Canal near Thiruvanniyur were necessary. The wall at Veenrangan Odai must also be raised to mitigate flood risks, the officials added.

Geetha Ganesh of AGS Colony Residents Welfare Association said a buffer

zone around Velachery lake has to be created by pre-emptying the waterbody ahead of the monsoon to prevent flooding. Infrastructure improvements in AGS Colony, including installation of more pumps and consistent monitoring of drainage systems, were also put forth.

Concerns raised
Residents of Ward 168 raised concerns about manholes on Velachery Main Road, urging the Highways Department to replace them. Officials assured that manhole chamber covers would be repaired within a week, as directed by the Minister at the meeting.

Swathi, Kasturba Nagar RWA, complained about sewage being linked in an unauthorised manner to the storm-water drains on 3rd Cross Street and called for removal of encroachments on drains. She also raised issues about drain desilting near the CMRL in Indira Nagar, which officials confirmed was completed.

Industry experts call for focus on core engineering subjects

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Industry heads said students must be well-equipped to develop self-learning skills

To develop an interest in core engineering subjects, it is necessary to conduct sensitisation programme for school students and parents, industry heads have suggested.

For several years now, students are shunning core engineering branches in favour of IT and Computer Science Engineering. To change the skewed preference for CSE-centric courses, Anna University organised a sensitisation programme on 'Why core engineering still matters' on Wednesday.

College principals and chairpersons participated in a panel discussion with senior officials from manufacturing companies and human resource personnel from the IT sector.

The industry participants in the panel discussion suggested that industry-related emerging technologies be included in the syllabus as core courses. The senior heads of industry drew from their personal experiences to point out that students must be enabled to develop self-learning skills.

Higher Education Secretary K. Gopal said the event had been organised with the aim of safeguard-

ing the nation's future. At a time when the country had set an ambitious goal of sustainable energy independence, it depended heavily on core engineers, he said. "As we work towards achieving these goals, we need a new generation of professionals who are not only vested in cutting-edge technologies but also grounded in the principles of core engineering."

K.M. Suseendran, Technical Head, Academic Alliances at TCS; K. Subramanian, Senior Vice-President at Ashok Leyland; P. Sivakumar, Distinguished Scientist and former Director of CVRDE; P. Kanianappan, Managing Director of ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems; and Career guidance specialist Ramesh Prabha participated in the discussion. The other speakers included Shankar Venugopal, Vice-President at Mahindra and Mahindra and Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII T.N. State Council and Managing Director of Wheels India.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT NABARD & RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TRICHY TENDER NOTICE (Online only) Tender Notice No.20/2024-2025/SDO/Dated: 08.10.2024									
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu percentage tender (Two Cover system) will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Trichy for Upgradation of Panchayat Union / Panchayat Roads to Other District Road under NABARD RIDF XXX / 2024-25 Loan Assistance Scheme for (TRY-26 to TRY-33) Eight Road Works in respect of Pudukkottai (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Division upto 14.00 hours on 05.11.2024 through online only.									
Details of work, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 18.10.2024 onwards in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in . If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.									
Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Circle, Villupuram DIPR/4175/TENDER/2024									

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Upper Cauvery Basin Circle, Salem Tender Notice No.04/DBD/2024-27/25/2024-2025
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JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO BHAWAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI,
JHARKHAND
Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878, e-mail Id juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

e-Procurement Notice

Tender Notice

NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/Chhattarpur & Hariharanji Integrated/UWSS/635
Date: 09.10.2024

1. Name of the work	Chattarpur & Hariharanji Integrated Urban Water Supply Scheme with Years of Operation and Maintenance
2. Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering - http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
3. Estimated Cost	Rs. 201,27,404,895.00 Two Hundred One Crore Twenty Seven Lakh Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five Only/-
4. Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender Document Fee - Rs 25,000.00 Bid Security - Rs 2,01,27,100.00
5. Date & Time of Publication of Tender on Website	09-10-2024; 17:00 hours
6. Last Date & Time of submission of pre-bid queries	16-10-2024; 13:00 hours
7. Date & Time of pre-bid meeting	16-10-2024; 15:00 hours
8. Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	11-11-2024; 17:00 hours
9. Date & Time of Bid Opening	12-11-2024; 17:30 hours
10. Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Pin -834001.
11. Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 2225878/ 9973678183

Note: Only e-tenders will be accepted.

Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Project Director (Technical)

JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

PR 338636 Urban Development and Housing (24-25)_D

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SALEM DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. GEM/2024/B/5482799, Date: 08.10.2024

Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical / Salem Division, Salem - 5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc., can be viewed / downloaded from website portal www.gem.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) GEM/2024/B/5482799 Dt: 08.10.2024	Approx. cost - ₹ 62,31,192/- EMD - ₹ 24,600/- Completion Period - 12 Months

Salem Division: Deployment of Contractual Assistants in AC Escorting duty to Assist Onboard Technicians in carrying out Electrical duties of AC Coaches of Coimbatore Primary maintenance trains for the period of one year.

For all the works Closing Time & Date 14.00 hrs. on 29.10.2024

For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date 14.30 hrs. on 29.10.2024

All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal www.gem.gov.in. Only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), Salem

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. CONV/OHE/2x25kV/SR/01

For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Electrical Engineer, Projects, Southern Railway, Chennai - 03, invites e-tenders for the following works in Non-EPIC mode. The tenders shall be submitted online up to 15.00 hrs on 08.11.2024 through website www.ireps.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored and summarily rejected. Bidders are requested to go through the details such as pre-bid conference, submission of original documents, Bid security etc. in the attached tender document.

EMD and Tender Forms Cost (TFC) are to be paid on line through IREPS Portal (www.ireps.gov.in) and no manual payments will be accepted for these tenders.

Name of work: Up-gradation work of Electric traction system from 1x25kV to 2x25kV traction system for Salem Jn.(SA) - Podanur Jn.(PTU) & Irugur (IGU) - Coimbatore Jn. (CBE) - Podanur Jn.(PTU) sections of Salem division of Southern Railway to meet 3000 MT loading Target

Sl. No.	App. Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of completion in month
1	121,29,97,837.70/-	62,15,000/-	24 Months

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and the tender documents are available in the website www.ireps.gov.in and the tenderers are advised to refer the same. Tenderers are also advised to quote their rates inclusive of GST.

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Projects / HQ, O/o Chief Electrical Engineer / Projects / SR, Chennai - 600 003

ADDENDUM-1

Ref.Tender Notification No: EE(PC-5)/TEND/03/2024-25

Dated: 07.10.2024

With respect to the above notification, the following items shall be read as below.

Sl. No.	Description	To be read as
1	Name of the work:	Construction of Bridge on the Upstream Side of Outlet No.2 located on the North Eastern side of the Madiwala Tank Bund Road, Bengaluru
2	Amount Out to Tender:- Rs.4,84,79,726/-	Amount Out to Tender:- Rs.4,07,39,625/-
3	EMD: ₹4,84,79,726/- (Rs.1.00 Lakh through e-Proc & Rs.3,84,79,726/- through Bank Guarantee)	EMD: ₹4,07,400/- (Rs.1.00 Lakh through e-Proc & Rs.3,07,400/- through Bank Guarantee)

All other Terms and Conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Central-5

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND

Very Short e-Procurement Notice

For National Competitive Bidding

Very Short e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/1846

Date- 08.10.2024

1.	Name of the work	IRQP work of Begnath Road under Road Division-Begnath (Length 15,950 km) for the year 2024-25
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	₹ 9,39,54,270.95
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 9.40 Lakh (Rupees Nine Lakh Forty Thousand only).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6.	Time of Completion	06 (Six Months)
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	15.10.2024 at 12.30 P.M.
8.	Start date of bidding	15.10.2024 from 12.30 P.M.
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	22.10.2024 up to 02.00 PM.
10.	Type of Bid	Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial Bid)
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	22.10.2024 Through e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in Per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
12.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	23.10.2024 at 03.00 PM by e-Procurement Cell, Room No.330A, 3rd floor, Road Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi
13.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No.-1, CH Area.
14.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0657-2227724
15.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD published on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer

PR 338530 Road(24-25).D RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

ई-निविदा संख्या :- 08/2024-25/EE/RWD/LATEHAR

दिनांक : 08.10.2024

क्रो	आईडीटी फिक्सेशन सं० / पैकेज सं०	प्रवर्णन	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	RWD/LATE HAR/29/ 2024-25	बरवाडीह	ग्राम पंचायत मोरवाइकाला में हवेलीटोला से विभाग सिंह के घर तक पथ निर्माण।	170,004	रु० एक करोड़ सत्तर लाख चार सौ रुपये मात्र।
2	RWD/LATE HAR/30/ 2024-25	बरवाडीह	पंचायत लात ग्राम हरहार दोड से सं० सिंह के घर तक पथ निर्माण।	117,797	रु० एक करोड़ सत्तर लाख चार सौ रुपये मात्र।

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 15.10.2024

2. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 21.10.2024 अप्राह्ण 5:00 बजे तक।

3. निविदा खालीने की तिथि एवं समय : 23.10.2024 अप्राह्ण 03:30 बजे।

4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले प्रदाताकारी का नाम एवं पता, कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार, लातेहार पूर्व 829206।

5. ई-निविदा प्रकाश का दोस्तावाट सं० - 06565245038

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.

242513 003806

Providing Skilled manpower (Work Assistant / Diploma Holder / Lab Chemist / Others) assistance under Outsourced Category at TNPL Unit-1.

25.10.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com | <https://tnlntenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app>

DIPR/4189/Tender/2024 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Premises & Estate Department, 4th Floor, Local Head Office, Thiruvananthapuram - 695012, Ph: 0471-219

GSI allays fears of residents after land subsidence near Kodaikanal

Report says no imminent threat to life or property, recommends dist. administration to take up maintenance of man-made supply canal in Kilavarai village on Kodaikanal hills; GSI officials suggest construction of structure to regulate flow of water

The Hindu Bureau
DINDIGUL

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has allayed fears of the local people on the recent land subsidence reported in Kilavarai village on Kodaikanal hills.

Its preliminary report has stated that there is no significant ground movement or any landslide incidence anticipated in the area.

Maintenance of canal
However, it has recommended that the district administration take up maintenance of a man-made supply canal and ensure proper sealing to stop percolation of water into the ground which could aggravate the ground subsidence or cracks.

After the residents alerted the administration about the cracks on the land in Kilavarai, which is located about 45 km away from Kodaikanal town, in September-end, the GSI officials conducted a survey on the request of Dindigul MP R. Sachithanathan.



Root cause: According to the preliminary report prepared by GSI, subsurface erosion led to the subsidence of a section of the canal in the affected area. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Their initial assessment revealed excessive percolation of water into the subsurface either due to leakage of water from the drinking water pipeline or over saturation of the affected portion by drainage and rainfall leading to soil piping and subsequent subsidence.

The GSI report has said an earthen canal is constructed to draw water

from Paraigasam reservoir to the agricultural lands in Keel Kilavarai.

A pipeline also runs along the canal, which is over one-km long.

Subsurface erosion

"Only 73 metres of the canal have been affected by subsidence and ground cracks for a depth of three metres. Subsurface erosion led to the subsidence

of a section of the canal," the report said.

Stating that the human settlement is located at a safe distance from the site of land subsidence, the report has said there is no imminent threat to life and property.

The Dindigul MP said GSI officials had recommended immediate stoppage of the flow of water in the canal to avoid further

As per the report, no significant ground movement or landslide incidence are anticipated

saturation of the soil.

"The officials have suggested to cover the affected portion of the canal with an impervious sheet to avoid percolation of water into the cracks," Mr. Sachithanathan said.

The ground cracks should be sealed properly so that wild animals or livestock did not get trapped in the crevices, Mr. Sachithanathan added.

As a long-term measure, the GSI officials had suggested construction of a proper structure for regulation and management of water flow into the canal. Besides, compaction grouting should be done to densify the soft and weak soil and strengthen it.

The MP said he had drawn the attention of Dindigul Collector M.N. Pongudi to the issue so that she could initiate the works at the earliest.

21 fishermen from Pudukottai arrested by Sri Lankan Navy

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUKOTTAI

Twenty-one fishermen of Pudukottai district were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on Wednesday evening on charges of trespassing into the island nation's territorial waters while fishing.

While 17 fishermen had set sail on board three mechanised boats from the Jagadappattinam fishing harbour, four others had left from the Kottaipattinam fishing harbour on a mechanised boat on Wednesday morning. Coastal Security Group sources said the 21 fishermen were fishing near Neduntheevu around 3.45 p.m. when they were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on charg-

They were arrested on charges of trespassing and taken to Kankesanthurai Naval base

es of trespassing.

The arrested fishermen were taken to Kankesanthurai naval base for inquiry, the sources added.

The names of the arrested fishermen were given as Ramesh, 27; Janakiraman, 27; Krishnan, 68; Kumar, 40; Ramesh, 51; Raj, 55; Ravinder, 42; Ulaganathan, 38; Arulnathan, 29; Vaidyanathan, 30; Kumaresan, 37; Mahesh, 55; Madhan, 27; Mahendran, 20; Munivel, 66; Vijay, 31; Vicky, 18; Sivakumar, 28; Surya, 23; Suryaprakash, 25; and Karuppasamy, 26.

CMC Vellore, Azim Premji Foundation to establish medical college in Chittoor

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Christian Medical College, Vellore, has planned to set up a medical college in Chittoor with support from Azim Premji Foundation.

The Foundation will provide ₹500 crore grant to set up a college and upgrade the existing 120-bed hospital into a teaching hospital with 422 beds.

Director of CMC Vellore Vikram Mathews said the new medical college would replicate the model of medical education, healthcare delivery, research and outreach. The hospital is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2025.

Azim Premji Foundation's chief executive offic-



Christian Medical College, Vellore, and Azim Premji Foundation on Wednesday signed a partnership agreement.

er Anurag Behar said it was a privilege to set up an institution with CMC Vellore, which was an exemplary institution with a deep social commitment for high quality education and healthcare.

CMC Vellore's Principal Solomon Sathishkumar said the Chittoor campus

had begun with allied health science courses and a College of Nursing five years ago. He hoped the new medical college would evolve into a resource for advancing the discipline of primary-cum-secondary healthcare. The two organisations have been collaborating since 2020.

VILLUPURAM HIGHWAYS, (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE TENDER NOTICE T.N.O. 37/2024-25 / HDO. DATED: 03.10.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online under Single Cover / Two Cover System will be received upto 05.11.2024, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Villupuram Circle for CRIDP 2024-25 One work (VPM-069) and Non Plan 2024-25 Three works (VPM-070), (VPM-071) & (VPM-072) for Villupuram (H) C&M Division.

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 17.10.2024 onwards in the Government website <https://ntenders.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/4176/Tender/2024

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TIRUCHIRAPPALLI Construction and Maintenance Circle TENDER NOTICE T.N.O. 40/2024-25/HDO/Dated:03.10.2024

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online will be received upto 28.10.2024, 14.00 hours (Server Time) by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Tiruchirappalli Circle, Tiruchirappalli - 20 for CRIDP 2024-2025 Scheme works, 1 work pertaining to Thiruvarur (H), C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 10.10.2024 onwards in the Government website <https://ntenders.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, Tiruchirappalli - 20. DIPR/4170/TENDER/2024

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TIRUCHIRAPPALLI Construction and Maintenance Circle TENDER NOTICE T.N.O. 41/2024-25/HDO/Dated:04.10.2024

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online will be received upto 04.11.2024, 14.00 hours (Server Time) by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Tiruchirappalli Circle, Tiruchirappalli - 20 for Road Furniture works in CRIDP Scheme, 3 work pertaining to Tiruchirappalli (H), C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 14.10.2024 onwards in the Government website <https://ntenders.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, Tiruchirappalli - 20. DIPR/4169/TENDER/2024

VILLUPURAM HIGHWAYS, (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE Tender Notice T.N.O. 39/2024-25 / HDO. DATED: 05.10.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online under Single Cover / Two Cover System will be received upto 05.11.2024, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Villupuram Circle for CRIDP 2024-25 One work (VPM-077) and Non Plan 2024-25 Two works (VPM-078) & (VPM-079) for Villupuram (H) C&M Division.

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 17.10.2024 onwards in the Government website <https://ntenders.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/4126/Tender/2024

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD, PROJECT CIRCLE (CITY)
(Superintending Engineer, Project Circle (City), Tamil Nadu Housing Board, C-48, Anna Nagar, Chennai-40) E-mail: sepc2tanhb@yahoo.co.in, Ph: 26280020

e-Tender Notice No:PC(C)/15/2024-25 Date:09.10.2024

Name of Work	Approximate Value of works in Lakhs
Supply, Erection, Fabrication of Steel Structure with PVC Coated tensile fabric cloth roofing for Open Car Parking in 570 MSB flats at Nerkundram Phase-II, Stage-I Scheme, Chennai District	Rs.338.10 (Incl.GST @ 18%)

1. For Tender document visit <https://ntenders.gov.in> in date and time for downloading and starting date for submission of tender documents: 17.10.2024 at 11.00 AM and closing date of tender documents: 01.11.2024 at 11.00 AM.
2. Date and Time of opening of the e-Tender: 01.11.2024 at 3.00 PM
3. Detailed Tender Notice is available in the website: <https://ntenders.gov.in>.

Superintending Engineer (H), Project Circle(City)/TNB DIPR/4204/Tender/2024

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU HIGHWAYS (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE, SALEM

TENDER NOTICE T.N.O. 37 / 2024-25 / HDO. Dated: 08.10.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 30.10.2024 - 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Salem Circle for One CRIDP (CMRDP) (Road Furnitures) Work (SLM 113) for the year 2022-23, pertaining to Krishnagiri (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents, receiving date and all other details are available in the Government website <https://ntenders.gov.in> from 14.10.2024 onwards. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H), (C&M) Salem Circle. DIPR/4171/Tender/2024

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
Government of Karnataka #49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17012/17/2024/2024-25 Date: 08.10.2024

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER

"Invitation of bids for grant of Composite Licence for Gold, Bauxite, and Copper blocks"

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and amendments notified thereunder, the Government of Karnataka has identified 1 bauxite block, 1 copper block and 4 gold blocks for grant of Composite Licence through auction.

List of mineral blocks for Composite License through auction

S. No.	Name of the block	Mineral	Concession Area (in Ha/Sq. Km)	Estimated resources (in MMT)	Tender fee
1.	Sivalinganahalli Gold Block	Gold	23.48 sqkm	-	INR 2,00,000/- + 18% GST
2.	Salagudda Gold Block	Gold	22.02 sqkm	-	INR 2,00,000/- + 18% GST
3.	Jainapura Gold Block	Gold	19.45 sqkm	-	INR 2,00,000/- + 18% GST
4.	Shankarikoppa Gold Block	Gold	15.85 sqkm	-	INR 2,00,000/- + 18% GST
5.	Navge Bauxite (Aluminous laterite) Block	Aluminous laterite (Bauxite)	60.00 Ha	0.083107	INR 2,00,000/- + 18% GST
6.	Hunasihuli Copper Block	Copper	200.00 Ha	1.340000	INR 2,00,000/- + 18% GST

Any person, firm or company who satisfies the eligibility criteria can participate in the auction. Technical and financial bids for the above listed blocks are invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd (http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/mlcl_listing.jsp).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the block shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited (http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/mlcl_listing.jsp). For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the block specific tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd as per fees mentioned in the table for each block.

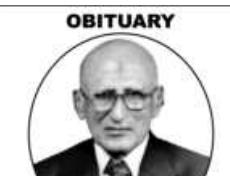
The GST at the rate of 18% on the purchase of tender document shall be applicable. The GST applicable is to be paid by the prospective bidder itself payable under the Reverse Charge Mechanism. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMG Karnataka/MSTC.

The sale of tender document shall commence from **09 October 2024**. Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is **25 November 2024**. Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is **26 November 2024** (upto 17:00 hours IST) Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka on or prior to **17:00 hours IST on 26 November 2024**.

DIPR/CP/2439/Zenkar/2024-25
Sd/-
Director

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Dr. C. Padmanabhan (96 Yrs)

Retired. Dean, Thiruvellveli Medical College & Additional Director of Medical Education, Tamil Nadu.

Expired On : 08.10.2024

Funeral Ceremony will be Conducted Today (10.10.2024)

After 11.00 AM

At: Ragamala Apartments, B2, Thodi Wing 1, Mandaveli, Chennai - 28

Survived by Wife, Sons, Daughters, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

• Om Sri Lal Ram •

In loving memory of

DEATH



From Page One

T.N. releases ₹100 cr. to pay Samagra Shiksha staff

The Union government would contribute ₹2,152 crore (to be released in four instalments), and the State ₹1,434 crore. However, the Tamil Nadu government is yet to receive the first instalment of ₹573 crore from the Centre, which should have been disbursed by June. The permanent employees - Block Resource Teacher Educators (BRTEs) and State and district project officials - get their salaries on the last day of the month, while the rest get it by the fifth of each month.

The teachers and non-teaching staff under the scheme staged a protest across Tamil Nadu, demanding that their salaries be disbursed from the State's fund. Over 1,000 SSA staff protested in Chennai.

Speaking at the protest, the president of the Teacher Educator Association, C. Murugan, said, "We are glad that the Tamil Nadu government has disbursed our salaries. However, the Centre must release its share of the fund as it is crucial for the continuation of other schemes, which impact a child's progress."

Stating that this might be a recurring event, V. Murgadoss, president, Tamil Nadu All Part-time Teachers' Federation, said, "We will continue to protest if our salaries are withheld next month."

Court allows SHRC to summon Chennai CoP

The panel had issued summons to Greater Chennai Commissioner of Police A. Arun to explain what he meant when he told the media that 'rowdies will be taught in the language they understand'; Bench stays SHRC's direction to govt. to initiate disciplinary action against an ACP

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday refused to restrain the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), led by retired Chief Justice S. Manikumar, from proceeding with the summons issued by it to Greater Chennai Commissioner of Police (CoP) A. Arun to appear in person on October 14 and explain what he meant when he told the media that "rowdies will be taught in the language they understand".

A Division Bench of Justices P.B. Balaji and G. Arul Murugan stayed only the SHRC's direction to the Home Secretary, the Direc-



The HC stayed SHRC's direction to take disciplinary action against Tiruvottiyur ACP A. Elangovan, whose video warning the family of a history-sheeter of dire consequences had gone viral on social media.

tor-General of Police and the CoP to initiate disciplinary action against Tiruvottiyur Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) A. Elangovan, whose video warning the family of a history-sheeter of dire consequences had gone viral on social media.

The Bench refrained from granting any kind of interim order with respect to the other proceedings pending before the SHRC, though Mr. Elangovan, in his writ petition, had urged the court to restrain the commission from proceeding further with the *suo motu* proceedings initiated by it.

The judges made it clear that the SHRC could go ahead with the summons issued to the CoP. In his affidavit, Mr. Elangovan said that the Greater Chennai City Police had tightened the vigil on known criminals after the murder of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Tamil Nadu unit president K. Armstrong on July 5. Accordingly, it came to his knowledge that Kuttiga, alias Praveen, a history-sheeter under his jurisdiction, was missing since the murder of the political leader.

Noting that the history-sheeter was already involved in a murder-for-revenge case, the ACP said that he went to Praveen's residence, and asked his

family members to keep a watch on his activities and inform the police if they found anything suspicious. A video of the conversation went viral on social media, and hence, the SHRC took *suo motu* cognisance of it.

In

the video, the SHRC found that the ACP was warning Praveen's family members that his hands and legs could be broken if he commits any crime, and that there was also a possibility of him being killed in a police encounter if he indulges in any heinous crime such as murder. Therefore, it summoned the ACP on October 7 to find out whether the video was genuine or doctored.

When the ACP admitted to having spoken so, the SHRC directed the Home

Secretary, the DGP as well as the CoP to initiate appropriate disciplinary action against him and report to the commission on October 14. During the hearing on October 7, the commission also asked the ACP what he understood by the CoP's statement, made immediately after assuming office on July 8. The ACP said he did not understand anything from the statement. Therefore, the commission went ahead and issued summons to the CoP for explaining what he actually wanted to convey to the police officers as well as the general public when he said that rowdiness in Chennai city would be controlled by teaching the rowdies in the language they understand.

AIADMK files complaint with NHRC over IAF air show deaths

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The secretary of the AIADMK's advocates wing, I.S. Inbadurai, in a complaint to the National Human Rights Commission's chairperson (Vijaya Bharathi Sayani), called for a "full and independent" inquiry into the "mismanagement and failure of" the State government that led to the deaths of five persons at the IAF air show in Chennai on October 6.

Meanwhile, ADMK Workers' Rights Retrieval Committee coordinator O. Panneerselvam on Tuesday contrasted the crowd management carried out by the AIADMK regime during the Jallikattu agitation on the Marina in January 2017, when he was Chief Minister, with that of the present DMK regime during the air show.

He said while the agitation went on for about a week, there was "no untoward incident" and that law and order was "maintained well. But this time, despite lakhs of people having assembled on the Marina, the government remained "careless" and had "failed" to provide

basic amenities to the public, he added.

The Hindu report

The AIADMK's complaint, which carried a report, 'Chennai air show deaths: What went wrong on the Marina', published in the web edition of *The Hindu* on October 8, blamed the government for "poor planning and mismanagement" in handling the crowd and traffic.

While Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, and their family were "provided with excellent arrangements, including

air-conditioned enclosures", the public faced "severe hardships", the complaint said.

Comparing the latest event with the previous air show held in September 2003, when 13 lakh people – about 2,00,000 fewer than Sunday's show – attended with no heatstroke fatalities, Mr. Inbadurai pointed out that the human rights commission had the power to take notice of such incidents, investigate, and initiate necessary action against the erring officials who were responsible for the loss of lives.

The AIADMK said "mismanagement and failure" of the government led to the deaths of five persons at the event on October 6. Four members of a family travelling in a car died in a collision with a van at Madathukulam on Wednesday. Twelve passengers of the van sustained injuries. Thiagarajan, of Dindigul district, was returning with his family after attending the funeral of a relative at Kinathukadavu in Coimbatore district when his car collided with the van carrying devotees returning to Palakkad after a pilgrimage to Palani. There were 23 devotees in the van, police said.

While Thiagarajan, 45, his wife Preethi, 40, and son Jai Priyan, 11, died on the spot, his mother, Manonmani, 65, succumbed to injuries at the Udumalpet Government Hospital. The three bodies were retrieved from the mangled car, and taken to Udumalpet Government Hospital for a postmortem. The injured passengers of the van were given first-aid at the hospital.

The Hindu Bureau
UDUMALPET



The AIADMK said "mismanagement and failure" of the government led to the deaths of five persons at the event on October 6.

Four of a family die in car-van collision

While Thiagarajan, 45, his wife Preethi, 40, and son Jai Priyan, 11, died on the spot, his mother, Manonmani, 65, succumbed to injuries at the Udumalpet Government Hospital. The three bodies were retrieved from the mangled car, and taken to Udumalpet Government Hospital for a postmortem.

The injured passengers of the van were given first-aid at the hospital.



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Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha),
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KEY DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Strategies for Promoting DEI
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IN BRIEF



Transport Minister Sivasankar flags off 25 low-floor buses

Tamil Nadu's Transport Minister S.S. Sivasankar on Wednesday flagged off 25 new BS-VI, low-floor buses worth ₹22.69 crore, at the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (Chennai) Limited, Central Depot. The new buses are equipped with the latest technology and special features to facilitate easy boarding and deboarding for differently abled persons, a release said.



Curb illegal manufacturing of firecrackers, Vasan tells govt.

TMC (Moopanar) president G.K. Vasan on Wednesday urged the State government to curb the illegal manufacturing of firecrackers ahead of Deepavali. In a statement, he alleged that firecrackers were being manufactured illegally in some places to generate income ahead of the festival. Referring to the tragic accident at Pandian Nagar in Tirupur on Tuesday that killed three persons, including an infant, the TMC (Moopanar) leader called upon the government to monitor cracker-manufacturing units in the State and ensure their compliance with safety norms. The State government, he said, should create awareness among workers not to manufacture explosives without a proper licence.

CM, Deputy CM pay tributes to Immanuel Sekaran

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday paid tributes to Dalit leader and freedom fighter Immanuel Sekaran on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary. In a social media post, he recalled that last year, the DMK government had announced the construction of a *manimandapam* in Paramakudi in honour of the late freedom fighter. May his monuments and history, and his contributions inspire our efforts towards social justice forever, Mr. Stalin said. Paying his tributes, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin recalled that Immanuel Sekaran fought for the rights of the oppressed, and hailed his contributions.

Don't react emotionally to derogatory video: Dy. CM

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Wednesday urged the DMK cadre not to react emotionally to a video, wherein some men could be seen trampling on his photograph at the entrance of a temple in Andhra Pradesh. In a social media post, he said, "Their level of political maturity has been exposed..."

NIA arrests key suspect in Hizb-ut-Tahrir case linked to spread of 'violent ideology'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key suspect in the Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) case here on Tuesday.

In a release, the Central agency said that Faizul Rahman, state 'amir' of HuT in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, was arrested in the case relating to a conspiracy involving the spread of disaffection and secessionism by Hameed Hussain and his associate, by promoting the ideology of the anti-India outfit.

Faizul Rahman was actively engaged with the other arrested persons in the case in propagating se-

The ulterior motive of the conspiracy was to establish 'Khilafat' by overthrowing the Government of India, according to the NIA

cessionism and seeking military assistance from Pakistan to liberate Kashmir.

The ulterior motive of the conspiracy was to establish 'Khilafat' by overthrowing the Government of India through 'violent Jihad', the NIA said.

They were using various social media handles to spread their propaganda, and campaigned against

Police arrest protesting Samsung workers; Minister says State trying to resolve issues

Sources say 10 office-bearers of the CITU-backed Samsung workers' union were arrested at their homes. When the workers continued to protest in the morning despite the crackdown, an argument reportedly broke out between them and the police. Thennarasu says government not trying to curb stir

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tension prevailed near Sunguvarcharam in Sriperumbudur on Wednesday with the police cracking down on the protesting employees of Samsung Electronics, by dispersing and arresting them.

Sources said that in the early hours of Wednesday, 10 office-bearers of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)-backed Samsung workers' union were arrested at their homes. The *pandal* that had been erected for the workers to protest was also removed without notice.

However, despite the crackdown, hundreds of workers continued their strike in the morning in the open at the venue in Echoor village. An argument had reportedly broken out between them and the police personnel, who had asked them to dis-

perse. Eventually, the police arrested the workers.

Workers released: FM Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu said the State government was not trying to curb the workers' protest, and that the police took action only against protests held without permission. The arrested workers have been released, he added.

The 10 union members were released on their own bail, sources said.

The Minister told reporters at the Secretariat that the Labour Department would take appropriate action over recognition to the CITU-backed union at Samsung, based on the Madras High Court verdict.

The State government respected the sentiments of the workers and had no intention to curb their rights, he said, adding: "Samsung has objected to the CITU-backed union. The matter is in court now,



Talking truce: Police personnel speaking to the protesting workers on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and is *sub-judice*...We are not seeing the CITU as our enemy. We are trying to resolve the issue through talks..." Purported videos of police personnel arresting the union leaders and asking passengers on a bus whether they were proceeding to the protest site had gone viral on social media.

Leaders flay action

Meanwhile, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, in a social media post, hit out at the

DMK government over the arrest of the protesters. According to him, the DMK regime, which did not show any enthusiasm in taking action against those responsible for the "deterioration of law and order", was seeking to "crush the employees who were fighting for their fair demands."

AMMK general secretary

Meanwhile, AIADMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran said the government had been siding with the Samsung management on a "legitimate issue" of the workers.

CPI(M) MP Su. Venkatesan posted on social media: "The workers are protesting for their rights in a democratic way. It is unacceptable that the guardians of the law have become the guardians of Samsung."

TNCC president K. Selvaperunthangai told *The Hindu* that the police personnel should have handled the protest in a better manner. "We want tripartite talks to be held between the State, the workers and the Samsung management to resolve the issue," he said.

VCK chief Thol. Thirumavalavan, who went to the protest site, said his party was not against multinational corporations or foreign investments. However, it was against the exploitation of workers.

PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss, in a statement, said the State was "behaving like a henchman" for Samsung, and unleashing oppressive

measures against the workers. TMC (Moopanar) president G.K. Vasan urged the State to amicably resolve the deadlock.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Tamil Nadu on Wednesday sought an early, amicable solution, to the "industrial dispute" in the State. "We urge all the stakeholders engaged in the recent industrial dispute to work amicably towards an early solution so that the momentum of economic activity and high image of Tamil Nadu is sustained," Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council, said in a statement.

The statement, however, did not directly mention the ongoing protest at Samsung.

"We are concerned about the ongoing strike at Samsung," G.S.K. Velu, Chairman, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Tamil Nadu State Council, said.

Myopia on the rise in children, doctors seek reduced 'screen time'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In a paediatric ophthalmology outpatient department, doctors have observed that up to 10% of the children who walked in had refractive errors, and among them, 30% had myopia. This indicated the rise in prevalence of myopia among children.

"The number of children affected with myopia is on the rise. COVID-19 has accelerated the epidemic of myopia. Post-COVID, its prevalence has significantly increased among the paediatric population," Manjula Jayakumar, senior paediatric ophthalmologist, Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital, said. "Nearly 7.5% of children aged below 15 have to wear glasses. Regular eye checkups are important," she said, and laid emphasis on the need to reduce mobile usage among children.

Karpagam Damodaran, dean, Dr. Agarwals Institute of Optometry, said 400 children from across 12 care homes were screened in Chennai, and given glasses. In view of the World Sight Day, observed on October 10, the hospital is offering free eye checks for children till October 31.

such as lazy eye early," she told reporters on Wednesday.

Children should have adequate protein in their diet, and preventing childhood obesity is important, she said, adding: "Proper immunisation should be ensured. Measles can affect the retina and cause corneal infections. Hygiene is important to prevent conjunctivitis."

A vision check before a child goes to school is important. Annual check-ups should be done after that, S. Soundari, Regional Head, Clinical Services, Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital, said. "Nearly 7.5% of children aged below 15 have to wear glasses. Regular eye checkups are important," she said, and laid emphasis on the need to reduce mobile usage among children.

T.S. Selvayinayagam, Director of Public Health, issued guidelines on managing antenatal women with symptoms of fever. He said that according to an analysis of maternal deaths during 2023-24, of the 400 deaths, 20 were due to fever and other infections, while the time gap between the fever and maternal death was only two to three days. So, proper follow-up was required for pregnant women with symptoms of fever.

Evaluate and test pregnant women with fever to reduce maternal deaths, orders DPH

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

With fever and other infections being the cause for 5% of the maternal deaths during 2023-24, the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine has instructed all District Health Officers (DHO) to ensure that all pregnant women having fever were fully evaluated, and all basic investigations were carried out at the earliest.

Any pregnant woman with a history of fever should be fully evaluated on the first day, and all basic investigations such as complete blood count, tests for dengue NS1/IgM/IgG, leptospirosis, scrub typhus and sepsis should be carried out. If a pregnant woman presents with symptoms of fever with cough, she should be tested for upper respiratory infections such as COVID-19/H1N1 and seasonal flu, he added.

He further said that doctors should check for Hepatitis E/Hepatitis A virus if jaundice was detected. All investigations should be carried out at the earliest, and appropriate medical



Fever during pregnancy should not be taken lightly. Pregnant women having fever should be fully evaluated on the first day

T.S. SELVAVINAYAGAM
Director of Public Health

tions should be started early. All DHOs and block medical officers were told to immediately check the temperature, heart rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate if any pregnant woman reported with a history of fever, and admit them.

They should ensure that the woman is adequately hydrated, and review her medical history, including any underlying condition or recent illness. They should monitor the foetal well-being through ultrasound. Depending on the severity and cause of fever, they should schedule a follow-up appointment within 24-48 hours to monitor the woman's progress and ensure that the fever subsides. They should educate the woman on warning signs that require immediate medical attention, such as persistent high fever, vaginal bleeding, severe abdominal pain or decreased foetal movement.

The DHOs were asked to strictly adhere to the instructions to reduce maternal mortality ratio in their respective health unit districts.

Sellur Raju alleges split in DMK alliance

The Hindu Bureau
MADRASI

With the DMK's allies such as the VCK and the CPI(M) having condemned the death of five persons at the air show in Chennai, a split in the DMK alliance has started to emerge, AIADMK MLA Sellur K. Raju said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a one-day hunger-strike here, Mr. Raju pointed out that when a similar air show was conducted by former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in 2003, which recorded a footfall of over 10 lakh people, there was no loss of lives.

He alleged that the DMK was having secret ties with the Union government. "When Chief Minister M.K. Stalin goes to New Delhi, his tone changes, and he surrenders to them..." he added. Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin would be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to request him not to send personnel of the Enforcement Directorate to investigate DMK Ministers, he added.

The DHOs were asked to strictly adhere to the instructions to reduce maternal mortality ratio in their respective health unit districts.

Rainfall set to steadily increase, cover most parts of Tamil Nadu this week, predicts RMC

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rainfall is set to steadily increase and cover most parts of the State this week, paving the way for the onset of the northeast monsoon, Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, has said.

While the southwest monsoon has been retreating rapidly, and is expected to completely withdraw in a few days, the RMC has forecast heavy rainfall to continue till October 15 in many districts.

In its extended forecast for two weeks, the India Meteorological Department had predicted that the northeast monsoon would likely set in around October 15. Officials at the RMC, however, said the

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

date of onset would be determined in one or two days after the criteria of monsoon arrival were analysed. Some conditions include complete withdrawal of the southwest monsoon, setting in of the easterly winds close to the Tamil Nadu coast, and a fairly widespread rainfall wherein 50% of the weather stations receive rain.

P. Senthamarai Kannan, Director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre, said the interaction between various weather systems would influence wet weather. The cyclonic circulation over Sri Lanka and its neighbourhood, which would oscillate its position close to the Tamil Nadu coast, would also influence heavy rainfall in various parts of the State till October 14. The RMC has predicted that large swathes of the region would receive light to moderate rain till October 14. Enhanced rain has been forecast for 10 districts, including Salem, Karur, Tiruchi, and Krishnagiri, with an yellow alert - indicating heavy rainfall of above 6.4 cm - for Thursday.

Multiple weather systems that are prevailing now would enhance eastlies and rainfall over the State. A low pressure area over Lakshadweep and the adjoining Arabian sea, which is one of the weather systems, is likely to gain strength as a depression.

P. Senthamarai Kannan, Director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre, said the heavy rain till October 15. An orange alert has been sounded for Tamil Nadu and Kerala, indicating the possibility of rainfall of very high intensity (11.5 cm to 20.4 cm) on October 12, 13, and 14. Very heavy rainfall may lash isolated places in districts in the northern parts and the delta region. In the past 24 hours, ending 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, several interior places received rainfall. Moderate rain continued till the evening at various places such as Valparai (5 cm), Thuvakudi in Tiruchi district (4 cm) and Ramanathapuram (3 cm).

The Meteorological department has forecast that Chennai would experience light to moderate rainfall in some areas till Friday.



The Meteorological department has forecast that Chennai would experience light to moderate rain in some areas till Friday. FILE PHOTO

Simultaneous polls needed to focus on development: Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA



N. Chandrababu Naidu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has stressed the need to have simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in order to focus on development.

Addressing the media on Wednesday, Mr. Naidu also appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda and others for leading the BJP to a historic win in the Haryana Assembly election and for garnering a higher vote share than the National Conference in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said the Centre was doing its best to help Andhra Pradesh overcome the pro-

blems being faced by it since bifurcation, and that the State would be a major beneficiary of the investments committed by the Centre in the infrastructure sector.

The Centre was exploring all possible alternatives to stop privatisation of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and it infused a fund of ₹500 crore on Tuesday to put it back on the track, besides paying around ₹1,100 crore to banks, he said.

Karnataka HC acquits 3 in 2012 terror conspiracy case

Court finds a procedural flaw in the sanction for prosecution under the provisions of the UAPA; the accused, including a Pakistan national, had filed a plea questioning a 2023 trial court verdict

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The Karnataka High Court acquires three persons including a Pakistan national.

inding a procedural flaw in the sanction for prosecution granted by the State government under the provisions of the UAPA, 1967, the Karnataka High Court acquitted three persons, including a Pakistan national, from the charges of indulging in unlawful activities in the 2012 terror conspiracy case.

The court acquitted Syed Abdul Rehman of Bengaluru, Afzar Pasha alias Khushiruddin of Chintamani, and Mohammed Fahad Koya of Karachi.

However, it upheld Rehman's conviction under provisions of the Arms Act, for illegally possessing a revolver and Explosive Substances Act.

A Division Bench passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by Pasha and Fahad, who had questioned the 2023 trial court judgment convicting and

sentencing them to life imprisonment.

The Bench noted that Raghavendra H. Auradkar, the then Principal Secretary to the Home Department, who was the sanctioning authority, had deposed before the trial court as a prosecution witness (PW-25) and stated that he "went through the chargesheet materials and the report of the Director of Prosecution and having found existence of *prima facie* materials, he passed the sanction order."

"PW-25 has deposed that he was aware that the review committee had to recommend the sanction based on investigation materials and the government

must consider the review committee report. His further answer in the cross-examination is that he could not remember whether the review committee was there or not when he passed the sanction order," it noted.

Further, the Bench said that "his evidence makes two aspects abundantly clear, either the materials collected during investigation might not have been referred to the review committee or if referred, the report might not have been placed before the sanctioning authority. Thus the sanction order loses its sanctity, and it is vitiated. The trial court has missed this aspect."

Row in House over debate on Thrissur Pooram disruption

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An adjournment debate on the controversial Thrissur Pooram "disruption" devolved into a three-hour political slugfest in the Kerala Assembly on Wednesday.

The Treasury and the Opposition benches accused each other of having a secret understanding with Sangh Parivar forces.

Congress legislator Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan

nan, who gave notice for the adjournment motion, accused the State government of ceding the electoral advantage to the BJP candidate in the Thrissur Lok Sabha constituency, Suresh Gopi, by disrupting the iconic festival as a *quid pro quo* for relief from Central investigations against Communist Party of India (Marxist) leaders.

Mr. Radhakrishnan said the conspirators knew that the ensuing Hindu resentment would sweep the BJP

to victory in Thrissur. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan alleged that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan ignored the chaos and did not intervene to set matters right. The government displayed utter contempt for Kerala's iconic festival.

Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan said the Congress had, at a stroke, attempted to portray the government as inimical to minorities and disrespectful to the majority community.

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru city police registered an FIR against Congress MLA for Dharwad Vinay Kulkarni on Tuesday after a 34-year-old woman accused him of rape, kidnap, and criminal intimidation.

The FIR names Mr. Kulkarni and his associate Arjun as the accused, according to the police.

According to the complaint, the woman is a so-

cial worker who first met the MLA in 2022. The MLA reportedly obtained her phone number from a farmer and began calling her.

On August 24, 2022, Mr. Kulkarni allegedly drove the woman from Hebbal to a secluded area near the Kempegowda International Airport, and sexually assaulted her. The woman alleged that the MLA threatened her to remain silent and promised to help her grow in politics.

Anvar comes to House in DMK colours

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Independent MLA P.V. Anvar, who broke ranks with the ruling Left Democratic Front, was the focus of attention in the Kerala Assembly on Wednesday.

Mr. Anvar arrived at the House sporting the Dravidian Munnetra Kazhakam (DMK) colours despite the ruling party of Tamil Nadu rejecting his overtures at the behest of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

WEATHER WATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Telangana, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Gujarat

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	23.4	24.4	Kozhikode	—	23.4	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	37.0	25.5	Kurnool	—	33.0	24.6
Aizawl	—	3.9	29.8	Lucknow	—	34.5	24.5
Allahabad	—	36.8	26.1	Madurai	—	32.0	24.6
Bengaluru	—	29.3	21.4	Mangaluru	—	31.0	24.4
Bhopal	—	34.4	23.0	Mumbai	—	30.0	26.3
Bhubaneswar	—	35.3	23.2	Mysuru	—	31.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	33.4	21.0	New Delhi	—	34.6	22.8
Chennai	—	33.2	26.8	Patna	—	34.2	26.6
Coimbatore	10	31.2	22.6	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.2
Dehradun	—	32.3	19.8	Puducherry	—	33.0	25.9
Gangtok	14	20.6	16.7	Pune	—	32.4	25.0
Goa	98	29.6	23.8	Raipur	—	34.3	24.7
Guwahati	—	32.5	25.1	Ranchi	—	30.4	21.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	—	23.5	15.8
Hyderabad	—	31.2	22.6	Shimla	—	26.0	15.9
Imphal	—	30.0	19.1	Srinagar	—	22.0	9.6
Jaipur	—	36.4	25.8	Tiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	25.2
Kochi	—	31.2	26.6	Tiruchi	—	32.7	23.0
Kohima	10	21.4	14.6	Vijayawada	—	34.0	26.0
Kolkatta	—	35.4	22.8	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODP
Ahmedabad	—	2.25	22	—	187	—
Bengaluru	—	17	33	64	—	116
Chennai	—	17	3	62	—	56
Delhi	—	.89	83	184	340	—
Hyderabad	8	35	76	—	35	58
Kolkata	—	.59	21	—	36	56
Lucknow	—	10	.7	65	—	85
Mumbai	—	—	.12	149	102	—
Pune	—	6	131	101	157	120
Vijayawada	10	.30	.13	—	36	57
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI))
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Yesterday
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Imphal, Manipur recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 294 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Revanth govt. to form panel to study SC categorisation issue

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to constitute a one-man commission to study the Supreme Court's recent verdict in favour of the categorisation of Scheduled Castes into A,B,C and D groups and suggest measures for effective implementation of the judgment.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy wanted the officials concerned to ensure that the commission submits its report in 60 days.

The Chief Minister held a review meeting on the implementation of SC cate-

gorisation and socio-economic survey of backward classes on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed about the implementation of SC categorisation in Punjab and Tamil Nadu as well as the steps being taken by the Haryana government in this regard.

Mr. Revanth Reddy wanted the constitution of the commission headed by a retired High Court judge to avoid legal issues.

Festive poise



Kuchipudi artists after a performance as part of the Navaratri festival at Kanaka Durga temple in Vijayawada on Wednesday. G. N. RAO

Malabar has evolved into key multilateral event, says ENC chief

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the Indo-Pacific Region (IPR) are becoming increasingly vital for global security and economic stability, Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command (ENC) said here on Wednesday.

Addressing representatives of the three friendly Navies of the United States, Japan and Australia before the commencement of the Harbour Phase of Malabar-2024, a maritime exercise of the Quad nations being hosted by India at

the ENC base, he said the strategic importance of these regions could not be overstated as they were essential for trade, energy security and maritime freedom.

'Not just a drill'

"The Malabar is not just a military drill. It also embodies the commitment to collaboration among the like-minded nations to mitigate maritime challenges," the Vice Admiral said.

Vice Admiral Pendharkar reiterated that the Malabar, which began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between the U.S. and Indian Navy, had evolved into a key multilateral event.

Bengaluru to switch to AI-powered traffic signals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to tackle growing traffic chaos, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have set their sights on a full transition to AI-powered, real-time adaptive traffic signals at major junctions. The move is part of the Bengaluru Adaptive Traffic Control System (BATCS



Against the odds

The Congress could not counter the caste polarisation in Haryana

By winning a third consecutive term in Haryana, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has demonstrated that its pole position in the Hindi heartland remains intact. Its failure to win an absolute majority in the 2024 general election has not eroded its social base, and in Haryana, it increased its vote share when compared to the previous election. The Congress too saw its vote share and the number of seats increase, but not enough to win power. The simultaneous gains for both parties are indicative of a sharper polarisation, but that does not entirely end the importance of smaller outfits and influential independents as it turns out – they tilted the scale in several constituencies. The outcome mirrors a social reality of Haryana that the BJP cleverly engineered to its benefit and which the Congress overlooked, namely, a broad alignment of non-Jat communities against Jat dominance. Incumbent Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who is set for a second term, became the face of the BJP's mobilisation of Other Backward Classes. The BJP's strategy of offering political space for marginalised Hindu communities is one that is working well for it. Jats possibly united against the BJP, as the eclipse of the INLD and JJP suggest, but that worked in the BJP's favour by aiding the counter-mobilisation of disparate groups. The Haryana poll outcome also helps Prime Minister Narendra Modi reinforce his authority over the party.

The Congress failed to inspire confidence among a wider spectrum of society as former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his son Deepinder dominated the campaign. Their own Jat community rallied behind the party which possibly caused a counter consolidation of the rest. The Hoodas have so controlled the Congress in Haryana that the party organisation is either non-existent or ineffective. They stalled the central leadership's efforts to form political alliances. The Congress's Haryana setback follows the pattern of the Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh elections that it lost in 2023 – regional leaders who refused to accommodate party colleagues and broaden the social base which failed the party. The party is struggling to find a balance between having a robust regional leadership and ensuring that its national outlook is not undermined. Senior leader Rahul Gandhi could not enforce his social justice agenda in the party's Haryana strategy. Dalit party leaders were humiliated, opening space for others. The BJP has been in power for 10 years and there was notable resentment against it among voters. But that did not translate into a change of guard as the BJP could beat anti-incumbency while the Congress failed to gain from it. A study of the Haryana outcome will be instructive of why the BJP wins so often and the Congress ends up second best.

Sweet and sour

The inquiry into laddu adulteration must not be communalised

Last week, the Supreme Court of India rightly asked the petitioners in the case of the alleged adulteration of ghee used in the famed Tirupati laddu *prasadam* not to make the Court a "political battleground", but the issue is unlikely to remain one about ensuring quality control of a food item associated with pomp and sanctity. By appointing an "independent Special Investigation Team (SIT)" under the direct supervision of the Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Court deftly made the Centre accountable in ensuring an impartial inquiry. But given the composition of the five-member SIT – two CBI officials, two Andhra Pradesh police officers and a domain expert from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) – questions are likely to be raised about its neutrality. The CBI and A.P. police come under the jurisdictions of political alliance partners, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) led by A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The Centre's conduct in court is likely to invite further allegations of bias, where it expressed 'full confidence' in the SIT formed by Mr. Naidu before the Court decided to hand the case over to the CBI-led SIT. Mr. Modi's government has not expressed such confidence in inquiry panels set up by Opposition-led States such as the one in West Bengal to inquire into corruption allegations against the Saradha Group's ponzi scheme in 2013.

The laddu issue has already taken on communal overtones with A.P. BJP chief and Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeswari seeking a 'declaration of faith in Lord Venkateswara' from former A.P. Chief Minister and YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, a Christian. Mr. Reddy had to cancel his visit to Tirupati in September after protests by cadres of the ruling TDP and its allies, the BJP and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's JSP. They have blamed the erstwhile Jagan Mohan Reddy administration of complicity in the alleged adulteration. The Naidu government buttressed Ms. Purandeswari's demand by releasing "declaration of faith" documents signed purportedly by Bollywood actors and even former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah. As *The Hindu* reported, the gas chromatography method, used to detect dairy contaminants, is unlikely to determine the exact quantum of "foreign fat" in the ghee samples. The central government must ensure that there is an impartial inquiry into the allegation that there was an attempt to contaminate the ghee supplied by a dairy in Tamil Nadu, samples of which were tested on July 6 and July 12. It must ensure that this is done without communalising the issue.

The theme of World Mental Health Day (October 10) this year is about 'prioritising mental health in the workplace'. The critical link between mental health and work is examined in three articles on the Editorial and Opinion pages – two in the print edition and one in the online edition

Mental health in India's material world

In July this year, the case of a 26-year-old woman executive working for a multinational consulting firm, ending her life due to immense work pressures moved the spotlight to an important issue that concerns millions of working Indians. In September, a 38-year-old software engineer with 15 years of experience in a Chennai-based firm, ended his life. He was on medication for depression caused by work stress. Despite their "successful" careers, the loss of these lives underscores a growing mental health crisis in India, where success is often equated with relentless productivity and material wealth. These events reveal the struggles many face such as battling depression, anxiety, and a lack of purpose even as they put up a facade of success and contentment.

India is currently witnessing a surge in mental health disorders. According to *The Lancet* Psychiatry Commission, over 197 million people suffer from conditions such as depression, anxiety and substance abuse. Economic growth has created new opportunities, but it has also intensified societal pressures and personal expectations. As India's developmental aspirations rise, mental well-being is often overlooked, fuelling a crisis driven by materialism and a growing disconnect from community and self-awareness.

At the core of this crisis are existential questions that have guided human thought since the times of Socrates and Aristotle such as: Who am I? What is the purpose of my life? How should I live? Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living", highlighting the need for self-reflection. Aristotle linked the good life to eudaimonia – flourishing through virtuous living. Today, these essential inquiries are overshadowed by the pursuit of efficiency, productivity and material wealth. As India embraces consumerism, this focus on affluence distances individuals from deeper self-reflection, exacerbating the mental health crisis.

Rising stress and anxiety
India is grappling with a mental health epidemic, with millions suffering from disorders such as depression and anxiety. The relentless pressures of urban living, financial instability, and fierce competition are significant contributors. Even those who achieve material success often find that wealth and status do not deliver true well-being. Instead, many feel isolated and disconnected from their communities, experiencing a profound sense of purposelessness. While material wealth provides temporary comfort, it fails to meet deeper emotional and psychological needs. The growing focus on consumerism, particularly in urban areas, has fostered a culture where luxury and



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India is facing a mental health epidemic, with urban living, financial instability and fierce competition as significant contributors

conspicuous goods define status. This leads to feelings of inadequacy, stress and social comparison. As Ernest Becker noted, much of human behaviour is driven by the fear of impermanence and insignificance. People chase material wealth for social validation, hoping it will bring lasting happiness, but this pursuit neglects self-awareness. The endless quest for affluence disconnects individuals from the essential elements of a meaningful life – self-awareness, purpose, and meaningful relationships – trapping them in a cycle of dissatisfaction.

To break this cycle, we must rethink what constitutes a good life. Current political and economic priorities reinforce the belief that wealth and consumption equate to happiness. This mindset shapes societal norms, encouraging consumption-driven choices that further entrench the mental health crisis.

Collective action, community as solutions
To address this crisis, we must shift focus from individual success to collective well-being. Studies show that strong social connections, supportive communities, and meaningful work are critical to mental health. However, work-life balance and legal protection are increasingly under threat. The socio-political climate in India, where young individuals desperately strive for a consumeristic "good life", has led to proposals such as extended work hours. For instance, the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill 2024 permits employees to work more than 12 hours a day, up to 125 hours in three months. Amid rapid urbanisation and personal achievement, it is essential to remind ourselves of the deeper meaning and purpose in life that can be found through community, joy, and friendship.

Examples from other countries offer lessons. In Brazil, community gardens have helped residents reconnect by sharing responsibilities and fostering a sense of belonging. Similar initiatives in India could counteract the isolation fostered by urban living and consumerism, bringing people together to create stronger social bonds.

Improving mental health requires embracing community-oriented living that challenges the individualised lifestyle promoted by consumer culture. Modern consumerism equates freedom with personal consumption, weakening social bonds that traditionally held communities together. In contrast, community living fosters a sustainable alternative – shared responsibility, collective purpose, and mutual support create an environment that nurtures emotional and psychological well-being. In community settings,

people share resources and experiences, reducing the pressure to compete for individual success. This strengthens social support networks and reintroduces the value of interdependence, where well-being is measured by relationships and contributions to the group rather than personal wealth. Unlike the isolation and comparison promoted by consumer culture, community living fosters empathy, mindfulness, and human connection, providing fulfilment through shared experiences. These environments offer a sense of belonging, purpose, and security, all of which are crucial for reducing stress and mental health issues.

Consumer choice and liberty

A significant contributor to India's mental health crisis is the reduction of freedom to consumer choice. As India's middle class expands, many equate their ability to buy goods with personal freedom and success. However, this perspective prioritises material wealth over deeper values such as equality and fraternity. The result is a society where happiness is measured by buying power, leading to an endless cycle of consumption that does little to improve long-term mental health.

By reducing freedom to consumer choice, individuals feel growing inadequacy, unable to meet rising standards of success. In contrast, prioritising connection, community, and equity provides a healthier foundation for both personal well-being and societal progress.

Addressing India's mental health crisis requires rethinking what it means to live a good life. We must challenge the materialistic notion of success and refocus on mental, emotional, and social well-being. The solution lies in adopting alternative pathways that prioritise community and collective action over individual wealth accumulation.

Programmes that promote mindfulness, social-emotional learning, community living, and mental health awareness are essential for creating a culture that values mental well-being. Additionally, social policies that reduce inequality and provide mental health support are crucial to address the crisis.

A truly good life is not about how much we can buy or achieve, but about how we relate to ourselves, our communities, and our environment. By prioritising community, equity, and mental well-being, we can build a healthier, more connected society where people feel supported and valued. Only by addressing the root causes of the mental health crisis can we pave the way for a more meaningful and fulfilling future for all.

dramatically reduce the long-term effects of workplace stress. It is also crucial to foster open conversations around mental health, eliminating the stigma that often surrounds seeking help.

Focus on work quality

Supervisors and managers are pivotal to driving this transformation. They must be trained to recognise signs of burnout, such as emotional exhaustion or disengagement, and intervene before problems escalate. A culture where mental health check-ins are routine and stress management is prioritised can create a healthier and more sustainable workforce. Additionally, companies should shift their focus away from measuring productivity solely based on the quantity of time spent or deadlines met. Instead, performance metrics should emphasise the quality of work. This approach would help create an environment where output is valued for its depth and impact rather than sheer volume. Lastly, the deeply ingrained myth that constant busyness equates to productivity must be debunked. A balanced and sustainable work culture benefits employees and their organisations. Employers should set realistic expectations, and employees must feel empowered to set boundaries around their work hours. This includes saying "no" when workloads become unmanageable, a daunting but necessary step in maintaining mental health.

The issue of workplace stress is both societal and personal. Addressing it requires collective effort. While employees can build resilience through mindfulness, regular exercise and strong social support networks, seeking professional help should never be delayed when stress becomes overwhelming. Employers and employees must take concrete steps to break the cycle of overwork and promote a culture that values holistic well-being. Only by doing so can we achieve sustainable productivity and a future where life is valued above profit.

which will resonate. The Congress's Rahul Gandhi goes on talking about co-operative federalism but not much of a co-operative spirit is being witnessed within the INDIA bloc.

Satish C. Aikant,

Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

Transform workplaces into supportive spaces



P. John J. Kennedy
Professor and Dean, Christ University, Bengaluru

it is beneficial or even essential for organisational growth. From a business standpoint, the belief often emerges that pushing employees to their limits will filter out the "weak" and reward the "strong", fostering a culture of hyper-competition. However, this distorted view ignores the steep human cost.

Chronic stress leads to burnout, anxiety, depression, and, tragically, suicide in some cases.

Importance of employee well-being

This myopic understanding of work and success prevents companies from considering alternative models that prioritise employee well-being, although research has consistently shown that happier employees are more productive. The Human Relations Movement, which began in the early 20th century, underscored the importance of employee satisfaction in improving organisational efficiency. This perspective has slowly regained traction today, as more companies are embracing flexible work hours, mental health initiatives and policies to promote work-life balance. The challenge now is to move beyond profit maximisation to a long-term view that treats human capital as a core asset.

So, how do we get there? While dismissing this as wishful thinking is tempting, meaningful change is possible. The first step for companies is to reassess their work culture and expectations. Employers should reduce excessive working hours, offer flexible schedules, and embrace remote work when possible. Studies have shown that employees with more control over their schedules report higher job satisfaction and reduced stress levels. Encouraging regular breaks and vacations is also vital in preventing burnout. Equally important is providing psychological support. Companies should invest in employee assistance programmes and ensure that mental health professionals are accessible. Psychological research has proven that early intervention can

The belief system where success is tied to a brutal work culture needs to be phased out

MENTAL HEALTH IN FOCUS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Elections, verdicts

It has been a case of 'one all' in this round of Assembly elections (Page 1, "BJP keeps Haryana, NC-led alliance bags J&K", October 9). The results augur well for a very vibrant and effective democracy. No

party can claim absolute superiority and that is what makes and strengthens the nation. There need to be checks in places; there needs to be accountability; there needs to be questioning. With the results having

been declared, the parties should get back to work to ensure that development and progress march hand in hand.

Balasubramanian Pavani,
Secunderabad

That the Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) is a formidable election machine is an established fact. The Congress should have got its act together to score over its main adversary. Haryana had real issues – farmers' distress, the Agni Veer scheme and, of course,

massive unemployment and price rise. The BJP, however, has shown that all such issues can be suppressed as long as one can micromanage voters. The Congress has still to highlight the real issues in a convincing manner and

How the BJP snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in the Haryana elections

The BJP enjoyed limited anti-incumbency and had an advantage among women and non-Jat voters. The Congress lost mainly because of overconfidence and infighting

Sandeep Shastri
Suhas Palshikar
Sanjay Kumar

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) clinched a third term in Haryana in the 2024 Assembly elections, giving a jolt to its key challenger, the Congress. By winning 48 constituencies and pushing all the smaller players out of the main contest, the BJP got a clear majority in the 90-member Assembly. In contrast, despite increasing its vote share from 2019, the Congress was able to win only 37 seats.

After being in power for 10 years in the State, the BJP faced a spirited opposition. The BJP led a silent but focused campaign on the ground, while the Congress was overconfident, which led to its undoing. Other regional players were pushed to the political periphery and limited to minor pockets.

The Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) survey, conducted around the time of the elections, provides important insights that help explain the verdict. Six factors seem to have played key roles in shaping the verdict.

The BJP's advantages
First, overall satisfaction with the incumbent government helped the BJP retain power. Close to six of every 10 respondents in the Lokniti-CSDS survey said they were satisfied with the performance of



Second innings: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini greets supporters in Kurukshetra, Haryana. PTI

**THE HINDU
CSDS-LOKNITI
Survey 2024**

When asked which party was better for farmers' welfare and development, the respondents gave a higher score to the BJP than Congress

the BJP State government. Only four of every 10 were dissatisfied. The net satisfaction with the government was 20 percentage points. Three-fourths of those who were fully satisfied with the incumbent government voted for the BJP. On the other hand, three-fourths of those who were fully dissatisfied with the BJP government in the State said they preferred the Congress. Those who were not so unequivocal in their support or unhappiness with the government

were equally divided in their support for the two parties.

Second, respondents underscored the importance of the party while deciding who to vote for. More than six of every 10 respondents said that the party was a key factor in determining their vote. The leadership factor played an important pe-

ripheral role. The most preferred chief ministerial candidates were the leading faces of the two parties. Incumbent Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini from the BJP was marginally ahead of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda from the Congress as the preferred choice of Chief Minister. The Narendra Modi factor had some salience in propelling support for the BJP. A similar trend was not seen in the case of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Third, the BJP had two Chief Ministers during its 10 years in power. The incumbent Chief Minister had been in power for just over six months. Yet, when

asked to rate the Saini government against the previous Manohar Lal Khattar government, there was higher appreciation (by 10 points) for the work done by Mr. Saini than for Mr. Khattar.

When asked which party was better for farmers' welfare and development, the respondents gave a higher score to the BJP than the Congress. However, when the responses were filtered to focus on farmers, they believed that the Congress was better at safeguarding their interests. The beneficiaries of welfare schemes for farmers largely voted for the BJP; the Congress was only able to garner significant

support among those who were non-beneficiaries.

On the running battle that wrestlers from the State had with the then president of the All India Wrestling Federation, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a majority of the respondents felt that the BJP government at the Centre had taken appropriate action to deal with the issue. The 'pehewal' (fighters) issue figured in the run-up to, and during, the campaign. Yet, it did not seem to have any substantial impact on the ground.

The fourth factor was the women's vote. The BJP did better than the Congress in securing the support of women. Importantly, half of those who felt that the safety of women had improved in Haryana in the last five years voted for the BJP. Among those who felt that the situation on women's safety has worsened, close to half voted for the Congress.

Fifth, there has always been a Jat-non-Jat divide in Haryana politics. The Congress tried to consolidate the Jat vote in its favour. While it did secure a majority of the Jat vote, there were two corollary developments. The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) was able to garner a chunk of the Jat vote too, thus splitting the vote that the Congress was hoping to fully consolidate. More importantly, the attempt at Jat consolidation led to a stronger non-Jat consolidation behind the BJP. The BJP strengthened its base among the Brahmins, Pun-

jabi Khatris, Yadavs, and non-Jat Scheduled Castes. This new rainbow coalition was able to work to the party's advantage.

Congress's woes

Finally, infighting within the Congress's State unit appeared to have cost it dearly. The leadership tussle between Mr. Hooda and Kumari Selja appeared to have impacted the party's performance. Close to six of every 10 respondents asserted that this tussle and its wider ramifications dented the prospects of the party.

Only one-fourth of the respondents felt that this factor was not of much consequence in influencing voter choice. Thus, the overconfidence in the Congress, seen throughout the campaign, and the infighting within the party helped the BJP retain the State.

Overall, a better vote-seat conversion appeared to have allowed the BJP to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. This was possible because the much-anticipated anti-incumbency was rather limited and also because the BJP was able to outsmart the Congress through its ability to craft a coalition of voters with an advantage among women and the non-Jat sections.

Methodology

The Lokniti-CSDS pre-poll survey was conducted between September 24 and October 2. A total of 2,429 respondents were interviewed across 22 Assembly constituencies and 110 polling stations.

The sampling design was multi-stage random sampling, which ensures that the selected sample is fully representative of the cross-section of voters in the country. The Assembly constituencies where the survey was conducted were randomly selected using the probability proportional to size method. Five polling stations were then selected from each of the sampled Assembly constituencies using the systematic random sampling method. Forty respondents were randomly selected using the systematic method from the electoral rolls of the sampled polling stations. Of the 40, we set a target of 25 interviews per polling station and sent trained field investigators to conduct face-to-face interviews using a pre-designed App.

The questionnaire was translated into Hindi. Though the sample is relatively small, it is truly representative of the voters of Haryana with regard to social composition. To make correction for under-representation of any social groups, weights have been applied (**Table 1**). The study was directed by Sanjay Kumar, Suhas Palshikar, Sandeep Shastri.

Table 1: Social profile of achieved sample

	Census 2011	Survey estimates
Female	46.8	40
Urban	34.9	31
Dalit	20.2	23
Hindu	87.5	90
Muslim	7.0	5
Christian	4.9	4

A good report card for the BJP

Sanjeer Alam

Since 2014, Haryana has been ruled by the BJP. As the BJP is also in power at the Centre, the Haryana government has been able to function without any interference from the Union government. It has had an assured flow of fund for running welfare schemes and developmental projects for improving educational and health infrastructure and for creating new job opportunities, especially for the educated youth.

Assessing development
When asked which government – the previous Congress government or the incumbent BJP government – had ensured more development, voters were more inclined to give credit to the BJP regime. This implies that the incumbent BJP government enjoyed an edge over the previous Congress government in this regard (**Table 1**). This is also reflected in the fact that nearly half the voters expressed their satisfaction with the incumbent BJP government in Haryana. Of them, one in every three voters was highly satisfied with the performance of the State government (**Table 2**).

Where did the incumbent government perform relatively well and where did it fall short? For a majority of the respondents (60%), the supply of electricity improved over the past five years. Over half the voters also reported that road conditions had improved under the incumbent government (**Table 3**).

However, only four out of 10 respondents said the quality of healthcare in go-



Hit the books: Students at a government school in Nuh district. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Table 1: A close call between the Congress and BJP

Which government brought more development and prosperity in Haryana? (%)	
Congress government (2004-2014)	43
BJP government (2014-2024)	48

Note: The rest did not respond.

Table 2: Voter's satisfaction with the incumbent government

Level of satisfaction with the performance of the BJP government in Haryana (%)	
Fully satisfied	34
Somewhat satisfied	24
Somewhat dissatisfied	13
Fully dissatisfied	25

Note: The rest did not respond.

Table 3: Infrastructure status in the last five years

Public infrastructure	Improved	Remained the same	Worsened
Supply of electricity	60	14	21
Condition of roads	54	15	24
Supply of drinking water	48	19	27
Quality of healthcare in government hospitals	40	21	30
Quality of education in government schools	37	23	32
Safety of women	36	28	25
Irrigation facilities for agriculture	31	24	32
Regular recruitment for government jobs	28	23	39

Note: The rest did not respond. All figures in %.

Nearly half the voters expressed their satisfaction with the incumbent BJP government in Haryana

vernment-run hospitals had improved. A similar proportion of respondents felt that the quality of education in government schools had improved. In other words, for a majority of the respondents, the situation in these two critical sub sectors of social infrastruc-

ture either remained the same or worsened. Only one in three respondents (31%) believed that irrigation facilities had improved over the past five years. Worse, nearly two in five respondents (39%) held the view that recruitment for government jobs had not been taking place regularly.

It appears that in overall

terms, voters were satisfied with the performance of the incumbent government and rated it better than the previous Congress government.

However, while voters acknowledged improvements under the BJP government on various infrastructural parameters, there is still room for improvement in the areas of health, education, agriculture and employment, which the BJP government needs to address in its new term in office.

Sanjeer Alam is Associate Professor, CSDS

Party, the most critical factor in voting

Sandeep Shastri

About six of every 10 respondents in the Lokniti-CSDS survey indicated that the party was the most critical factor in deciding who to vote for. Another one-thirds (35%) believed that the MLA candidate from their constituency swayed their decision. A minuscule share mentioned the chief ministerial candidate in determining their voting preferences (**Table 1**). This could be well linked to the fact that there were multiple competitors in the chief ministerial race both within the BJP and Congress.

When it came to the respondents' preferred Chief Minister candidate, there was a close race between two key leaders of the Congress and BJP. Incumbent BJP Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was mentioned by one-third (33%) of the respondents, while two-time Congress Chief Minister Bhupinder Hooda was close behind. (**Table 2**). The support for the top two names was clearly on party lines. About seven of every 10 BJP voters favoured Mr. Saini, while a similar share of Congress voters endorsed Mr. Hooda as their preferred choice. One-seventh (14%) of Congress voters referred to Kumari Selja as their preferred option while one in every 10 BJP voters took the name of former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar (**Table 3**).

The respondents felt that even without Narendra Modi's leadership, they would have voted for the BJP. However, two of every 10 did assert that they may have changed their voting preference if Mr. Modi did not lead the BJP (**Table 5**).

Among Congress voters, close to three-fourth of the



Gratitude: Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar meets Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini in New Delhi. ANI

Table 1: Voting priorities

Most important consideration while voting (%)	
Party	61
MLA candidate	35
CM candidate	1
Note: The rest did not respond.	

Table 4: Problem of infighting

Will infighting between Selja Kumari and Bhupinder Singh Hooda hurt the Congress? (%)	
To a great extent	29
Somewhat	30
Not much	10
Not at all	13
Note: The rest did not respond.	

Table 2: CM approval ratings

Chief Minister face (%)	
Nayab Singh Saini	33
Bhupinder Singh Hooda	32
Selja Kumari	7
Manohar Lal Khattar	5
Dushyant Chautala	2
Others	8
Note: The rest did not respond.	

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From protests to polls: farmers back the Congress in Haryana

The BJP's failure to adequately address the demands of farmers over the past five years has resulted in a loss of trust within the farming community in the State, with 44% of farmers voting for the Congress compared with 35% for the BJP

Vibha Attri
Kirti Sharma

Given that a substantial proportion of rural households depend on agriculture in Haryana, agrarian issues were expected to pose a significant roadblock to the Bharatiya Janata Party's hat-trick in the State. Using data from the CSDS-Lokniti survey, this piece explores farmers' opinions on the BJP government's ability to meet their needs.

While there are several welfare schemes from both Union and State governments, most farmers reported not benefiting from them, except for the Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, which provides up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support. Six in 10 farmers had benefited from this scheme. In fact,



Table 1: Beneficiaries of welfare schemes, vote choice

	Benefited/not benefited	Farmers voted for...		
		INC	BJP	Others
Union government schemes				
Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana	Beneficiaries (64)	44	33	23
	Non-beneficiaries (29)	53	33	14
Kisan Fasal Bima Yojana	Beneficiaries (34)	35	42	23
	Non-beneficiaries (53)	54	27	19
State government schemes				
Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana	Beneficiaries (12)	30	52	18
	Non-beneficiaries (56)	48	33	19
Mera Pani Meri Virasat	Beneficiaries (23)	27	56	17
	Non-beneficiaries (46)	52	27	21
Krishak Uphar Yojana	Beneficiaries (14)	27	56	17
	Non-beneficiaries (48)	47	32	21

Note: All figures in %. Figures in parenthesis are the overall figure of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The rest of the farming households were either not eligible, did not hear about these schemes or did not respond.

Table 2: Congress has worked the most for farmers

Party that has worked most for the welfare of the farmers	Farmers	Overall
Indian National Congress	42	38
Bharatiya Janata Party	37	44
Indian National Lok Dal (INLD)	10	7
Others	4	3
No party has done so	2	2

Note: The rest did not respond. All figures are in %.

welfare (Table 2). Asked which party had made the greatest effort for farmers, four in 10 (42%) farmers indicated the Congress, compared with 37% who favoured the BJP. The data suggest a clear preference among farmers for the Congress in terms of per-

ceived advocacy and support for their interests, but a significant chunk also had trust in the BJP.

The data reveal a polarised sentiment among the electorate regarding the BJP's effectiveness in addressing farmers' issues. About one in three farmers

(30%) believed that the BJP had been ineffective in tackling their concerns. In contrast, about a quarter (25%) felt that their needs had been adequately met, suggesting that the BJP was successful in addressing the farmers' issues to an extent (Table 3).

Vote choice

When voters were asked an open-ended question about the most significant voting issue, only 5% identified farmer issues. However, this figure nearly doubled to 11% among farmers.

The data reveal a clear preference among farmers for the Congress, with 44% of farmers voting for the party compared with 35%

Table 3: BJP's ineffectiveness in taking care of farmers' issues

While taking care of farmers' issues, the BJP government was...	Farmers (%)
Ineffective	30
Ambivalent	35
Effective	25

Note: The rest did not respond.

Table 4: Farmers lean towards the Congress

	Voted for...		
	INC	BJP	Others
Farmers	44	35	21
Non-farmers	38	41	21

Note: The rest did not respond. All figures are in %.

for the BJP. In contrast, the voting patterns among non-farmers were more evenly distributed, with 41% supporting the BJP and 38% the Congress. This disparity highlights the stronger allegiance of the farming community to the Congress, indicating that agricultural issues significantly influenced their political preferences.

Given the significance of the *Kisan* issue, the prolonged farmer protests served as a powerful expression of dissent against the BJP.

The party's failure to adequately address farmers' demands over the past five years has resulted in a loss of trust within the farming community, leading many to support the Congress instead.

The authors are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS

BJP bags urban support, Congress holds a slight edge among rural voters

Ivoti Mishra
Kirti Sharma

The Haryana Assembly election highlighted a significant rural-urban divide in voting patterns, underscoring the deep-rooted socio-economic differences across the State. Haryana, known for its predominantly rural population, exhibited distinct voting preferences between rural and urban voters, shaping the electoral outcome in important ways.

The CSDS-Lokniti survey reveals a clear divergence in voting behaviour. The BJP garnered substantial support among urban voters, securing 46% of the urban vote, while the Congress managed only 34% – a critical 12-point lead. However, in rural areas, the Congress outperformed the BJP, winning 42% of the rural vote, compared with the BJP's 37%, giving the Congress a five-point lead. Smaller parties, including the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Indian National Lok Dal, received limited support, capturing 7% of the rural vote and 3% of the urban vote, respectively.

Diverging issues
Unemployment emerged as an important issue overall, but it was a much larger concern for rural voters (50%) compared with urban voters (30%). Price rise, agricultural concerns, and the Agnipath recruitment scheme were also significant issues for rural voters,

Table 1: Urban dwellers voted for the BJP, while the rural residents voted for the Congress

	Party voted for...			
	Congress	BJP	BSP+INLD	Others
Rural	42	37	7	14
Urban	34	46	3	17

Note: The rest did not respond. All figures in %.

Table 3: BJP government was credited for development by more urban voters than rural

	Government credited for the development of the State	
	Congress government 2004-2014	BJP government 2014-2024
Overall	43	48
Rural	45	47
Urban	39	51

ters, while urban voters expressed more concern about corruption, price rise, and women's safety. These differences in priorities highlight the divergent challenges faced by rural and urban communities in Haryana (Table 2).

This divide also extends to perceptions of which government has contributed more to the development of Haryana. A greater percentage of urban voters credited the BJP government (51%) for the State's development between 2014 and 2024, while rural voters were slightly less convinced, with 47% attributing the development to the BJP. On the other hand, 45% of rural voters credit

The authors are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS

Table 2: Rural-urban divide in voting issues

Issue mattered while voting	Unemployment	Price rise	Agricultural or farmers' issue	Agnipath	Corruption/scam	Lack of development	Women safety
Overall	43	15	5	4	5	4	4
Rural	50	13	6	5	4	4	3
Urban	30	19	2	3	8	3	6

Note: The rest either gave other responses or did not respond. All figures in %.

Jats versus others: the caste factor at play

Sanjay Kumar

For months, discussions surrounding the Haryana Assembly election revolved around the mobilisation of Jats by the Congress and non-Jats by the BJP.

The findings from the CSDS-Lokniti survey indicate that the two main rival parties mobilised what they believed to be their core supporters. Among the numerically significant and socially dominant Jats, a little over a half (53%) voted for the Congress, while one in three (28%) supported the BJP – marking it a limited consolidation for the Congress. The BJP primarily targeted non-Jat and OBC voters and appeared to be successful in this strategy. Additionally, the BJP led over the Congress among Brahmins, Punjabi Khatri, Yadavs, and non-Jat Dalits, contributing to the party's third successive victory in the Haryana Assembly election (Table 1).

The Congress successfully mobilised a number of Jatav votes, a community to which Congress leader Kumari Selja belongs, along with support from the Gujjar community, Muslims, and Sikhs, who constitute 7% and 4% of total voters, respectively (Table 1). The mobilisation of Jats and OBCs in favour of the Congress and the BJP can be attributed to organised community meetings held prior to the election. Among Jats, six in 10 (60%) mentioned that members of their community had organised meetings to decide

Table 1: Jats voted for Congress, OBC tilted towards the BJP

	Party voted for...			
	Congress	BJP	BSP+INLD	Others
Brahmin	31	51	2	16
Punjabi Khatri	18	68	4	10
Jat	53	28	6	13
Other upper caste	22	59	4	15
Gujjar	44	37	5	14
Yadav	25	62	2	11
Other OBC	32	47	8	13
Jatav	50	35	6	9
Other SC	33	45	10	12
Muslim	59	7	3	31
Sikh	47	21	17	15

Note: All figures in %.

Table 2: Community meetings more among Jats and OBC compared with other caste communities

In your area did the people of your community organise any meeting to decide which party or candidate to vote for?	Yes

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From Page One**Leaders race to form govts. in J&K, Haryana**

"As a courtesy, we [State unit leaders] came to meet the national leaders, the meeting was already fixed. There were no discussions on any other issues," Haryana BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli told presspersons in the national capital.

In response to queries about the new Chief Minister, he said: "After Dasara, whatever the party decides, we will let you know."

In Srinagar, J&K Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Karra visited the house of NC president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah. "An official discussion will take place after the meetings with the legislative members and alliance partners," Mr. Karra said.

The NC will hold its legislature party meeting on Thursday and will meet with its allies in the Congress on Friday.

The first business of the new Cabinet must be to pass a resolution demanding the restoration of Statehood for J&K, Mr. Abdullah said. "We will at the same time keep the conversation alive on Article 370. We are not going to fool the people by promising something we cannot deliver immediately," he said.

Ratan Tata, a titan of industry, takes final bow

Mr. Modi said Mr. Tata provided stable leadership to one of India's oldest and most prestigious business houses, and at the same time his contribution went far beyond the boardroom.

In a statement, Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran said, "It is with a profound sense of loss that we bid farewell to Mr. Ratan Naval Tata, a truly uncommon leader whose immeasurable contributions have shaped not only the Tata Group but also the very fabric of our nation."

The Congress condoled the death, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying Mr. Tata was a man with a vision who had left a lasting mark on both business and philanthropy. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also expressed sadness over Mr. Tata's death, saying that in his passing "we have lost an invaluable son of India".

RNT, as he was called in the Tata Group, was its chairman from 1990 to 2012, when he handed over the baton to Cyrus Mistry. Following Mr. Mistry's ouster in 2016, he again assumed the position of interim chairman. He handed over the reins to Mr. Chandrasekaran, who was appointed chairman of Tata Sons in February 2017.

Though Mr. Tata had retired, he had a firm grip on the group as well as Tata Trusts, which owns over 67% stake in Tata Sons, the holding company of the group.

It was J.R.D. Tata who identified his talent and chose him as his successor in 1990. In the initial years, Mr. Tata had to face steep resistance from several satraps who had operational control over large companies. Mr. Tata eased them out by the mid-1990s.

Then he focused on putting the house in order and subsequently went global with the acquisition of Tetley, Jaguar, Land Rover, and Corus Steel.

It was he who made the Tata an international company and enhanced the stature of the group.

He was polite to talk to but tough while dealing with issues and his opponents.

Besides being the tallest industrialist India ever had, he was a philanthropist.

Post-retirement, he nurtured dozens of start-ups and invested in them through his company RNT Associates.

Accused in police remand in GST case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Ahmedabad Crime Branch made arrests in an alleged GST scam in which suspects are said to have floated bogus firms and availed input tax credit, a court on Wednesday sent them to police custody for 10 days.

One of the arrested is *The Hindu's* Gujarat correspondent, Mahesh Langa.

Mr. Langa's counsel Vedanta Rajguru said the journalist is neither a director nor promoter of DA Enterprise, named in the FIR. In the remand application, the police said he was running it in the names of his relative and wife. The company is owned by Manoj Langa, a relative of Mahesh Langa, whose wife is a silent partner, counsel said.

"The police case hinges on a statement made by Manoj Langa that he carried out the transactions on the instructions of Mahesh Langa," Mr. Rajguru said.

Rahul Gandhi analysing 'unexpected' Haryana results, Surjewala calls for scrutiny

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI



Rahul Gandhi

Gandhi met the EC to complain about the counting process and electronic voting machines (EVMs), senior leader Randeev Surjewala, a known critic of former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, was more forthcoming.

Consecutive losses

"The party needs to make a serious assessment and introspect on the three consecutive [Assembly election] losses [in Haryana] and the reasons therefor," Mr. Surjewala told *The Hindu*.

Even as a Congress dele-

Hindu over phone.

During the election campaign, Lok Sabha member from Sirsa and former Union Minister, Kumi Selja, had not only publicly staked her claim to the chief ministerial post in the event of a win for the Congress, she was also upset over ticket distribution. With not too many of her supporters finding favour, she had also stayed away from the campaign and joined only on September 26, when Mr. Gandhi addressed a rally.

"It will not be business as usual in Haryana and I am sure the Congress high command would identify those who negated the efforts to bring the party to power after 10 years," Ms. Selja, the Congress's most prominent Scheduled Caste face, had said on Tuesday.

Beyond factionalism, the Congress's rebels also cost the party dearly.

Trump praises Modi, says he is the 'nicest human being' but can also be a 'total killer'

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC



Narendra Modi

di's predecessor, was in the post from 2004-2014.

"He's great, he's a friend of mine," Mr. Trump said about Mr. Modi.

"But on the outside he looks like your father, he's the nicest ... total killer," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Singh, sidestepped the question, saying he had family on both sides, those who loved everything [about Mr. Modi] and those who did not.

"Before him, they were replacing 'em every year," Mr. Trump said, incorrectly.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Mr. Mo-

Allies ask Congress to introspect after Haryana, J&K results

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Wherever the Cong. is weak, it takes help from regional parties, but where it thinks it is strong, Cong. assigns no importance to regional parties

SANJAY RAUT
Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

Urging the Congress to "introspect" over the Assembly election results declared on Tuesday, the Indian National Development, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) parties said the Congress's "overconfidence" and "arrogance" had led to its defeat in Haryana and modest performance in Jammu and Kashmir.

Stating that domestic growth has sustained its momentum, with private consumption and investment growing in tandem, he said resilient growth had given the RBI the space to focus on inflation so as to ensure its durable descent to the 4% target. "In these circumstances, the MPC decided to remain watchful of the evolving inflation outlook in the coming months," the Governor said.

"Un

Asked about the inflation analogy moving to horses from an elephant cited in earlier policy statements, Mr. Das said: "It is not a shift. Earlier I used elephant, this time I am using horse. The reason is that it is a war against inflation and in a war, elephants and horses are used historically."

ward, we need to closely monitor the evolving conditions for further confirmation of the disinflationary impulses," he said.

The RBI did not alter its 7.2% GDP growth projection and the 4.5% average inflation estimate for 2024-25, with risks evenly balanced. However, it did lower its second quarter inflation projection to 4.1% from 4.4%, even as it expects pace to pick up 4.8% in the October to December quarter.

Unexpected weather events and worsening of geopolitical conflicts constitute major upside risks to inflation," he said.

Importance of a face'
He drew a parallel with Jammu and Kashmir, where the National Conference accommodated allies, including the Congress. He also pressed for the MVA to declare a chief ministerial candidate, saying that having Omar Abdullah as the face in J&K helped the alliance. "In a State like Maharashtra, people want a leader. People cannot digest the policy that you first contest polls before the Returning Officers concerned. However, in majority of the places, there was no response received in this regard".

Speaking to the media after the meeting with the EC, Mr. Khera said that the delegation intimated the commission regarding complaints from seven constituencies and has demanded that all machines should be sealed and secured pending investigation. Some of the constituencies were Karnal, Dabwali and Narnaul.

"We will inform them of the rest of the complaints over the next 48 hours, he said adding that the EC has promised that it would issue a written response to all the complaints.

The Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) are insisting that the CM be finalised based on the strength of each of the MVA constituents.

"Had Haryana polls contested by INDI alliance and seats allocated to Samajwadi Party, Aam Aadmi Party, NCP (SP), and Shiv Sena (UBT), such scenario would have helped the alliance, but Congress thought the battle would be one-sided and it will win on its own," Mr. Raut said.

At the same time, Mr. Raut said that Tuesday's results will have no bearing on the Maharashtra Assembly polls.

Despite several rounds of talks with the AAP, in-

Without naming the Congress, Trinamool Rajya Sabha member Saket Gokhale, in a post on X, said that the attitude to not accommodate regional parties when they believe they are winning while expecting the regional parties to accommodate them in States where they are weak needs to change. "Arrogance, entitlement, and looking down on regional parties is a recipe for disaster".

The CPI(M), in alliance with the Congress in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, was mildly critical of the party's electoral strategy. In a statement, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said the results provided "valuable lessons for secular law".

The BJP's victory in Haryana, it said, is marked by micro-caste mobilisation and insidious communal propaganda.

SP declares candidates for six bypoll seats in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party on Wednesday declared candidates for six of the 10 Uttar Pradesh Assembly constituencies where byelections are due later this year.

PDA (*Pichada*, Dalit, and *Alpasankhyak*, or backward, Dalit and minority communities) remained the focus of the SP in ticket distribution.

The SP announced party chief Akhilesh Yadav's cousin, Tej Pratap Singh Yadav, as its candidate from Karhal.

The Congress, a partner of the SP in the INDI bloc, said the central leadership would take a decision on seat sharing. "It has not

been discussed with INDI alliance coordination committee nor am I privy to that [before deceleration of candidates]," said U.P. Congress in-charge Avinash Pandey.

dia," Mr. Trump said, as he described his offer to help the Prime Minister with these threats.

"I will do it, I will do it, then I will do anything necessary," Mr. Trump said, changing his voice and accent, doing an apparent impression of Mr. Modi.

"We've defeated them for hundreds of years," Mr. Trump said, as he continued with his impression of Mr. Modi, adding that the Prime Minister was "talking about a certain country" – a reference to Pakistan. Pakistan, however, was created out of British India in 1947 and is less than 100 years old.

Mr. Trump characterised Mr. Modi as a "good person".

The BJP took note of the podcast and made a social media post about it, criticising the Congress-led UPA government's response to the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

JERUSALEM

Six wounded in stabbing across four locations of Israel's Hadera



The Israeli police said at least six persons were wounded in stabbing in four locations of Hadera city, describing it as a "terrorist attack". The police have located the suspect and neutralised him by shooting. The attack comes a week after seven persons were killed in a shooting and stabbing claimed by Hamas in Tel Aviv. AFP

THE HAGUE

Bolivia joins South Africa's ICJ 'genocide' case against Israel



Bolivia joined South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice that alleges the Israeli Gaza offensive breaches the UN Genocide Convention, the court said. The South American country is the latest of several nations, including Colombia, Libya, Spain and Mexico, that became party to the case against Israel. AFP

TOKYO

New PM Ishiba calls snap election in attempt to 'create a new Japan'



Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba dissolved parliament on Wednesday, saying that an election this month was a chance to "create a new Japan" by revitalising rural regions. Mr. Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner are almost certain to be re-elected on October 27. AFP

TAMPA

Time runs out in Florida for its citizens to flee Hurricane Milton



Florida residents fled on Wednesday in the final hours before Hurricane Milton, a lethal Category 4 storm, roars out of the ocean and tears across the State. Making matters worse, Milton comes on the heels of Hurricane Helene, which flooded the same west parts of Florida before wreaking havoc across North Carolina. AFP

2 killed as rockets hit Israel's north; clashes continue in Lebanon's south

The deaths mark the first civilian casualties since Israel's invasion of Lebanon began; Israeli military says about 20 projectile launches were identified crossing from Lebanon; Hezbollah says its fighters 'bombed enemy troops' with artillery shells

Agence France-Presse

JERUSALEM

Israeli emergency responders said two persons were killed on Wednesday in a rocket attack on the northern city of Kiryat Shmona, as the Army and Lebanon's Hezbollah exchanged fire along the border.

"We found a man and a woman aged around 40 years old, unconscious and injured by shrapnel," an emergency service provider said. "Their injuries were serious and we had to declare them dead on the spot," he added.

The incident is the first



Field day: Firefighters try and put out a fire at a residential building in Kiryat Shmona on Wednesday. REUTERS

involving civilian deaths since Israel sent ground troops into southern Lebanon and began targeting Hezbollah positions with regular air strikes on Beirut.

The Israeli military said approximately 20 projectile launches were identifi-

fied crossing from Lebanon.

Israel expanded operations in Lebanon nearly a year after Hezbollah began cross-border fire in support of its ally, Hamas, following the Palestinian group's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

While battling Hamas in Gaza, Israel has vowed to secure its northern border with Lebanon to allow tens of thousands of Israelis displaced by Hezbollah fire to return home.

Hezbollah on Wednesday said its fighters targeted Israeli forces in a south Lebanon border village, shortly after saying Israeli

soldiers tried to advance in the area.

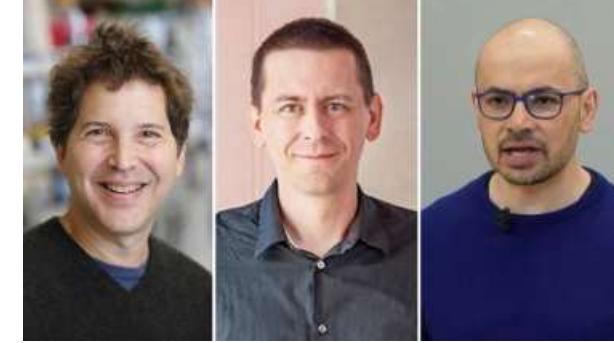
Hezbollah fighters "bombed... a gathering of Israeli enemy troops in... Mais al-Jabal with artillery shells", the Iran-backed group said, after earlier saying that clashes were ongoing after Israeli troops tried to advance in the area "from several directions".

Meanwhile, U.S. President Joe Biden held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday. While there was no readout of the discussion, the U.S. leader's call with Mr. Netanyahu was their first in seven weeks.

Trio wins Chemistry Nobel for work on protein design and prediction of structures

Vasudevan Mukunth

CHENNAI



Glory moment: (From left) David Baker, John Jumper and Demis Hassabis, the recipients of Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 2024. AP



With skillful use of artificial intelligence,

Demis Hassabis and John Jumper made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein in nature

HEINER LINKE
chair of the Nobel Committee

work, around four to six years. There is usually a gap of a few decades between the work and the prize because the former does not immediately prove to be of "greatest benefit to humankind" – a criterion for winning.

For example, John Goodenough shared the 2019 chemistry prize for his work on lithium-ion batteries in 1970s. John Nash, Jr. won part of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1994 for work he had done in the 1950s.

The chemistry prize this year also continues a relatively new tradition in this category of the prize going to non-chemists – although 1981 chemistry laureate Roald Hoffmann has interpreted this to be a mark of chemistry's "far and influential reach," especially in biochemistry and molecular biology.

Mr. Baker works at the University of Washington in Seattle and Mr. Hassabis and Mr. Jumper work at Google DeepMind in London.

Hezbollah is fighting to defend Lebanon: envoy

Kallop Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI



a resistance movement, born in 1982 in response to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in the same year," Mr. Narsh said. The envoy's remarks come in response to Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call for the Lebanese citizens to get rid of Hezbollah.

In a video message issued on Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu had called upon the Lebanese people to "take back" their country from Hezbollah and that they could face destruction "like Gaza" if the Israeli-Hezbollah war continued.

Mr. Narsh argued that Hezbollah is integral to Le-

banese society and there is no question of viewing the two separately. "The claim that Israel is merely fighting Hezbollah and not the people of Lebanon is entirely misleading. This false distinction ignores the reality that there is complete unity among our people when it comes to resisting occupation."

Toll on civilians

He blamed Israel for carrying out a military campaign against the Lebanese people. "The most targeted areas are the southern suburbs of Beirut and Beqaa." He said Israel De-

fence Forces are using bombs each weighing 2,000 pounds and internationally banned munitions like white phosphorus against targets inside Lebanon.

He welcomed the French decision to stop the flow of weapons to Israel and called upon countries such as France and India to help in stopping the conflict.

"India can use its influence to encourage war-monger Netanyahu to reconsider his aggressive policies and push for an immediate ceasefire," Mr. Narsh said.

ASEAN calls for an end to the violence in Myanmar

Agence France-Presse

Vientiane

Southeast Asian leaders pressed Myanmar's junta and its opponents on Wednesday to take "concrete action" to stop the bloodshed in the country's civil war and sought to kickstart faltering diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has tried to no avail to find a negotiated solution to the Myanmar crisis, which has killed thousands of people and forced millions to flee their homes since the military seized power in February 2021.

The crisis dominated the first day of the ASEAN summit in Vientiane.

ASEAN leaders held their first face-to-face talks with a senior Myanmar junta representative in more than three years on the first day.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Short Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 12/2024-25 Memo No.-2009 Dt.07.10.2024

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work	: Building Works
2. No of Work	: 2 Nos
3. Tender Cost	: Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor	: B & A Class
5. Available of Bid document in the Website	: From 10.00 AM of Dt.14.10.2024 up to 05.00 PM of DL.22.10.2024 up to 5.00 PM
6. Date of opening of Bid	: Dt 23.10.2024 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
OJPR-34127/1/0015/2425

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (TIDCO)
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

E-Tender Notice No. TCA/Fintech/2024/02 Dated 10/10/2024

E-Tender cum E- Forward Auction

TIDCO invites bids from eligible firms through e-Tender cum e- Forward Auction for selection of a Lessee to grant Long Leasing rights for 99 years of the following Developed Vacant Plot at Fintech City Nandambakkam, Chennai

S.No	Plot No	Tentative Plot Area (Acre)
1.	S3	2.82
2.	S4 & S5	5.23

Interested Bidders can download the tender document from <https://tidco.com> and <https://intenders.gov.in> at free of cost.

The Scheduled for bidding process is as follows:-

- Pre-bid meeting will be held on 22.10.2024 at 3.00 PM at TIDCO Office/online VC.
- Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before 12.11.2024 at 3.00 PM through <https://intenders.gov.in>.
- Opening of Technical Proposals / Bids on 13.11.2024 at 3.00 PM at TIDCO Office.
- Any subsequent notification on the tender would be published on the above website.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmi Pathy Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com, tidco.com Phone: +91 44 28554479 Website: <https://tidco.com>

DIPR/ 4199/TENDER/2024

Rajasthan Council of School Education
S. Radha Krishan Shiksha Sangat, 5th Block, 2nd & 3rd Floor, JLN Marg, Jaipur - 17
मानक - राजस्थानी/आंतरिक/व्यापारी/विद्या संस्कृति/2024-25 मित्रों के लिए 07/10/2024
NOTICE INVITING e-BID (NIB : 14/2024-25)

Request for proposal invited for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Hardware Equipments for Vidya Samiksha Kendra with comprehensive on-site warranty for three years up to 06.00 PM of dated 16.10.2024. Other details may be seen in the Bidding Document at State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in or website "www.rajsmsa.nic.in" or E-Proc portal.

U.B.N.: RSE2425GLOB01349
Estimated cost : 1,70,07,000/-
Raj.Samwad/C/24/6343

State Project Director
RCSCe, Jaipur

Indian Overseas Bank
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002
Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - PROCUREMENT OF END-TO-END SOFTWARE SOLUTION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ESG & CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT ALONG WITH CONSULTANCY SERVICES ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) AND CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE BANK
EOI REFERENCE NUMBER: EO/IOB/002/2024-25 DATED 07.10.2024

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & <https://intenders.auctiontiger.net>. For tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website <https://intenders.auctiontiger.net>

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number: 96461 47777)

Tender Enquiry No. 333/SS(D)-II (under RDSS) | Dated: 08.10.2024

Dy. CE/Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 182 nos. 11KV, 1.361MVAr Capacitor Banks. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 08.10.2024 (05:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C 767/24 76155/12/3533/2023/38276

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number: 96461 47777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No TSQ-1163 / TD-II/2024-25

Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites E-tenders for Manufacture, Testing, Supply and Delivery of 111 MT HTGS Earth Wire of size 7/2.24MM for 66 KV works to be carried out under RDSS in departmental mode as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1163/TD-II/2024-25. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 09.10.2024 from 01.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C 768/24 76155/12/3534/2023/38278

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त अलवर
सार्वजनिक परिवहन अधिकारी द्वारा आपातकालीन रोड, अवश्य
पोने: 0144-2737038, ई-मेल: sealw.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
दिनांक: 02.10.2024

Bids for Construction of Missing Link/Non patchable Road Under Budget 2024-25 kg no RJ-02/01/MNLP/BA-24/2024-25 and RJ-02/02/MNLP/BA-24/2024-25 are invited from interested bidder from 01-10-2024 04:00 PM upto 21-10-2024 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://ssp.rj.nic.in>) of the state and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurements is 435.11/- Lacs.
NIB code : PWD2425A1985
UBN No: 1. PWD2425WSOB07299 2. PWD2425WSOB07300
Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Alwar

DIPR/C/957/24

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number: 96461 47777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No TSQ-1162 / TD-II/2024-25

Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites E-tenders for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 260 MT Hot Dip Galvanised Nuts, Bolts and 16 MT Electro-Galvanised Spring Washers for 66 KV works to be carried out under RDSS in departmental mode as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1162/TD-II/2024-25. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 09.10.2024 from 03.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C 769/24 76155/12/3535/2023/3827

SWINGING AWAY

It was one of those days when I was in the zone: Harmanpreet



India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was pleased with her knock against Sri Lanka. "It was one of those days when I was in the zone, I was thinking positively and hitting anything that was in my zone. These pitches here aren't true for batting. You have to keep rotating the strike and only when the ball is in the zone can you swing your bat."

SETTING IT UP

Harmanpreet praises openers Smriti, Shafali for solid platform



Harmanpreet Kaur's side, in a crucial game against Sri Lanka, was given a solid platform by openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma. "Smriti and Shafali gave us a very good start. We discussed it and decided to not throw our wickets away. Jemimah and I wanted to get 7-8 runs an over, and we went with the flow," said the skipper.

TOO STRONG

Allround South Africa sends Scotland out of the tournament



South Africa produced an all-round performance to thrash Scotland by 80 runs in their Group B fixture in Dubai on Wednesday.

The scores: South Africa 166/5 in 20 overs (Wolvaardt 40, Brits 43, Kapp 43) bt Scotland 86 in 17.5 overs (Tryon 2/22, Mlaba 3/12, de Klerk 2/15); **Toss:** South Africa; **PoM:** Kapp.

RAINING SIXES

Nitish, Rinku smash 10 maximums as the Men in Blue rule the day



Nitish Kumar, right, and Rinku Singh hammered 10 sixes between them as India won the second T20I against Bangladesh by 86 runs to seal the series. While the former smashed seven maximums, the latter hit three. "I should give credit to the captain and coach. They gave me the licence to play fearless cricket," revealed Nitish.

After Harmanpreet's blazing innings, bowlers dismantle Sri Lanka's line-up

The skipper's unbeaten 52, along with Smriti and Shafali's knocks, takes India to 172 — the highest in this edition; Arundhati, Sobhana scalp three each

WOMEN'S T20 WC

Lavanya L
DUBAI

After underwhelming and sluggish performances with the bat against New Zealand and Pakistan, along with some poor fielding, India found itself pushed to a corner with fingers pointed at the team's intent and preparation.

"Where was this team that passed?" asked former India women's team coach WV. Raman on the airwaves. With the highest total — 172 — of the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup and a dominant 82-run win against Sri Lanka, India silenced the naysayers at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium here on Wednesday.

Good start

Once Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat, Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma did not disappoint.

After collectively scoring only 14 against the Kiwis and 39 against Pakistan, the duo frustrated the Lankan bowlers with a 98-run opening stand off just 76 balls.

The large outfield was negated with brisk running between the wickets and smart placements. Sri Lan-



Leading by example: Harmanpreet steered India to a total that proved beyond Sri Lanka. GETTY IMAGES

ka was rather defensive, looking to play it safe against a dynamic Indian batting order.

Harmanpreet, back at No. 3, stitched two important partnerships, with Jemimah Rodrigues and Richa Ghosh, to carry the side past 170.

Radha's superb catch

The India captain couldn't take the field after her knock and Radha Yadav was sent in as the substitute. The latter took a screamer running to her side from backward point

to dismiss Vishmi Gunaratne off the second ball of the chase.

Sri Lanka lost Athapaththu and Harshita Samarawickrama — the team's two other consistent batters in the format — by the third over, all but sealing the game in India's favour and opening the exit door for the Lankans who have a game remaining.

The Lankans dragged their pursuit till the 20th

SCOREBOARD**INDIA**

Shafali Verma c Vishmi b Athapaththu 43 (40b, 4x4), Smriti Mandhana run out 50 (38b, 4x4, 1x6), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 52 (7b, 8x4, 1x6), Jemimah Rodrigues c Prabodhani b Kanchana 16 (10b, 2x4), Richa Ghosh (not out) 6 (6b); Extras (w-4, nb-1): 5; Total (for three wkt. in 20 overs): 172.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-98 (Smriti, 12.4 overs), 2-98 (Shafali, 12.5), 3-128 (Jemimah, 16.2).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Priyadarshani 2-0-11-0, Sugandika 3-0-29-0, Prabodhani 3-0-32-0, Dilhari 2-0-11-0, Inoka 3-0-26-0, Athapaththu 4-0-34-1, Kanchana 3-0-29-1.

SRI LANKA LANKA

Vishmi Gunaratne c sub (Radha) b Renuka 0 (2b), Chamari Athapaththu c Deepthi b Shreyanka 1 (3b), Harshitha Samarawickrama c Richa b Renuka 3 (7b), Kavisha Dilhari c Renuka b Arundhati 21 (22b, 1x4), Anushka Sanjeevani st. Richa b

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Vishmi, 0.2), 2-4 (Athapaththu, 1.5), 3-6 (Harshitha, 2.2), 4-43 (Sanjeevani, 7.6), 5-57 (Nilakshika, 11.2), 6-58 (Dilhari, 11.6), 7-61 (Sugandika, 12.6), 8-65 (Priyadarshani, 14.2), 9-86 (Kanchana, 18.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Renuka 4-0-16-2, Shreyanka 4-0-15-1, Deepthi 3.5-0-16-1, Arundhati 4-0-19-3, Sobhana 4-0-19-3.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Harmanpreet.

India's next match: Oct. 13 vs Australia, Sharjah (7.30 p.m. IST).

COACHES

coaches Amol Muzumdar and Munish Bali excited in the dugout. The win — India's largest in the Women's T20 showpiece — saw the Net Run Rate climb up from -1.21 to +0.576. A perfect day indeed.

A 10/10 performance is rare for any side, but Harmanpreet and Co. will hope that this is a sign of things to come as a formidable Australia waits in Sharjah.

Memorable day for Root and England



Classy effort: Root was at his brilliant best as he powered England's remarkable reply. GETTY IMAGES

Reuters**MULTAN**

Joe Root scored a majestic unbeaten century after surpassing Alastair Cook as England's top run-scorer in Test cricket and guided the team to 492 for three at stumps on the third day of the opening match against Pakistan on Wednesday.

Root began the day on 32 not out, needing a further 39 runs to eclipse Cook's tally of 12,472, and the former captain eased to his target before soaking up loud applause from the travelling English fans.

He then fought off cramps after lunch to bring up his 35th century with a reverse-sweep and looked poised to plunder more runs after cruising to 176 not out (277b, 12x4) at close of play.

A 10/10 performance is rare for any side, but Harmanpreet and Co. will hope that this is a sign of things to come as a formidable Australia waits in Sharjah.

Brook, Duckett shine

Harry Brook was batting on 141 (173b, 12x4, 1x6), a knock that followed Ben

Duckett's quickfire 84 (75b, 11x4).

Root and Brook's fourth-wicket unbroken stand has raised 243 so far.

Resuming on 96 for one, after Pakistan amassed 556, England lost Zak Crawley for 78 to seal the first hour of the day.

Duckett, who dislocated his left thumb while taking a catch, showed no signs of the issue and needed only 45 balls to bring up his half-century.

His dismissal snapped a 136-run association with Root.

The scores: Pakistan 556 vs. England 492 in 10 overs (Crawley 78, Root 176, Duckett 84, Brook 141, batting).

Mumba Masters fell the Knights

GCL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

PBG Alaskan Knights has undoubtedly been the team of Season 2 of the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League. Anish Giri's men had been in great form going into Wednesday's opening match at Friends House, with just one defeat in seven games. upGrad Mumba Masters made it two losses for them.

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave's team won 10-9 to open up the tournament further. Knights are still on top, with 18 points from eight matches. Vachier-Lagrave led from the front for Mumba, winning his Icon board game against Giri.

Though the defeats of Nodirbek Abdusattarov and Shakhiyar Mamedyarov, at the hands of Vidit Gujrathi and Peter Svidler, were setbacks for Mumba, wins by Koneru Humpy and Raunak Sadhwani over Nihal Sarin, ensured a victory.

The win helped Mumba take its tally to nine from

Nitish and Rinku propel India to emphatic series win

BANGLADESH IN INDIA**Ashwin Achal**

NEW DELHI

India gained an unassailable 2-0 lead with another authoritative victory over Bangladesh here on Wednesday. India cruised home by 86 runs, reducing the third outing at Hyderabad to a dead rubber.

A new star, Nitish Kumar Reddy, shone bright at the Arun Jaitly Stadium. Playing his second T20I, Nitish came good with a match-winning 34-ball 74. For good measure, Nitish picked up two wickets with his seamers.

Nitish, in the company of Rinku Singh (53, 29b, 5x4, 3x6), powered India to a commanding 221 for nine.

The visitor threw in the towel early in the chase. When the required rate touched an alarming 15, Mahmudullah and Mehidy Hasan Miraz dabbled it around and took quick singles. It was a meek surrender.

Certain of victory, India offered part-timers Abhishek Sharma and Riyam Parag the chance to bowl. The

two got a wicket each, painting a glaring picture of the poor batting display by Bangladesh.

Riyam evoked laughter from his teammates when he delivered an awkward low-arm slinger from way behind the umpire. India, far superior in every department, could afford the fun and games.

Hardik Pandya took his fielding seriously, sprinting across the outfield to pluck an outstanding catch in the deep. It was an exemplary effort, especially so when the fate of the match had already been sealed.

Bangladesh elected to field, even if recent fixtures at the venue favoured sides batting first. There was help on offer for the pacers, as the pitch afforded spongy bounce.

This uneven nature accounted for opener Sanju Samson (10, 7b), who committed early to a length ball from Taskin Ahmed. Captain Suryakumar Yadav (8, 10b) fell in similar fashion, chipping a Mustafizur Rahaman cutter to mid-off.

Abhishek (15, 11b) suffered a second straight failure when he nicked a quick delivery from Tanvir Hasam Sakib onto the



Power-hitting: Nitish was in smashing form, scoring a 34-ball 74. R.V. MOORTHY

stumps. From 41 for three, it was up to Nitish and Rinku to set the house right. The duo took their time to settle in, and unleashed in the ninth over bowled by Mahmudullah. The spinner overstepped in the fourth ball, allowing Nitish to free his arms.

With the shackles broken, Nitish and Rinku piled on the big hits. Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain endured a nightmare in the next over, repeatedly offering length freebies. Nitish was also severe on Miraz, hitting the tweaker for three sixes. The last was the mightiest — a strike over midwicket which sailed high and deep into the stands.

Rinku brought up his fifty with a six over the 'keep-

SCOREBOARD**INDIA**

Sanju Samson c Rishad b Taskin 10 (7b, 2x4), Abhishek Sharma b Sakib 15 (11b, 3x4), Suryakumar Yadav c Rishad b Mustafizur 8 (10b, 1x4), Nitish Kumar Reddy c Miraz b Mustafizur 74 (34b, 4x4, 7x6), Rinku Singh c Jaker b Taskin 53 (29b, 5x4, 3x6), Hardik Pandya c Miraz b Rishad 32 (19b, 2x4, 2x6), Riyam Parag c Mahmudullah b Sakib 15 (6b, 2x6), Washington Sundar (not out) 0 (0b), Varun Chakravarthy c Parvez 0 (2b), Arshdeep Singh c Litton b Rishad 6 (2b, 1x6), Mayank Yadav (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-3): 7; Total (for nine wkt. in 20 overs): 221.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-17 (Samson, 1.6 overs), 2-25 (Abhishek, 2.6), 3-41 (Suryakumar, 5.3), 4-149 (Nitish, 13.3), 5-185 (Rinku, 16.6), 6-213 (Parag, 18.6), 7-214 (Hardik, 19.1), 8-214 (Varun, 19.3), 9-220 (Arshdeep, 19.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 3-0-26-1, Nitish 4-0-23-2, Washington 1-0-4-1, Varun 4-0-19-2, Abhishek 2-0-10-1, Mayank 4-0-30-1, Parag 2-0-16-1.

Toss: Bangladesh; **PoM:** Nitish. India won by 86 runs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Third and final T20I: October 12, Hyderabad, 7 p.m.

er's head, and pointed to his bicep in celebration. This was the southpaw's third T20I fifty. The rapid 48-ball 108-

run stand between Nitish and Rinku put India in the front seat. Hardik's 19-ball 32 pushed India to a winning score.



(The correspondent is in London at the invitation of Tech Mahindra)

IN BRIEF



Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson set for six weeks out

Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker is expected to be sidelined for around six weeks with a hamstring injury, which would rule him out of matches against Chelsea and Arsenal. The 32-year-old Brazil international was hurt during last weekend's 1-0 victory over Crystal Palace and went off late in the second-half. Reports say tests have shown Alisson is not likely to be fit to play until after next month's international break.

Lakshya enters second round of Arctic Open

Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles round of 16 at the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament after his opponent Rasmus Gemke withdrew from the opening round match at Vantaa (Finland) on Wednesday. In the women's section, Unnati Hooda defeated Brazil's Juliana Viana 21-16, 23-25, 21-17.

Raja wins men's 61kg with record lifts

M. Raja bettered his National record twice each in clean and jerk (159kg and 165kg) and total (283kg, 289kg) on his way to win the men's 61kg crown in the National weightlifting in Nagrota Bagwan (HP) on Wednesday. Services' Ch. Rishikanta Singh bettered the National record in snatch (new 124kg, old 121kg, T. Madhavan) while taking the silver.

The results (winners only): Men: 61kg: Elite: M. Raja (RSBP) snatch 124kg, clean and jerk 165kg (NR, Old, self, 158kg); total 289kg (NR, Old, 279kg, self); Junior: Golom Tinku (Aru) 117kg, 143kg, 260kg; Youth: V. Kishore (TN) 109kg, 134kg, 243kg; 67kg: Elite: Neelam Raju (RSBP) 133kg, 162kg, 295kg; Junior and Youth: Yash Khandagale (Mah) 129kg, 152kg, 281kg. **Women: 55kg:** Elite: S. Bindyavari (RSBP) 85kg, 110kg, 195kg; Junior and Youth: Mina Santa (Odi) 79kg, 97kg, 176kg;

Padmini beats Sarayu, grabs the sole lead

Defending champion Padmini Rout of PSPB defeated top-seed Velpula Sarayu of Telangana in the seventh round of the 50th National women chess championship at Karaikudi on Wednesday to move into the sole lead. The 31-move win took Padmini to 6.5 points and gave her a half point advantage over the rest of the field. WGMs P.V. Nandhidhaa and Rakshita Ravi, WIM K. Priyanka and J. Saranya, all from Tamil Nadu, are close on the heels of the PSPB player. Nandhidhaa, a former Asian continental champion, outwitted Sakshi Chitlange of Maharashtra while Rakshita got the better of the experienced Nisha Mohota (PSPB) in their respective matches.

Important results: Seventh round: Velpula Sarayu (TS, 5.5 points) lost to Padmini Rout (PSPB, 6.5); Nandhidhaa (TN, 6) bt Sakshi Chitlange (Mah, 5); Rakshita Ravi (TN, 6) bt Nisha Mohota (PSPB, 5); J. Saranya (TN, 6) bt Priyanka Nutakki (AP, 5); V. Varshini (TN, 5) lost to K Priyanka (TN, 6); Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB, 5.5) bt Divya Patil (Mah, 4.5); S. Jeevika (Puducherry) lost to Isha Sharma (Kar, 5.5); Mrittika Mallick (WB, 4.5) lost to Swati Ghate (LIC, 5.5), Bhakti Kulkarni (Goa, 5) bt S. Harini (TN, 4).

IOA announces dates for National Games

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced that the 38th National Games will be held in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14 next year. The decision is subject to the approval of the IOA General Assembly, scheduled to meet on October 25. "We are thrilled to bring the National Games to Uttarakhand, a State that has shown remarkable enthusiasm and commitment to hosting the prestigious event," said IOA president P.T. Usha. "We are committed to delivering a world-class sporting experience. The National Games will not only be a celebration of sports but also a showcase of Uttarakhand's rich culture and hospitality," said Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. It was stated that the Uttarakhand government had developed infrastructure, constructing and upgrading venues to international standards, apart from making all other logistical arrangements to accommodate the participants and visitors.

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs England: 1st Test, day 4, FanCode, 10.30 a.m.
Badminton: Arctic Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 11.30 a.m. onwards
Tennis: ATP Shanghai Masters, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 p.m. onwards
Global Chess League: JioCinema, 5.30 p.m. onwards
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Spinners hold sway as India canter to a win

Offie Anmoljeet's nine-wicket match haul hastens visiting team's end; leg-spinner Enaan impresses; valiant efforts by skipper Oliver Peake and Alex Lee with the bat go in vain

CRICKET

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

In what can be best described as a riveting day of cricket, where rain stopped play for 50 minutes, an opposing captain scored a sensational century, two India spinners bowled out Australia, twice, as the India U-19 team thrashed Australia U-19 by an innings and 120 runs on day three of the second Youth 'Test' at the M.A. Chidambaram here on Wednesday.

Resuming at 142 for three, Oliver Peake (117, 199b, 16x4, 1x6) started aggressively smashing leg-spinner Mohamed Enaan for a boundary straight down the ground and pacer Chetan Sharma for three fours before rain halted play.

Once play resumed, he drove and cut as he led Australia's fightback before he reached a well-deserved hundred.

Off-spinner Anmoljeet provided India the breakthrough when he dismissed Alex Lee Young (66, 14lb, 9x4) breaking the 166-run fourth-wicket partnership.

Christian Howe walked



Spin twins: Anmoljeet and Enaan celebrate after the victory. R. RAGU

back to a superb direct hit from K.P. Karthikeya stationed at mid-off as Australia lost half its side at the stroke of lunch.

Anmoljeet sent back Peake immediately after the break as he looked to go aerial only to find a leaping Nikhil in the covers region even as Samarth peppered Aidan O'Connor with short deliveries before he had him caught at slip.

Ollie Patterson became Anmoljeet's fourth scalp while Enaan picked up Laichan Ranaldo and Vishwa Ramkumar as Australia

was bowled out for 277 in its first innings.

On a turning and uneven surface, India rightly enforced the follow-on as Enaan sent back Riley Kingsell and Anmoljeet quickly dismissed Simon Budge and Peake leaving Australia in trouble at 41 for three.

Chetan had Vishwa bowled with a delivery that kept low while Anmoljeet picked up Ranaldo for his fifth victim as India romped home in style.

The scores: India U-19 492 bt Aus U-19 277 in 80.2 overs (Oliver Peake 117, Alex Lee Young 66, Mohamed Enaan 4/60, Anmoljeet 4/72) & 95 in 31.3 overs (Mohamed Enaan 3/37, Anmoljeet 5/32).

Howe and Enaan had Ajit stumped.

Patterson did not last long and Hogan's resistance came to an end when Anmoljeet rattled both their stumps.

Chetan had Vishwa bowled with a delivery that kept low while Anmoljeet picked up Ranaldo for his fifth victim as India romped home in style.

Procession
Between overs 11 to 24, it was a procession. Australia was reduced to 68 for eight. First, Alex Lee lost his wicket to a brilliant direct hit at the non-strikers' end. Anmoljeet dismissed

Anmoljeet savours a five-wicket haul on debut

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

In a battle between two teenagers playing for their countries, one scored a superb century but ended up on the losing side, while the other spun his team to victory with his first-ever five-for.

Australia U-19 captain Oliver Peake and India's Anmoljeet Singh have been standout performers for their respective teams. Later, the two players shared their thoughts on the second Youth 'Test' with the media.

"We were trying to bat for as long as we could. The pitch progressively got worse, the bounce was very low, and it was getting very difficult to bat, but their spinners were too good today. In the second innings, we didn't adapt well quick enough, maybe playing 135 overs earlier, we were fatigued, probably that's the reason for the collapse," said Peake on the loss.

"It's the hardest innings I've played and one of my proudest moments until this point, I am happy. My dad just asked me to enjoy and get around the culture and try and adapt to these conditions," said the Australia U-19 skipper.

Meanwhile, Anmoljeet said, "Firstly it rained in the morning. Then looking



Anmoljeet. R. RAGU

at the way the wicket was behaving, we felt we could bowl them out. Bowling in tandem with Enaan also helped. We were helping each other. We didn't want to do anything extra and just bowl in the right areas and they'll get out automatically."

"This is my debut and getting a five-wicket haul is a great feeling I just tried, that's all."

"I'm from Shimplapuri in Ludhiana, I practice at the Garewal Sports Academy, and I train under Harbhajan Kalra, he has put in a lot of effort for me. He has worked hard on me. Even my family's support has been immense," Anmoljeet said on the win and his journey.

Shreyas — the boy who helped his family avoid deportation and is now UK's youngest-ever GM

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

Shreyas Royal wants D. Gukesh to win the upcoming World chess championship. If the Chennai teenager does that — he is most people's favourite at the moment — Shreyas could tell his friends, "You know, I almost beat the World champion in classical chess when I was 14, and drew with him, at any rate."

That happened at the London Chess Classic last December. It caught the chess world's attention, of course. The larger world became aware of the Bengaluru-born Shreyas six years earlier, though.

His father Jitendra Singh's work visa was about to expire and he was told that it could not be extended if he didn't earn £120,000. But, Rachel



In storied company: Shreyas making the opening move in the game between Anish and Anand. GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE

Reeves, now Chancellor of the Exchequer, intervened, arguing that the country would have lost one of its brightest had Shreyas been deported.

The then home secretary Sajid Javid made a personal decision that allowed the family to stay under a new work visa. Shreyas repaid the UK's faith in him. A couple of months ago, he became the country's youngest ever Grandmaster, beating David Howell's record by six months.

Howell is a commentator at the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League, where Shreyas was a guest and made the inaugural move for one of the matches. "I am glad that such a world class tournament has come to England, where the game needs much more support than it is getting now," he told *The Hindu*.

"I hope this will help chess (which is not considered a sport in the UK) increase its popularity here."

And it was a bit surreal to see some of my idols, including Viswanathan Anand at the venue."

Shreyas says British chess needs financial support badly. "Former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had allocated some £500,000 last year for the development of chess but I think the new government has pulled out that funding," he says. "It is a huge pity."

He is looking forward to the World championship match between reigning champion Ding Liren and Gukesh.

"Gukesh has been playing really well, and even if Ding recovers his form it will be hard for him to win the match," he says.

"Gukesh is a very confident, disciplined player. I hope he wins and then I could say I almost beat the World champion in a classical game when I was 14".

(The correspondent is in London at the invitation of Tech Mahindra)

Injured Williamson likely to miss first Test against India

Press Trust of India
WELLINGTON

Senior batter Kane Williamson is set to miss the initial part of the upcoming three-Test series in India starting on October 16 due to a groin strain, with New Zealand naming Mark Chapman as his cover in the 17-man squad here on Wednesday. Tom Latham will be leading the Kiwis af-

ter Tim Southee stepped aside from the leadership role a few days ago.

The squad: Tom Latham (Capt.), Tom Blundell (wk), Michael Bracewell (1st Test only), Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachit Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Ish Sodhi (2nd & 3rd Test only), Tim Southee, Kane Williamson and Will Young.

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Indian men advance while women falter

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau

India outplayed host Kazakhstan 3-1 in the quarter-finals of the men's team event in the Asian team table tennis championships Astana, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday. India will take on Chinese Taipei in the semifinals on Thursday.

Earlier, the Indian women's team lost to Japan 3-1 in the semifinals.

This is the first-ever medal for the women's team in the championships, hosted by Asian Table Tennis Union.

When it was hosted by Table Tennis Federation of Asia, the women's team had bagged a bronze in

1960 in Bombay (now Mumbai). On the other hand, the Indian men's team had clinched bronze in the previous two editions in 2021 (Doha) and 2023 (Pyeongchang, Korea).

The results: Men:

Quarterfinals: India bt Kazakhstan 3-1 (Manav Thakkar bt Kirill Gerassimenko 11-9, 11-11, 11-6; Harmeet Desai lost to Alan Kurmangaliyev 6-11, 5-11, 8-11; Sharath Kamal bt Aidos Kenzhigulov 11-4, 11-7, 12-10; Harmeet bt Kirill 6-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 11-11).

Women: Semifinals: Japan bt India 3-1 (Ayhika Mukherjee lost to Miwa Harimoto 8-11, 11-9, 8-11, 13-11, 7-11; Manika Batra bt Satsuki Odo 11-6, 11-5, 11-8; Sutirtha Mukherjee lost to Miwa Harimoto 3-11, 11-6, 2-11, 3-11).



Line judges will no longer be in action at Wimbledon. REUTERS

ic line-calling (ELC) from 2025 in a move to "optimise accuracy and consistency across tournaments".

The technology is used at the Australian Open and US Open, though the French Open remains an

outlier among the four Grand Slams. The All England Club announced it would make the switch to ELC from next year.

"The officiating technology will be in place for all Championships and qualifying match courts and

cover the 'out' and 'fault' calls that have previously been made by line umpires," it said in a statement on Wednesday.

Tournament chiefs said the decision to use ELC, which builds on existing ball-tracking and line-calling technology, was made following extensive testing during this year's Championships.

Since 2007, Hawk-Eye has assisted the officials at Wimbledon on certain courts. "The decision to introduce live electronic line calling at the Championships was made following a significant period of consideration and consultation," said All England Club chief executive Sally Bolton.

When it was hosted by

Table Tennis Federation of Asia, the women's team had bagged a bronze in

Ishan Kishan returns to lead Jharkhand in Ranji Trophy

The wicketkeeper-batter will look to carry his splendid form in the First-Class games since his return; Virat Singh will be his deputy

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

India batter Ishan Kishan on Wednesday returned to the Jharkhand team as its captain, following his controversial pull-out last season that led to his exclusion from the BCCI central contract.

The explosive left-hander took a break during India's tour of South Africa last year. Post break, he did not participate in any official BCCI matches. The 26-year-old resurfaced in February, playing in the D.Y. Patil T20 Cup ahead of the IPL.

His absence from domestic cricket during this period contributed to his omission from the BCCI's 2023-24 central contracts.

He also represented the Rest of India in the Irani



Fresh start: Kishan would hope for a good performance in the upcoming season.

FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Cup. Now, as captain of Jharkhand's 16-member squad, Kishan is set to lead a young squad with last season's designated skipper Virat Singh as his deputy and Kumar Kushagra as

the wicketkeeper.

Jharkhand begins its Ranji Trophy campaign against Assam in Guwahati in Elite Group-D.

The squad: Ishan Kishan (Capt.),

Virat Singh (vice-capt.), Kumar Kushagra (wk), Nazim Siddique, Aryaman Sen, Sharandeep Singh, Kumar Suraj, Anukul Roy, Utkarsh Singh, Supriyo Chakraborty, Saurabh Shekhar, Vikas Kumar, Vivekanand Tiwary, Manishi, Ravi Kumar Yadav and Raunak Kumar.

AROUND THE CITY

Chengalpattu shuttlers come good

Three gold medals in badminton helped Chengalpattu district jump to second in the medals tally of the CM's Trophy on Wednesday. R. Pravandhika clinched the college girls' singles gold and teamed up with Shreya Balaji to claim the

doubles gold. A. Vimal Raj and G. Santhosh bagged the college boys' doubles title to take Chengalpattu's tally to six gold and one silver medal.

Chennai district continues to top the standings with nine gold, two silver, and nine bronze. Erode is placed third with five gold, three silver, and

a bronze medal. Chennai secured the school boys' gold medal in football with an overall unbeaten performance. It

scored wins over Salem (3-0), Theni (2-0), and Trichy (5-1).

Salem took home silver with a win and a draw.

ENGAGEMENTS

Chess: M. S. Venkataraman memorial FIDE rated tournament, K. Loganathan, Chairman, New Prince Group of Institutions, inaugurates (9.30 a.m.), New Prince Shri Bhavani College of Engineering and Technology, Santhosapuram.

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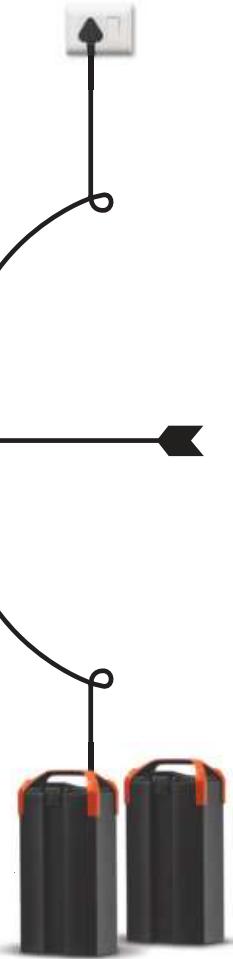
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M CH-CHE

The desperation of Chamari Athapaththu

If we take too much pressure on our shoulders, if we take too much information, it's too hard to play.
We have to play fearless cricket. That's the most important thing, feels the Sri Lanka skipper



GETTY IMAGES

Lavanya Lakshminarayanan

DUBAI

Sometimes, being the biggest predator of your pack can make you the biggest prey too. Ask Chamari Athapaththu. In an era of transition for Sri Lankan cricket, Athapaththu has sacrificed her bones to become the steel skeleton for the women's game to grow around.

"I want to see my team in the semi-final of this World Cup. That's my wish," Athapaththu said ahead of the qualifiers for the ongoing T20 World Cup in the UAE (which they would win) earlier in the year.

Six months later, her team is staring at a rather anticlimactic finish to what's been a fairytale 12-18 months for the side.

Six months and two World Cup group game losses later, Athapaththu fronted up to the side's underwhelming showing and her own part in it.

"Fans probably had a lot of expectations that we will play in the semifinals this year. I think we don't have time to do that. I want to tell fans not to lose hope," she had said ahead of the India match which her side lost comprehensively and all but ended its campaign in the UAE.

Athapaththu spoke to the press for around 25 minutes – half of that in England and half in Sinhalese. Her desperation to manifest better fortunes for her team were bare in her native tongue. There was no masking, no talk of 'process', 'assessing conditions'. She doesn't have time for any of that.

She detailed a conversation she had with herself in the room after the first two losses, particularly because she had, herself, failed with the bat. The skipper registered scores of 3 (12 balls) against Australia and 6 (9 balls) against Pakistan in the opening fixture. She had a great night with the ball against Pakistan (3/18) but it meant nothing without the win.

"Our expectations before we came was that the Dubai and Sharjah surfaces would be batting tracks. Because I had that kind of experience when I was playing here before. But we can't complain about the conditions as batters."

"We have to play our best cricket, and we have to adapt – that is the most important thing. So, I saw how Nat Sciver-Brunt played and even Laura (Wolvaardt) and the other South African batters. I asked myself the same question. 'Why can't I play?' she said.

She then compared Sri Lanka's batting brain fade to the kind of performances

South Africa and New Zealand (vs India) had managed. "If we take too much pressure on our shoulders, if we take too much information, it's too hard to play cricket," she exclaimed. "We have to play our fearless cricket. That's the most important thing."

Remembering bravery

The run-up to the T20 World Cup was interesting for the Lankan captain. She led her side to a memorable maiden Asia Cup title. The side beat South Africa, New Zealand and England in bilateral T20I series, all for the first time in their cricketing history. Athapaththu led from the front, scoring a whopping 684 runs with a stunning average of 42.75 and at a strike rate of 130.53. That included two centuries and four fifties.

She was ably assisted by two young foot soldiers in Vishmi Gunaratne (467 runs this season) and Harshita Samarakrama (564 runs, including an unbeaten 84 against India in the Asia Cup final).

With the ball, Kavisha Dilhari has 22 wickets in 20 games. Inoshi Priyadarshani has 20 while Athapaththu herself has 19. Her senior pros – Sugandika Kumari and Udesika Prabodani – have been instrumental in key victories, particularly in the Asia Cup.

In the World Cup in the United Arab Emirates, while the bowling still had something to cheer about, the batting seems to have short circuited.

Athapaththu looks around her and sees the likes of Sophie Devine, Wolvaardt, the Australians (as per her list) find rhythm with the bat and it frustrates her.

"In the first game, I scored a boundary against Sadia Iqbal. I hit the ball, it was going so fast. So I felt, the wicket was so good. That was surprising because when Pakistan batted, the surface was a bit slow and low. My experience of that first ball affected me and I lost my wicket in the next over. I made that mistake. In the next game, I thought I'll take my time but suddenly it was different."

"We can't blame anyone or the conditions. Other teams have the same things and challenges we have. If other teams and batters can do it, there's no way we can't."

The Sri Lankan squad isn't young, with an average age of about 30. Priyadarshini, Prabodani and Ranaweera are above the age of 37. Six more, including Athapaththu, are in their 30s. The skipper has therefore been on an overdrive in terms of pushing the youngsters to step in and gear up for a

time when she and some of her colleagues may not be around.

"I don't want to pressure the young players. It's important for them to be relaxed before important games. I have shared my experience as I have been in these situations. We are not a team that won the world championship. We are not a team that has come to the finals. I've been in these similar situations. (The difference is) now the expectations are very high. I am taking the pressure as much as I can."

Perennial fire-fighter

Athapaththu is much like a sponge bursting at the seams, waiting to rain down on her opponent and it is in these situations that the world has seen the best of her.

That Asia Cup final against India is the latest in a long list of rescue acts. Athapaththu has staged for her nation. With a steep 165 to chase down against a quality bowling side, she made a fighting 61 (43b) with 72 still needed from the last eight overs.

This is where her constant encouragement and pushing her 'kids' (as she calls them) came handy. Harshita Samarakrama, potentially the one to succeed her as Sri Lanka captain, was thrown into the fire and got out of the death unscathed with a huge roar and a shiny trophy to boot.

"That Asia Cup win...we beat the best team in the world. They have so much experience, and play a lot of franchise cricket. Compared to India, we don't have those players and still we've played good cricket as a team. As a captain, I am so proud of my girls," she had said then.

"For now, I'm always looking after the young girls. I've built a young team. I want to see these young girls in the World Cup one day."

In the crucial league game against India in the UAE, it was the Sri Lankan skipper who swung into action, first running out Smriti Mandhana and then getting Shafali Verma off consecutive deliveries. It was the lone bright spot in a dull bowling display where the players retreated into their shell when their backs were to the wall.

With India cruising to 172 – the highest team total in the tournament so far – Sri Lanka needed Athapaththu to glue her feet in the middle and see the chase through.

However, even the best of sponges wear out. After years and years of carrying Sri Lanka on her shoulders, India broke her. She first saw her opening partner Gunaratne fall for a first ball duck. Athapaththu soon edged Shreyanka Patil to

Deepti Sharma at slips.

At the Asia Cup a few months ago, with her contribution registered, Athapaththu paced about like an anxious mother waiting to see if her child had cleared the Class 10 boards. But, this time, she failed to fire against India in a crucial make-or-break fixture, falling for a solitary run off three balls.

Towering personality

Mention 'Chamari' in the press box and the Sri Lankan reporters around will tell you tales of how Athapaththu was waging a battle for the relevance of the women's game in that nation long before it became the norm to do so.

She was one of the loudest voices calling for game time for Sri Lanka during the pandemic when the women's side went more than 500 days without an international fixture.

Her growing stature in international cricket – backed by her popularity in franchise tournaments and her game-changing performances in the international arena – made the Sri Lankan board sit up and take notice.

That the women's team's captain now had brand deals and was there to flag off the Lankan Premier League – hailed as the pride of Sri Lankan cricket – tells you all you need to know about how Athapaththu has smashed the glass ceiling in the island nation. In a team of senior pros, Athapaththu has been the leader.

She has banded together a coy and unconfident side – often stuttering to speak the tongue of the international game (literally and otherwise) – and taught them to believe. Sit with her for a chat and she could convince you that you can change the world.

That lure of leadership and a strong umbilical cord holding her close to this team have brought her back from a couple of retirement considerations. For the time being, we know Athapaththu will be the front and centre of this team at least till the 2025 ODI World Cup in India.

For a long time, Athapaththu has been the one to pick up her teammates when they are down in the dumps. After such an inspiring run-up, to go out of contention without much of a fight will hurt and for a while. She will need her teammates and her loyalists to wrap up her in a hug and give her the strength to keep going.

Cricket isn't done with Chamari Athapaththu and, for the sake of Sri Lanka and the women's game at large, one will hope she isn't either.

THE GIST

Athapaththu revealed that the team expected the Dubai and Sharjah surfaces to be batting-friendly

In a team of senior pros, she has been the leader

She was one of the loudest voices calling for game time for Sri Lanka during the pandemic when the women's side went more than 500 days without an international fixture

SCIENCE

New sedimentary rock made from slag is a carbon-trapping champ

When lithified slag breaks down, it stores greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide through a process called mineral carbonation. This process mimics natural weathering. So understanding how slag undergoes lithification is crucial so that we may eventually maximise its carbon capture potential.

Tejasri Gururaj

Human activity has significantly altered the earth's landscape – so much so that many scientists have said the planet is in a new geological chapter called the Anthropocene era.

Many of these changes have been wrought by deposits of materials like industrial waste and construction debris. These materials weather over time and mix with natural sediment and affect the environment by changing the acidity of soil and water, the composition of soil, and the distribution of minerals.

Slag becomes rock

In 2015, artificial ground contributed more than 316 million tonnes of sedimentary material to the oceans, far exceeding the natural supply.

But going beyond simply being abundant in the natural environment, scientists have been documenting some unusual formations that wouldn't have taken shape if not for the trash humans are throwing out. In a recent study in the journal *Sedimentologika*, for example, researchers documented a new kind of sedimentary rock made from coastal slag deposits in the U.K.

This rock follows other formations like molten glass and steel in the refuse of nuclear weapon tests and pieces of plastic floating in oceans that disease-causing bacteria have grabbed hold of.

Slag is a major component of artificial ground. It is a composite material containing metal oxides and silicon dioxide and is a by-product of the steelmaking process in the iron and steel industries.

Synthetic slag, natural weathering

At Warton, England, old industrial waste sites are the focus of a unique study examining slag hardening, or lithification.

The lithification process hardens industrial waste, including slag, into sedimentary rocks, creating artificial ground. When these sedimentary rocks weather over time, they release sediments into the environment.

Because the rocks are infused with industrial waste, their sediments often contain toxic metals that contaminate soil, water, and air.

Sedimentary rocks with slag are relatively more abundant in the U.K. due to historical industrial activities.

Slag is chemically stable and has the ability to neutralise acidity. When lithified slag breaks down, it stores greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide through a process called mineral carbonation. This process mimics natural weathering.

Understanding how slag undergoes lithification is crucial to understanding how the deposits will behave over time, so that we may eventually also maximise its carbon capture potential.

This opportunity gains significance in light of projections suggesting a 10.5% rise worldwide in slag production by 2031. While the steelmaking industry is under pressure to lower its emissions – including with processes that mitigate slag production – reusing slag to sequester carbon could reduce the industry's carbon footprint.

Elements of rock

The carbon capture process is well



A piece of slag from a glazing process formed sometime between 1802 and 1450 BC in lower Egypt. PUBLIC DOMAIN

understood for inland slag deposits in the U.K. and less so for coastal regions.

The researchers behind the new study collected slag samples from the Warton slag heap in South Lancashire, England, where iron and steel works were active from 1864 to 1929.

They prepared the samples for analysis with a cool-water diamond saw, which cut them into smaller pieces, then turned them into powder using a mortar and pestle, and finally filtered the particles through a sieve.

In particular, the team collected samples along a straight line across the slag heap from below the highest average water level to the top of the deposit to capture variations in exposure to seawater and rainwater.

The researchers used four different analytical techniques to understand the slag samples' composition, starting with X-ray diffraction. This method uses X-rays to identify the various types of minerals in the sample by studying how the minerals scatter the radiation.

Previous studies have shown that carbonates can form during the lithification process. These minerals contain carbonate ions (CO_3^{2-}) and contribute to the hardening process. In the context of slag, the researchers found a carbonate form called calcite, a form of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) that is also present in chalk.

To identify the quantity of calcite in the slag samples, the researchers used thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). In this method, the sample is heated to see how much weight it loses, revealing the quantity of carbonate present.

The researchers also used stable isotope analysis to identify the isotopes of carbon and oxygen present in the samples. (An isotope of an element is an atom that contains the same number of protons and electrons but a different number of neutrons.) The relative

Slag is a major component of artificial ground. It is a composite material containing metal oxides and silicon dioxide and is a by-product of the steelmaking process in the iron and steel industries

abundance of these isotopes can be a signature that points to specific sources of the calcite in the sample.

Finally, they observed the samples under a scanning electron microscope to reveal the sample's surface and identify the elements present.

The history, through science

X-ray diffraction identified various minerals in the slag sample, including a form of calcium silicate called larnite. The microscopic analysis revealed variable texture and elemental distributions in the slag, with silicon dominating weathered areas and calcium more prevalent in the wave-exposed parts.

These features suggested the slag in the deposit had undergone a combination of lithification processes in different conditions.

TGA also indicated a higher carbonate level at the top of the slag bank and lower levels in the seaward direction, echoing the influence of environmental factors like seawater and rainwater on the lithification process.

Finally, the isotope analysis revealed significant variations in the levels of the carbon-13 isotope, which is crucial to understanding carbonate reactions and carbon dioxide dynamics in the environment.

Based on all these details, the researchers determined two lithification mechanisms in the slag deposit.

The first mechanism – calcite cement precipitation – dominated on the top

surface of slag and on the sea-facing side above the average water level. In this process, the minerals in slag dissolve to release calcium, which reacts with atmospheric carbon dioxide to form calcite.

In the intertidal zone, which is the part of the shoreline exposed to air at low tide and is submerged at high tide, the calcium-silicate-hydrate (CSH) cement precipitation process dominated. Here, saltwater prevents slag minerals from dissolving; instead, they form CSH minerals that exhibit varying texture and elemental distributions.

Repurposing slag deposits

According to the researchers, understanding these processes can inform strategies with which to repurpose slag deposits to capture carbon dioxide. This is especially the case for the calcite cement mechanism, which can capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere while eliminating the need to transport carbon and for additional processing facilities.

The researchers also said the precipitation of CSH minerals in the slag could limit the release of potentially toxic metals, such as vanadium and chromium, into the environment.

Knowing the precise way in which a particular slag deposit became a rock could also help recover valuable resources from slag deposits and increase the amount of recycled material in steelmaking.

Finally, the authors suggested hardened slag could be used to keep waves and tides from washing away shores and prevent coastal erosion – an approach that would combine environmental protection with waste management.

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THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The peculiar properties of Nobel-winning crystals

Siva Shakthi A.

QUESTION 1

In the 1940s, researchers discovered that DNA molecules show an X phase when placed in a saline solution. This is because the molecules become aligned with each other and are able to flow like a fluid. Name X.

QUESTION 2

The two known forms of graphite, alpha and beta, can be converted from one form to another by altering the _____ between the layers through a mechanical treatment process at a high temperature. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

Diamonds that have optically active defects are ideal labs for scientists to understand coherence and entanglement, making them potential candidates for quantum computing. What is the name of the locations within diamonds where these "defects" occur?

QUESTION 4
An Israeli scientist was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2011 for discovering and elucidating the properties of _____. The atoms in these materials are arranged with a fivefold geometric symmetry, producing a pattern that is repeating but not periodic. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5
____ crystals are made up of two or more materials such that the

crystal's refractive index increases and drops at regular intervals. Researchers are exploring their use in next-generation semiconductor lasers. Fill in the blank.

Answers to October 8 quiz:

1. Radar type that sends, receives pulses in two dimensions – **Ans: Dual-polarisation**

2. Force that contributes to cyclone formation – **Ans: Coriolis**

3. Closed air loops responsible for trade winds – **Ans: Hadley cells**

4. Composition of mixture used to fix zero point of Fahrenheit scale – **Ans: Salt and ice**

5. Cloud formed by strong updrafts of warm, humid air – **Ans: Cumulus**

6. 15th century wind speed meter with a rotating vane – **Ans: Anemometer**

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Dalbeer Pharswan | Anmol Agrawal | P.

Subramanian



Visual: Name this English scientist who won a chemistry Nobel Prize for determining the crystal structure of insulin, penicillin, and vitamin B12. UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL (CC BY-SA 2.5)

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



Australia is developing options to vaccinate threatened wild birds in captivity. REUTERS

Australia, New Zealand brace for looming bird flu threat

Reuters

Australia and New Zealand are bracing for the arrival of a destructive bird flu strain by tightening biosecurity at farms, testing shore birds for disease, vaccinating vulnerable species, and war-gaming response plans.

Oceania is the last region of the world free of the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b avian influenza that has killed hundreds of millions of birds and tens of thousands of mammals since appearing in Asia, Europe, and Africa in 2020, littering beaches with corpses and upending the agricultural industry.

While the region is somewhat protected by its geography, the virus is close, having reached Indonesia in 2022 and Antarctica last year.

Scientists and officials say there is a higher risk, particularly in Australia, of it arriving with smaller migratory shore birds during the Southern Hemisphere springtime months from September to November.

"It is clearly a threat to our country's ecosystems," said Fiona Fraser, Threatened Species Commissioner at Australia's environment ministry.

"Many of our species are found nowhere else in the world," she said. "Vulnerable species may face long-term population setbacks and heightened risk of extinction."

Officials fear mass deaths from the avian flu and even the near-extinctions of species, including endangered sea lions, black swans, and many types of seabirds, and the loss of millions of farmed poultry.

Over 100 million chickens and turkeys have died or been culled in the U.S. alone

Oceania is the last region of the world free of the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b avian influenza that has killed hundreds of millions of birds and tens of thousands of mammals

from this H5N1 strain, causing economic losses of up to \$3 billion by the end of last year, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, a think tank.

The virus killed around 50,000 seals and sea lions and more than half a million wild birds as it moved through South America in 2022.

It has also infected cattle in the U.S. and, in rare cases, people. Health officials say the risk to humans is low.

New Zealand is also unlikely to avoid the virus long-term, said Mary van Andel, chief veterinary officer for the country's Ministry of Primary Industries.

Both countries have intensified preparation.

Australia created a task force across government departments and stress-tested its preparedness in August and September with a series of exercises simulating an H5N1 outbreak in wildlife.

New Zealand has trialled a vaccine on five endangered native birds and said it could be rolled out to more species.

"We're super paranoid about those five species, because the risk to them of losing the breeding population is that we could lose the species," said Kate McInnes, science advisor at New Zealand's Department of Conservation.

Australia is also developing options for vaccinating threatened wild birds held in captivity, officials said. The two vaccination schemes are the only ones for non-farm animals in the world.

Farms are boosting biosecurity measures, including limiting contact between poultry and wild birds, monitoring employees' movement, sterilising water and equipment, and installing automated systems that detect wild birds and scare them away, industry officials from both countries said.

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Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The death toll from overnight Israeli strikes on Gaza

18 The Israeli forces pressed on with a raid on the Jabalia refugee camp in the enclave's north. According to Israeli military, the raid, is intended to stop Hamas fighters from staging further attacks from Jabalia. AP

Number of factories sealed by Municipal Corporation of Delhi

84 The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) conducted inspections of 520 industrial units located in non-conforming zones. Of these, the units which violated the prescribed norms were sealed. PTI

Funds sanctioned by the Tripura Cabinet to the tribal council

30 In ₹ crore. The State Cabinet has sanctioned the amount to Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council for the execution of six development projects including the extension of a hospital. PTI

The tally of polio cases reported in Pakistan this year

32 Four new cases of polio have been reported in Pakistan — three from the Sindh province and one from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Only two out of seven regions are currently polio-free. PTI

Potential spam calls identified by Airtel in Tamil Nadu

112 In million. Bharti-Airtel has identified over 112 million potential spam calls and three million spam short messaging services in Tamil Nadu in last 12 days. PTI
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On protests against Vizag steel plant sale

Why are employees including prominent unions opposing the sale of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant? Was the VSP a loss-making entity before the current protests? What are the two main demands of the employees?

EXPLAINER

Sumit Bhattacharjee

The story so far:

Ever since Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the 100% strategic sale of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), in January 2021, employees of the plant affiliated to various unions such as AITUC, CITU and INTUC, have protested against the move and stalled all plans of takeover by any private company. The VSP is the only shore-based steel making public sector unit (PSU) in the country.

What is the status of the plant now? So far neither the designated members of the Legal Committee or the Assessment Committee have been able to enter the plant in order for the government to issue an Expression of Interest as protesters keep stalling them. Thus, the sale plans have been delayed, and the Union Government has stopped extending support to the plant.

Moreover, in the last three years, the plant has ended up making huge losses and its daily production has come down drastically, since only one blast furnace is now operational among the three furnaces. The management has cut all benefits for employees and salaries are delayed by over 20 to 30 days every month. The plant is so cash strapped that it is unable to draw even imported coking coal for its coke oven from the warehouses at the Gangavaram and Visakhapatnam ports. The plant at present has about 12,600 permanent employees and 14,000 casual workers.

Why is the VSP called a legacy plant? The VSP has an emotive connection with the people of Andhra Pradesh. The struggle for the setting up of the plant in Visakhapatnam dates back to 1963 when Chidambaram Subramaniam, senior



In rage: Steel plant employees protest against the privatisation of RINL in Visakhapatnam, in 2021. PTI

leader in the ruling Congress party and Minister, had announced the setting up of a shore-based steel plant in Visakhapatnam. Subsequent to the proposal, on July 1, 1966, the State Assembly, then led by Chief Minister Kasu Brahmananda Reddy, unanimously passed a resolution favouring the plant in Visakhapatnam.

But thereafter there was no progress on the project till Amrutha Rao a leader from Guntur took up a fast unto death at the gate of the Visakhapatnam District Collector's office, from October 15, 1966. Thereafter, things started to heat up, as students of various colleges in Andhra Pradesh took up the mantle of the protest. The protests then turned into State-wide strikes and led to the killing of 32 people in the month of November, across the State. The slogan *Visakha Ukkukkula Andhrula Hakku* (Visakha Steel: the right

of the people of Andhra) resounded across the nation and shook the then Congress government at the Centre. Therefore, on April 10, 1967, Indira Gandhi announced in Parliament that a steel plant would be set up in Visakhapatnam. About 20,000 acres of land from 68 villages were acquired for the plant and on March 20, 1990, the first blast furnace was dedicated to the nation.

Why did the Centre decide to sell? The VSP has a huge land bank of about 20,000 acres that has a market value of about ₹1 lakh crore. Employees say that private entities are looking at it for its real estate value. The plant also has the latest technology and its capacity can be expanded up to 20 million tonnes. It manufactures high-grade quality steel and has good market presence. Additionally, it has two major ports in its backyard,

within a 20 km radius.

However, the plant as of yet has not been allotted any captive iron ore or coal mines. As per the Mines and Minerals Act, every steel plant must be allotted iron mines for its sustainability. Since VSP doesn't have one, an additional ₹4,000 crore is spent on buying iron ore at higher prices. This clubbed with the payment of interest on accumulated loans of about ₹18,500 crore, has been pulling the plant down. The Union Government has not allotted a mine, despite the VSP making several requests, says former Chairman of VSP Y. Sivasagar Rao.

What next?

The protesters have two main demands. One is that the VSP should be given a captive mine. CPI(M) State Secretariat member and veteran leader Ch. Narasinga Rao says that the Union government instead of selling off the plant should allot captive mines and write off the loans, as VSP has paid over ₹58,000 crore to the Centre in form of taxes so far.

The other demand is that the plant can be merged into the SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited). SAIL is planning a 20 MT expansion, for which it needs an investment of about ₹6,000 crore. If they take over VSP and start all its furnaces, take production to 100% and supply iron ore from its mines, it will get a 7.3 MT steel producing plant on a platter. This is a win-win situation for all including SAIL, VSP as well as the government, points out VSP employees and union members.

The strategic sale of the VSP has been a political issue and was used as plank in the 2024 elections. All parties including NDA partners such as TDP, JSP and now opposition parties YSRCP had promised to bail out the plant and see that the Centre does not go ahead with its sale. In a meeting with the FM, Steel Minister and the CM that was convened on October 8 in Delhi, it is learnt that the Centre is thinking of a revival package or a merger with SAIL. But this discussion has been going on since long and only time will tell what is in store for the RINL-VSP.

THE GIST

▼ The VSP has an emotive connection with the people of Andhra Pradesh. The struggle for the setting up of the plant in Visakhapatnam dates back to 1963 when Chidambaram Subramaniam, senior leader in the ruling Congress party and Minister, had announced the setting up of a shore-based steel plant in Visakhapatnam.

▼ The VSP has a huge land bank of about 20,000 acres that has a market value of about ₹1 lakh crore. Employees say that private entities are looking at it for its real estate value.

▼ The strategic sale of the VSP has been a political issue and was used as plank in the 2024 elections.

What is the Samsung workers strike in Chennai about?

What is the South Korean electronics giant's union policy? What are the workers demanding?

Kunal Shankar Sangeetha Kandavel

The story so far:

About two-thirds of the 1,800 employees at one of South Korean electronics giant Samsung's flagship factories in Chennai, have been striking work for a month now, demanding higher wages, an eight-hour work day, better working conditions and for the recognition of their recently formed labour union – the Samsung India Workers Union, or SIWU.

What were recent developments? Tamil Nadu's Industries Minister T.R.B. Raja, speaking to the press on October 8, urged striking workmen to return to work, "in the interest of jobs for the youth and employment opportunities for the State." He said Samsung and a "workmen's committee" had reached an "agreement" on a slew of measures, including a monthly ₹5000 "productivity stabilisation incentive" to be paid to

workers between October 2024 and March 2025. But striking workers rejected this agreement, accusing the "workmen's committee" of being company backers, and those who did not represent the interests of the majority of employees. While official sources said about 10 union members were arrested past midnight on October 8, leaders of the Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU), the national labour union supporting Samsung India workers said "hundreds" have been arrested.

What is Samsung's union policy? Samsung is South Korea's largest family-run business whose consolidated revenue in FY2023 was approximately \$198 billion, which is more than one-tenth of that country's \$1.71 trillion GDP for that year. The company runs businesses ranging from smartphones to an array of high-end components for the nation's 5G infrastructure, considered to be one of the best in the world. The firm has deep roots in the government, and often influences economic policies in South

Korea. The founding family members have been embroiled in financial crimes, but have received pardons from South Korea's Presidents, as the firm's leadership role in the nation's economy is prioritised. In 2009, Samsung's late chairman Lee Kun-hee was convicted of tax evasion and embezzlement, but received a pardon from the President to allow Mr. Lee to lead the campaign by the South Korean city of Pyeong Chang to host the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The company has maintained a 'no union' policy since its inception more than 80 years ago, until July 2021, when Samsung Display workers successfully agreed to a 4.5% wage revision. The next month Samsung Electronics workers won a major collective bargaining agreement that included recognising full-time union members and full pay for working extra hours on union duty. This happened after protracted legal challenges to the company's no-union policy. Now, several unions represent Samsung workers globally and its workforce worldwide is

well over a quarter of a million.

Why is SIWU not being recognised?

SIWU has filed a case, which is ongoing, in the Madras High Court seeking "immediate" registration of its union. A registration grants a union legal standing and affords it certain protections under the TU Act. It grants the union immunity from civil and criminal actions during strikes. It also grants the union the right to enter collective bargaining discussions and represent members during disputes.

What has been the govt.'s response?

SIWU and CITU have questioned the TN government's 'indifferent' response and have accused them of siding with Samsung's management, while the government has denied such accusations. "The government seems to be in support of the management, there's no doubt at all," said R. Karumalaiyan, National Secretary, CITU. "Unionisation is an investment globally. There are even IMF studies that have shown this... In the Sriperumbudur (where Samsung's factory in Chennai is located) and Oragadam regions of Chennai, we have helped workers in more than 100 factories to unionise in the past decade. There is no empirical data to prove that we are deterring investments, or impeding production. In fact, we have proven that unionising has been beneficial for the companies and for workers. I hope better sense prevails with the DMK government", he told *The Hindu*.

THE GIST

▼ Employees of one of South Korean electronics giant Samsung's flagship factories in Chennai, have been striking work for a month now, demanding higher wages and recognition of their recently formed labour union – the Samsung India Workers Union, or SIWU.

▼ SIWU and CITU have questioned the TN Government's 'indifferent' response and have accused them of siding with Samsung's management, while the government, has denied such accusations.

▼ Tamil Nadu's Industries Minister T.R.B. Raja, speaking to the press on October 8, urged striking workmen to return to work, "in the interest of jobs for the youth and employment opportunities for the State."

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Towards a journey of mindfulness with the help of reading

On World Mental Health Day, profiling books in which writers have come up with ways to overcome feelings of dread, when the weight of the world is overwhelming. While seeking professional help is a must, sometimes there is also hope in looking for thoughtful prompts

Soma Basu

The findings of a 2017 study published in *The Lancet Psychiatry* reported 197.3 million people with mental disorders in India. This included 45.7 million with depressive disorders and 44.9 million with anxiety disorders. So, one in seven Indian adults live with mental illness, yet very few want to talk about it. Despite awareness campaigns, stigma lingers and people resist reaching out for help.

Occasions like World Mental Health Day (WMHD), observed annually on October 10, try to remind us that living with a mental health condition does not mean that you are defined by it. The attention, however, to the importance of mental well-being is often limited to tokenism. Many times, when in distress, to read about someone who has had it tough makes books a far more useful way to process one's experience of depression, anxiety or stress.

Inspiring stories of others who have faced hurdles are aplenty. They help us to understand the importance of overall well-being, and books based on scientific research also work as a mental health toolkit as they suggest different techniques and options to overcome fear, failure and rejections..

North African writer and poet, Cailin Hargreaves, in her recently published book *Glimmers* says she was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder at the age of 10. The chronic pain and ulcers made her day-to-day living so turbulent that she found a safe space in writing. It helped her to give vent to her anger, dread and heartache without worrying about being judged or shamed.

Grammar of happiness
Cailin's book is a collection of poems and

illustrations that make for a cathartic reading. "Life is full of hardships and dark moments that can leave scars; Yet, in those moments, we often find 'glimmers', small yet shining moments of hope and happiness that lift us up," she writes in her book and invites readers to explore their own 'glimmers'. It could be in a child's laughter or in a riotous sunset that thaws one's gloom in a way little else can.

Cailin's collectible journal contains thoughtful prompts and space for personal reflection as she guides people facing difficult days towards a journey of self-love and gratitude. Simple things such as making a playlist of your go-to happy songs, or activities that change your mood or thinking about a person who's been your anchor during rough times, Cailin's list helps to embrace the simple beauties of life to feel happy.

Another book, *Microjoys* (2023) by Cyndie Spiegel, also talks about the uncharted practice of uncovering joy and finding hope at any moment. When the silver lining feels hard to find, spot the micro joys as they keep you afloat when you need it the most, she says. Katherine May's empathetic and lyrical storytelling is an inspiration for those who feel exhausted, depleted or helpless. In her book *Enchantment* (2023), she guides the reader to discover rest and ease in daily life by reconnecting with the quiet environment around them.

Reduce stress and anxiety
Stress is stated to be a common trigger for mental health issues but experts say chronic stress is an avoidable part of modern life. This year's WMHD theme 'It is Time to Prioritise Mental Health in the Workplace' highlights the need to create environments that foster mental health, and comes at a time when we are debating the recent death of a 26-year-old EY employee allegedly due to work stress

under intense pressure. The incident yet again flags the ignored subject of mental health. Perhaps reading can be a helpful tool for gaining knowledge when one is struggling with intense emotions – from dealing with trauma to battling burnout. For, most authors convey, nothing is ever truly lost.

Burnout (2019) is a transformative and empowering book by two sisters Emily and Amelia Nagoski who explain why women burn out differently than men and provide a simple, science-based plan to help women manage stress, thrive under pressure and live a balanced life. Instead of asking people to ignore societal pressures that come in between the self and well-being, the sisters delve into how to fight back obstacles.

Never too late
It requires guts to share personal struggles. *Lost Connections* (2019) by Johann Hari focuses on causes that lead to depression and anxiety and why it is important to talk about it. On medication himself, Hari says unless we talk about mental health issues and the multiple factors, societal to environment, that contribute to it, we would remain challenged by the idea of not being able to cope at all. The book makes you feel you exist in a certain context and not in a vacuum and how and why things happen around you and to you.

Ab(olutely) Normal: Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes (2023) edited by Nora Shalaway Carpenter and Rocky Callen, is an interesting collection of 16 powerful and uplifting stories subverting mental health stereotypes. The authors draw on their own lived experiences with mental health conditions and underline why it is never too late to talk since it stitches back together a broken person.

Oxford-trained and NHS clinical

psychologist, Dr. Kirren Schnack, argues that anxiety is not permanent. In *Ten Times Calmer* (2023), she offers a first aid kit of tools to deal with anxious thoughts and stress, managing uncertainty and safely tackling trauma. "Anxiety-free life is easier than we think, not everyone needs therapy and we can do all better with a bit of calm in our lives," she writes.

Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*, Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, *The Catcher in The Rye* by J.D. Salinger are all classics showing how sensitive minds are affected by social problems and chaos and how sadness, nostalgia, frustration can take over, driving one from depression to suicide. The literary studies are eye-openers of their times. But given the rising incidence of mental health issues, it is perhaps time to reshape policies.

Packed with information and insight, *Mental Health and Social Policy* (2013) by David Mechanic, Donna McAlpine and David Rochefort, takes a multi-disciplinary approach examining the nature, origins, distribution and consequences of disorders. The book walks through the basics – is mental health simply the absence of mental illness?; why do some people not think as clearly as others; and why every human being is unhappy at one time or another.

The *Family Guide To Mental Health Care* (2013) by Lloyd I. Sederer highlights the fact that mental illness spares no sex, race, age, ethnicity, or income level, and if left untreated, it can devastate families. It is a comprehensive book that tells you what to do, the first signs of a problem, best steps to be taken, where to find the right care, helpful medications and treatment options.

When nothing in the real world matters, books do, as they can help change perspectives on mental health. After all, mental health is not a luxury but a necessity.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Results of the 15th Assembly elections of Haryana was announced on Tuesday. Here is a quiz on Haryana's legislature

Vignesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1

How many constituencies were contesting in the first election in the State?

QUESTION 2

Which party won the highest number of seats in an election in the State? In which year?

QUESTION 3

Who are the three 'Lals' who shaped Haryana's legislative history?

QUESTION 4

Haryana has never had

a woman Chief Minister. How many women have been elected to the Assembly in the history of the State, including the latest election?

QUESTION 5
How many times was the President's rule imposed in the State?

QUESTION 6
Name the elected Haryana MLA whose actions led to a famous Hindi phrase used in connection with defection.



Visual question:

Identify this person and the distinction she holds. FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This country went to vote for a President for the first time on October 9. **Ans:** Afghanistan

2. This 15-year-old activist was shot at on October 9, 2012. **Ans:** Malala Yousafzai

3. This dam began generating electricity and transmitting it to Los Angeles on October 9. **Ans:** Hoover Dam

4. The Khmer Republic was proclaimed in this country on October 9, 1970. **Ans:** Cambodia

5. Born on October 9, 1864, this man was responsible for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. **Ans:** Reginald Dyer

6. This international day is observed every year on October 9 to commemorate the anniversary of this agency of the UN. **Ans:** World Post Day;

Universal Postal Union

Visual: Identify this film and the person on whom this film is based. **Ans:** Schindler's List; Oskar Schindler

Early Birds: Dodo Jayaditya | Sonali Das | Tito Shiladitya | Piyali Tulsi | Divya Sukhram Kumar



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"Hey, guess what? My cousin has been appointed as lecturer in your old college."

"He's been appointed lecturer! That's nice to know. Does he..."

"Wait a minute. I said he's been appointed as lecturer, and you said he's been appointed lecturer. Which is right?"

"Both are correct"

"Both are correct? Is 'Mohan has been appointed chairman,' the same as 'Mohan has been appointed as chairman'?"

"Yes. There was a time when 'appointed as' was considered incorrect. Not now. Now then, does your cousin like the job?"

"It's hard to say. You see, he hasn't settled as yet"

"You mean he hasn't settled in as yet."

"Settled in?"

"When you say you're settling in, it means that you're getting used to living in a new house or a new town..."

"And I suppose it also means you're slowly, but surely getting used to your new job."

"That's right. So you should have said my cousin hasn't settled in as yet."

"It'll probably take him some more time to settle in his new job. Anyway, right now he's busy looking for an accommodation. Do you..."

"It's not 'an accommodation,' but just 'accommodation'."

"O.K., O.K. He's looking for accommodation."

"It's accommodation. The 'a' and the 'o' of the first and third syllables are pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. The 'o' in the second syllable sounds like the 'o' in words like 'pot', 'hot' and 'cot'. And 'dation' rhymes with the word 'nation.'"

"So, it's accommodation, with the stress on the fourth syllable 'da'."

"That's right. Is your cousin having problems finding a place to stay?"

"I don't think so. But I hope he finds a place real soon."

"Do you hope that he'll find a place real soon, or, do you expect him to find a place real soon?"

"What's the difference? They mean the same thing, don't they?"

"No, they don't. There's a slight difference between the two. When you 'expect' something to happen, there are good reasons for you to believe that it'll happen."

"I expect to get a distinction in the test."

When you 'hope' for something, you want it to happen, but you're not absolutely certain it'll happen. 'I hope to pass the exam' means I have the belief that I'll pass the exam. 'Hope' implies confidence but not absolute certainty. As between 'hope' and 'expect' 'expect' implies greater certainty."

"So..."

"I haven't finished yet. When you 'hope' for something, it is always for something good."

I hope to win the lottery.

When we 'expect' something, that thing can be either good or bad. We haven't had a good monsoon this year; the farmers expect a bad harvest next year."

Published in The Hindu on August 24, 1993.

Word of the day

Debacle:

a sudden and violent collapse; a sound defeat

Synonyms: fiasco, whipping, slaughter, thrashing

Usage: The carefully planned party turned into a complete debacle.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/debaclepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /de'bə:.kəl/, /də'bə:.kəl/

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