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COMPLICATING EXTRADITION

Lalit Modi acquires British citizenship

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Arshdeep and Axar shine as India wins ODI series

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Dalits will vote to oust BJP in U.P.: Akhilesh

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Scandal-hit chipmaker searches for successor after high-profile exit

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Gritty Lakshya wins second straight title

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IN BRIEF



Defaming India won't help you, Shah tells Rahul

PUNE

Defaming India at international platforms won't help Congress leader Rahul Gandhi come to power, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at an event in Pune on Sunday. » Page 4



Man accused of shooting at W.B. constable killed

KOLKATA

Ratan Sheikh, accused of shooting at a constable in West Bengal on Friday, was killed in a police operation on Sunday. The police said he was killed after he opened fire at a police team while trying to evade arrest. » Page 12

EDUCATION PLUS » PAGE 7

Iran targets U.S. radar in Bahrain in fresh strikes

Iran's Revolutionary Guards say they targeted U.S. defence system with six drones; Bahrain says it intercepted the attacks, the second such incident in three days, and condemns Iranian aggression

Agence France-Presse
MANAMA

Blasts echoed over Bahrain on Sunday as the tiny Gulf nation was rattled by the second Iranian drone attack in three days, ending a long lull in strikes during the war in West Asia.

Sirens rang out and authorities posted several alerts on social media urging residents to seek shelter, their first warnings since September.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they carried out a drone attack on a U.S. radar system in the desert island state that hosts U.S. military facilities, including a major naval base.

"The U.S. air defence radar system at the Al-Riffa helicopter base in Bahrain was targeted by six drones belonging to the IRGC Aerospace Force," the Guards said in a statement posted by the state broadcaster on Telegram.

Bahrain's military said it intercepted the attacks, "preventing them from reaching their intended targets". The Foreign Ministry said air defence systems shot down Iranian drones.



Mounting tensions: Iran launched drones targeting a U.S. radar system at a helicopter base in Bahrain on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

Explosions could be heard around 4 a.m. on Sunday, with residents reporting a second series of blasts around 6.30 a.m.

The Interior Ministry, posting on X, called upon "residents to remain calm, proceed to the nearest safe location, and follow news through official channels".

The Iran Guards said in a statement that the Strait of Hormuz was closed, and any aggression by the American enemy would be met with an even harsher and more forceful response.

'Settling scores'

Bahrain "rejects turning its territory into an arena for settling scores and holds Iran fully responsible for these attacks", a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Iran also fired drones at Bahrain on Friday – the first strikes since September against countries in the energy-rich Gulf, which has been heavily targeted in the eight-month war. The Revolutionary Guards carried out the attack after the U.S. launched strikes on Qeshm island in Hormuz.

The U.S. military's Central Command (CENTCOM) said it shot down two Iranian drones in Friday's attack, reporting no casualties or damage.

During the war, Iran has restricted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz oil trade route and struck infrastructure including airports, seaports, energy facilities, and U.S. assets across the region.

U.S. President Donald Trump, whose steep reverse in midterm elections was partly blamed on the Iran war, plans to discuss the conflict at a trilateral meeting with his Chinese and Russian counterparts this week, an official said.

Months of diplomacy have failed to resolve the war, which began with surprise U.S.-Israeli strikes that killed Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Yemeni forces retreat from Bab el-Mandeb Strait held by Houthis

Reuters
SANAA

Yemeni government forces said on Sunday they were withdrawing from the area near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait to focus on defending their main base in Aden, in a major setback for the Saudi-backed campaign against the Houthis (Ansar Allah).

The announcement signalled the apparent end of a six-week offensive to reclaim the coast near the mouth of the Red Sea, seized by Houthis in September in a lightning advance that squeezed oil exports.

"The Southern Armed Forces announce the implementation of a redeployment operation for its forces from Dhubab Airport and the Bab el-Mandeb area," the main military force fighting for Yemen's government said in a statement.

"This step is taken based on the priority of securing the capital, Aden, and the neighbouring governorates, as well as strengthening the front lines and addressing existing threats."



Strategic link: Fishermen pass by a commercial ship in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. AP

The government forces have been based in Aden on the southern coast since 2015 after the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa.

Eight people were killed and 12 wounded in a missile attack by Houthis on Sunday in Lahj province near Aden, sources said.

Sunday's announcement raises the prospect of new Houthi advances towards Aden, and underscores the predicament faced by Saudi Arabia in trying to stop the Houthis' drone and missile attacks on the kingdom. There was no immediate response from the Houthis, or from Saudi Arabia, the Yemeni government's main international ally.

Israeli military says it killed top Hamas commander

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said on Sunday its forces had struck a senior militant from Hamas's military wing, which confirmed the death of one of its commanders in Gaza.

Samir Abu Younis, a military leader who played a key role in planning Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, was killed on Saturday, according to a statement from the Islamist movement's Al-Qassam Brigade.

"A short while ago, the IDF and ISA struck a senior terrorist in Hamas' military wing," the Israeli military said in a joint statement with internal security agency Shin Bet.

Hamas later confirmed his death. "He was killed in a cowardly assassination operation," the Al-Qassam Brigade posted on Telegram, adding Younis was "among the most important commanders involved in the planning and supervision of the 7 October attack".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Eight injured as slab collapses at city hotel under construction

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Eight persons were injured after a slab at an under-construction hotel collapsed in central Delhi's Paharganj on Sunday, the police said.

Ten days ago, a similar incident in Chawri Bazar had claimed seven lives.

"A PCR call regarding the partial collapse was received at the Paharganj police station, following which police personnel rushed to the spot and initiated rescue operations," an officer said, adding that the police are examining how construction work was being carried out despite curbs on such activities in Delhi-NCR under measures to check foul air.

The injured have been identified as Sheikh Saddam, 37, Sheikh Raja, 20, Mohammad Suhail, 50, Sanjud Khan, 40, Gautam Yadav, 28, Varun Yadav, 36, Raja, 36, and Mantsu, 40.

They were rushed to Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital by police personnel and residents.

Some of the injured sustained fractures while others suffered minor injuries. Their medical examinations and treatment are under way, said the officer.

This is the third such incident in the city in the past month.

Ritual and reality



Offering prayers: A woman performs rituals amid toxic foam floating on the polluted Yamuna river at Kalindi Kunj during the Chhath Puja festival, in New Delhi on Sunday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP (REPORT ON PAGE 2)

Depression likely to turn into cyclone, move towards A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA/CHENNAI

A well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a depression and is likely to strengthen further to potentially form a very severe cyclonic storm, with wind speeds gusting up to 145 kmph, the meteorological department has said.

The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Chennai said the weather system is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm over the central parts of the south and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal on Monday. On Tuesday, it is likely to turn into a severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal, before intensifying further and moving northwestwards towards the Andhra Pradesh coast.

If Cyclone Akvan makes landfall in Andhra Pradesh, it will be the third cyclone within a month to hit the State, after Cyclones Arnab and Murasu.

The RMC forecasts moderate rain in parts of north coastal Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikal on Monday, with heavy rain likely in Chennai on Tuesday, and heavy to very heavy rain on Wednesday.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Poverty decline, end of Naxalism are historic milestones that improved tribal lives: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Quoting a World Bank report that said nearly 50 crore Indians have come out of extreme poverty and claiming that the country has been freed from Naxalism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in New Delhi on Sunday that both these achievements had helped to improve the living conditions of tribal people.

These are "two historic national milestones", Mr. Modi said. "These achievements are deeply connected with the lives of our tribal brothers and sisters."

He was addressing a gathering in Gadchiroli through videoconferencing as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, a programme to mark the 151st birth anniversary of freedom fighter and tribal revolutionary Birsa Munda.

Development projects

The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 246 development projects estimated at around ₹3,000 crore.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, instituted on November 15, 2021, is important for India to remember its heritage, its history, and its heroes with *Swadeshi* self-respect, Mr. Modi said, recalling the contributions of tribal communities in the fight against colonialism.



Cultural rhythm: Prime Minister Narendra Modi plays a traditional instrument with tribal artistes at Parliament House Complex. PTI

Referring to a recent World Bank report, the Prime Minister said nearly 50 crore Indians had escaped extreme poverty over the past 12 to 13 years.

Terming this one of India's greatest post-Independence achievements, he said it was driven not by any single government, but by the collective strength of society, the hard work of every citizen, and targeted Central tribal welfare schemes and decisions.

'Major transformation'

"Such a large number of people rising out of poverty is a major transformation in itself. This transformation is the story of a long journey from resolve to achievement. It has created confidence that India can fulfil its resolutions and that every Indian can achieve great goals," he said.

'Freedom from terror'

Mr. Modi said the second achievement was that the country had become free from Naxalism and Maoist terror.

"In 2014, nearly 125 districts of the country were affected by Maoism and Naxalism. Hundreds of incidents of violence occurred every year. Thousands of innocent people lost their lives in these incidents," he said.

People affected by Maoism and Naxalism had been left to their fate by the governments of that era, he said.

"Their rights had been taken away. Everyone sat in silence and remained quiet. You would be shocked to know that these brothers and sisters from our tribal communities were not even allowed to vote. The governments of that time remained mere spectators and sat with their eyes closed," he said.

The Prime Minister added, "Maoists and Naxalites would take away small children from poor mothers, and nobody could do anything. Naxalites would abduct the daughters of our homes, and everyone could only watch helplessly in anguish."

"Today, our tribal society, our Janjatiya community, is contributing enthusiastically to the progress of the nation. Today, even the leadership of the country is in the hands of a daughter from the tribal community. We are all proud of President Droupadi Murmu," he added.

CM, AAP leaders join devotees for Chhath prayers at Yamuna

Rekha Gupta hails Purvanchalis' role in city's growth; Bharadwaj joins party MLA for celebrations in Kondli; metro services to start at 4.30 a.m. today; traffic restrictions in place for final day rituals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



People performing Chhath rituals amid toxic foam in the Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj on Sunday; CM Rekha Gupta, along with other BJP leaders, offering prayers at a ghat in Sonia Vihar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP/ANI





Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders participated in Chhath Puja celebrations at various locations across Delhi on Sunday, the third day of the four-day festival.

Ms. Gupta, along with senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, offered '*sandhya arghya* (evening prayers)' at a ghat on the banks of the Yamuna in Sonia Vihar. "The government's effort is not limited to providing facilities; it is also about making every Purvanchali family feel that Delhi, too, is their home," she said.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Sunday said metro services would begin at 4.30 a.m. on Monday, the final day of the festival, instead of the usual 6 a.m., to facilitate the movement of devotees attending morning prayers. "Metro services will operate at a 15-minute frequency on all lines until the commencement of regular revenue services," the DMRC stated on X.

Traffic restrictions would remain in place on roads leading to and adjoining various ghats along the river, including Ram Ghat, Soor Ghat, Bajrangi Ghat, Vasudev Ghat and Hathi Ghat, the Delhi police said.

After observing the rituals, Ms. Gupta said Delhi is home to people from every part of the country and that the Purvanchali community had made a significant contribution to the Capital's development and growth through hard work and dedication.

"Chhath is deeply connected to their faith and cultural identity, and the government is therefore committed to ensuring that devotees have access to better ghats, a clean environment and all necessary facilities for performing the rituals," she said.

AAP hits out at govt.

Delhi AAP president Saurabh Bharadwaj, who participated in rituals at a ghat in Kondli with party leader and area MLA Kuldeep Kumar, said he had prayed for everyone's peace and prosperity.

Mr. Bharadwaj accused the BJP government of "targeting a Dalit youth" who had posted a video of dead fish in the Yamuna earlier this week.

"If the young children of our Purvanchali brothers and sisters drink this polluted water, they could fall seriously ill and may even end up in hospitals," he added.

The BJP did not respond to AAP's allegations.

Yamuna remains polluted for most of the year despite clean-up plans, data show

Nikhil M Babu
NEW DELHI



Devotees taking a dip in the Yamuna river on Sunday. AP

Despite the political slugfest over the pollution in the Yamuna during yet another Chhath Puja, official data show that the river's Delhi stretch remains heavily polluted for most of the year, with water quality improving during the monsoon, when floodwaters flush out pollutants.

According to official data, the faecal coliform level (microbes from human and animal excreta) in the Yamuna at Asgarpur, where the river leaves the Capital, was 660 times the Central Pollution Control Board desirable limit for bathing water quality in May, before the monsoon. The water quality improved in September, as it does every year after the monsoon.

The Yamuna holds religious significance for people from Purvanchal (residents of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar), who constitute a significant voter base in Delhi. Many observe Chhath Puja by taking a dip in the river.

Since the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in February 2025, an ambitious plan to divert water from the Ganga to flush out pollutants from the Delhi stretch of the Yamuna has been under discussion. However, it has yet to yield any concrete results.

"Even if the plan is finalised, it will take about two to three years for Ganga water to reach Delhi. A detailed project report has been submitted to the government, but it will be hard to give a deadline for the project at this time," an official told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity.

Under the current plan, the government proposes to divert about 500 cusecs of Ganga water from the Upper Ganga Canal, the largest canal carrying Ganga water through western Uttar Pradesh, into the Delhi stretch of the Yamuna at Wazirabad.

Addressing the issue

Experts have long maintained that cleaning the river requires increasing its flow and curbing the sources of pollution.

To address the latter, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, after chairing a review meeting on the Yamuna clean-up plan in July last year, directed the Delhi government to nearly double its sewage treatment capacity to 1,500 million gallons per day by 2028.

To augment the sewage treatment capacity, the government awarded contracts for the construction of 29 decentralised sewage treatment plants (DSTPs) this year. The plants are scheduled for completion in January 2028.

A Delhi Jal Board official said, "All of them are expected to be completed by January 2028 and some of them may be finished even earlier. The construction of the sewer network for these DSTPs is expected to be completed by June 2028."

4 women arrested over 'religious conversion' bid

Press Trust of India
GURUGRAM

Gurugram Police has arrested four women "for attempting to influence" children living in slums to "adopt Christianity by luring them with food items and other objects", an officer said on Sunday.

The women have been booked under provisions of the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2022, and the BNS. One of them is a resident of Manipur, another of Mizoram and a third is a Nepali citizen.

The officer said a person filed a complaint at the Sector 56 police station on Saturday alleging that unidentified persons at a makeshift school in Ghata village were conducting activities "related to religious conversion". Subsequently, a team conducted a raid at the location and arrested the women.

Man held for murdering sister-in-law in west Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Sunday arrested a 23-year-old man for allegedly murdering his 18-year-old sister-in-law inside the trial room of a clothing store in west Delhi's Moti Nagar on Saturday evening, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Saurabh Chandra said.

"The victim, Shabnam, was alone inside the store when the accused, Suraj, entered. An argument broke out between them, following which he allegedly pushed her into the trial room and attacked her with a sharp-edged weapon," the officer said. "The police examined CCTV footage from inside the showroom and the surrounding area to identify the accused," he added.

The police are questioning the accused to ascertain the motive.

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IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE
(SPECIAL JUDGE UNDER NDPS ACT), UDHAMPUR

File No. 59/NDPS challan — Present: V.P.Sharma
CNR No. JKUD010006242022 — J. O. Code: JK00124
Date of Institution: 28.12.2022
Date of Order: 10.10.2026

UT of JK through Police Station Chenani
FIR No. 83/2020
Offences U/s 8/15 NDPS Act.
VS
Nirmal Singh S/o Amarjeet Singh R/o Khumna Tehsil Amloh District Fatehgarh Punjab.

GENERAL WARRANT OF ARREST UNDER SECTION 512 Cr.PC/299 Cr.PC.

To
SHO Police Station, Chenani
Through Ld. APP

1. The instant challan was initially produced before the Court of the Learned Principal Sessions Judge, Udhampur, in the absence of the accused and was subsequently transferred to this Court on 28.12.2022. Upon receipt of the challan, non-bailable warrants of arrest were issued against the accused to secure his presence before the Court.
2. It is pertinent to mention that the accused had been admitted to bail by this Court during the course of investigation. However, his bail bonds were subsequently forfeited on account of his failure to appear before the Court. Consequently, notices were issued to the surety concerned. Despite repeated efforts to secure the presence of the accused, including the issuance of various warrants of arrest and the constitution of a special team for tracing and apprehending him, the accused has remained untraceable. Therefore it has been proved to the satisfaction of this court that accused has absconded to unknown place and is avoiding to appear and face trial before the court and there is no immediate possibilities of his apprehending.
3. As such the General Warrant of Arrest under section 512 Cr. PC/299 Cr.PC is issued against the above said accused. This is to authorize you to arrest the accused wherever he is found and produce the accused before the court. The general warrant of arrest shall remain in force till the accused are arrested and the warrant are recalled by the court.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court today on **10.10.2026.**

Sd/-
(Y. P. Sharma)
Additional Sessions Judge
Udhampur

DIP/J- 14384/26

Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, Load Dispatch center Division Kashmir, JKPTCL, Srinagar-190018
Ph. No. 6006750595 e-mail: xen-ldckmr@jk.gov.in

Gist of e-NIT No: LDC-03/11 of 2026
Dated: 14-11-2026

Contract Title:" Implementation of Advanced Smart Energy Metering Infrastructure comprising of 0.2 S class Smart Interface Energy Meters/ABT Meters, Centralized Cloud,AMR, MDMS, SAMAST Application Compatible and Integration with EEMTS for all 220/132/33kV Grid stations of JKPTCL with AMC for 5 Years as per SBD"

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Load Dispatch center Division Kashmir, hereby invites e-tenders (double cover system) from experienced, reputed, competent and financially sound Indian Firms / manufacturers /companies/Registered Electrical Contractors/Joint Ventures fulfilling eligibility and qualification requirements specified in the Bidding Documents with qualification/ past experience.

The details are as under:

1	Estimated Cost	**Rs. 1459.00 Lacs**
2	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Rs 11800.00
3	EMD/Bid Security	Rs 29.18 Lacs
4	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document (SBD)	From 14/11/2026 at 15:00 Hours
5	Clarifications Start Date	From 14/11/2026 at 16:00 Hours
6	Clarifications End Date	22/11/2026 upto 16:00 Hours
7	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	23/11/2026 at 11:00 Hours
8	Venue of Pre-Bid Meeting	**Office of Chief Engineer JKPTCL Bemina Srinagar.**
9	Start Date & Time of Online submission of Bid	28/11/2026 at 1500 Hours
10	End Date & Time of Submission of Bid	5/12/2026 upto 1500 Hours
11	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	7/12/2026 at 1400 Hours
12	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid (Only of the Technically Qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated After Technical Evaluation (Only to the Technically Qualified
13	Venue of opening of Technical & Financial Bids	O/o Office of Executive Engineer Load Dispatch center Division.

The detailed tender document and NIT is available on e-procurement portal at **http://www.jktenders.gov.in.** Interested bidders may view, download & participate in the tender through online bidding process.

No: EE/LDCD/KMR/7466
Dated: 14-11-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Load Dispatch Center Division Kashmir

DIPK-NB-2123/26

NICDIT ZAHEERABAD INDUSTRIAL SMART CITY LIMITED (NICZISCL)
Request for Proposal (RfP)

RFP No. 02/CEO/RFP/NICZISCL/2026-27 — **Dt: 14.11.2026**

NICDIT Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City Limited (NICZISCL) invites **RFP for Selection of Agency for Investment Promotion, Branding, Marketing, Strategic Communications, Investor Outreach, Event Management and Investor Facilitation for NICDIT Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City Limited (NICZISCL).**

The RFP document can be downloaded from **www.tender.telangana.gov.in, https://zcity.telangana.gov.in/** and **www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in from Dt: 16.11.2026.**

Last date for submission of Proposals: Dt: 23-11-2026, 17:00 Hrs (IST).

Sd/- Chief General Manager(T)
NICDIT Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City Limited
"Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Foor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad - 500004, Telangana, **Ph: 040-23230019,**
Email: ceo-proj-iic@telangana.gov.in ce-2-iic@telangana.gov.in

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provise to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) and/or Mortgagor (s), that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to City union bank ("Secured Creditor"), the Constructive Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor) will be soldon **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS"**on **29.12.2026** for recovery of **Rs.11,14,713/- (Rupees eleven Lakh Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirteen Only)** as on **09.11.2026** due to the City Union Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), from **1. M/s. Karan Traders (Represented by its Proprietrix Mrs.Harmeet Kaur)** 105, B D Chambers, D.b.Gupta Road, Delhi Cantonment, Delhi-110005. **2. Mrs. Harmeet Kaur W/O Gurmeet Singh,** B-997, Shastri Nagar, Near Hanuman Mandir, North West Delhi, Delhi Municipal Corporation (u)- 110005. **Also At, Mrs. Harmeet Kaur W/O Gurmeet Singh** No.26-C, Second floor Block-I, Sector-18 Rohini Residential Scheme Delhi - 110085. **3. Mr. Gurmeet Singh S/O Mohan Singh,** B-997, Shastri Nagar, Hanumam Mandir Wali, Gali, North West Delhi, Near Mother Dairy, Delhi Municipal Corporation (u)-110052. **Also At, Mr. Gurmeet Singh S/O Mohan Singh** No.26-C, Second floor Block-I, Sector-18 Rohini Residential Scheme Delhi-110085.

The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit and other details are mentioned below:

Last Date and Time of Submission of EMD	28.12.2026 Time: 04.00 PM
Date and Time of E-Auction Sale	29.12.2026 Time: 12.00 Noon-01.00 PM
Place of submission of EMD, bid form & Contact Details	City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi Rohini Branch C - 9 / 115, Sector 8,Rohini, New Delhi- 110085 Email : rameshkumar.v@cityunionbank.in Cell No: 8925985779, 8925983650
Reserve Price	Rs.1,20,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakhs only)
EMD 10 % of Reserve Price	Rs.12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs only)
Bid Multiplier	Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs only)
Portal of E - auction	www.auctionbazaar.com

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY/IES
Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule-A : Property Owned By Mrs. Harmeet Kaur

SFS Flat bearing No.26-C on Second Floor Block-1 Sector-18, situated at Rohini Residential scheme Delhi, Delhi Municipal corporation (u) Delhi, Delhi Indian Boundaries: North-East: Entry South-West: Open Below North-West: Open/Staircase South-East: Other Flat/Balcony.

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RISE 12:17	SET 23:15
TUESDAY, NOV. 17	
RISE 06:45	SET 17:27
RISE 12:49	SET 00:00
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18	
RISE 06:46	SET 17:27
RISE 13:19	SET 00:10

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	29	19
Safdarjang	29	19
Palam	28	18

Delhi Palam Today
30°C Shallow fog and mist in cool morning. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool. Weather will be dry with severe pollution level.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
29°C Fall in night temperature. The dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy. Pollution level will be severe.

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6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



P. SRILAKSHAMMA
D.O.D: 16.11.2020
My Mother last word:
The Saddest Thing About Betrayal is That it never Comes from your enemies.
We miss you every moment in our life, your presence continues to surround us, in our hearts, you are always there.
Inserted by: P.Janarthana Reddy, Pavana Kumari, R. Sureshkumar Reddy, S.Krishnakumari & Grandchildren

Guest teachers in Haryana hold mock Assembly, seek regularisation

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Guest teachers in Haryana schools held a mock Assembly at the Mini Secretariat in Kurukshetra seeking regularisation under the three-year policy notified in 2014 in accordance with court orders.

Organised on the call of the Rajkiya Anubandhit Adhyapak Sangh on Saturday, the symbolic Assembly passed a resolution seeking regularisation of guest teachers by an overwhelming majority. The resolution will be submitted to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini at his camp office in Kurukshetra on November 29. The teachers will also hold a rally in Delhi on December 12 and submit the resolution to the President.

'21 years of service'

The participants said guest teachers have been serving in government schools for the last 21 years and contributing to the State's education system, but the government continued to keep them in temporary employment arrangements instead of regularising their services.

They said the mock Assembly was organised to raise questions concerning the regularisation of guest teachers, judicial decisions, and the government's accountability on a public platform.

These teachers, appointed between 2005 and 2008, are working as junior basic teachers, trained graduate teachers, and post graduate teachers.

Assam: owner of minibus arrested over mishap that claimed 26 lives

Police suspect that Anjir Ali tampered with the vehicle's mandatory speed regulator to make it log more trips; 16 undergoing treatment; Cong. seeks enhanced aid for victims, free treatment for injured and livelihood assistance for kin of the deceased

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The police arrested the owner of the minibus involved in the fatal accident near Kaziranga National Park from central Assam's Nagaon district on Sunday.

The accident on Friday claimed 26 lives while 16 others are battling for their lives in two hospitals. The incident occurred when the minibus collided head-on with a container truck in Golaghat district.

The police said they arrested Anjir Ali, the minibus owner, amid an investigation into multiple alleged traffic violations and safety lapses involving the vehicle. They suspect the owner tampered with the vehicle's mandatory speed regulator to make it log more trips.

Senior Superintendent of Police Swapnanil Deka said the minibus had violated speed restrictions on earlier occasions too.


Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visiting the accident site near the Kaziranga National Park on Saturday. FILE PHOTO

Of the 16 people injured, three are on ventilator support, doctors said on Sunday. Although initially the injured were being treated at different hospitals in Kaziranga, Bokakhat, Golaghat and Jorhat, later all of them were shifted to Jorhat Medical College and Hospital (JMCH) for better treatment, a senior doctor said.

One patient was referred to Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh, he added.

JMCH chief superintendent Saurabh Borkotoki said, "Currently, 16 patients remain under treatment in our hospital. Of them, three are on ventilator support." Besides, five other patients are receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), while eight more are admitted and recovering in the general ward, he added.

Cong. writes to PM

Meanwhile, Assam Congress leader Debabrata Saikia on Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enhance compensation for victims of the minibus-truck collision, provide free treatment to the injured, and livelihood assistance to the families of the 26 deceased.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday had announced ₹9 lakh as ex gratia, including ₹2 lakh from the Central government, for the next of kin of each of the deceased.

In the letter to the Prime Minister, the former Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly expressed concern over the "deplorable condition" of the National Highway-715 stretch and alleged that the "neglect of essential road safety measures by the authorities was disturbing".

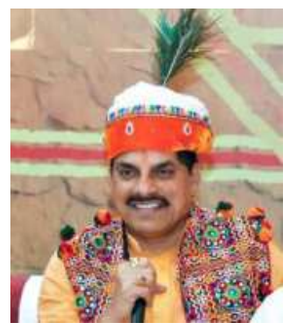
Mr. Saikia also demanded a thorough examination of the road's condition, design, maintenance, traffic management and safety arrangements, as well as urgent intervention on highway safety, health care and infrastructure of the region.

He sought an increase in total compensation to the next of kin of each deceased to at least ₹20 lakh, inclusive of the ₹9 lakh already announced by the Central and State governments, with additional assistance for families losing multiple members.

In the letter, the Congress leader also raised concerns relating to the Kaziranga region, including safety and healthcare facilities on NH-715, alleged misuse of hospital premises, environmental protection, expansion of the eco-sensitive zone, and land acquisitions.

M.P. to carry out crop loss survey in Alirajpur, provide aid to farmers

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL


CM Mohan Yadav on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in Dhar on Sunday. ANI

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday announced a crop loss survey in Alirajpur to provide financial aid to farmers in the State's worst rain-deficit district.

Addressing a Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas programme, marking the birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda, in Jhobat, Mr. Yadav announced he was issuing instructions to the District Collector to begin the survey and provide aid to farmers affected by rain deficiency. "I am issuing directions to the Collector to conduct a survey. You will get money in your accounts from the government," he said.

11 districts affected

At least 11 districts of Madhya Pradesh have experienced severe rainfall deficit, with those in the Nimar and Malwa regions being the worst hit.

Alirajpur, which falls under the Nimar region, recorded nearly 52% lower rainfall than normal. The government has not announced such surveys in other affected districts, even as officials claim that discussions on relief measures are going on.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister and Governor Mangubhai Patel inaugurated a ₹1,353.18-crore Dahi Micro Lift Irrigation Project in Dhar's Dahi, which aims to provide irrigation through Narmada water to 47,000 hectares of agricultural land across 84 villages in Dhar and 42 in Alirajpur districts.

Kin of T.N. truck driver who died in police custody refuse to receive body

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

The family members and relatives of truck driver R. Balakrishnan, who died in police custody at the Chekkanoorani station in Tamil Nadu on Saturday, refused to receive his body even after a post-mortem on Sunday. They demanded the immediate arrest of the police personnel involved in the incident.

The deceased's family alleged that there were injuries on his body due to the "third-degree treatment meted out" to him under police custody.

They had earlier rejected the CB-CID probe ordered by the State government and demanded that the custodial death case be transferred to the CBI.

When officials tried to hand over a cheque for ₹3 lakh as compensation, the family members refused it and staged a protest near Government Rajaji Hospital. They alleged that the police were hand in glove with the truck owner and operator of the courier service for whom Balakrishnan worked, and tried to implicate him in an "accidental fire" on the truck that destroyed cardamom being transported from Theni to Madurai.

"Since the value of the destroyed goods was high, they wanted to implicate my husband in the case," said Sudha, wife of the deceased.

'Procedural lapses'

Meanwhile, CPI(M) cadre, led by its Madurai rural district secretary K. Rajendran, joined the protest. Local party leader K. Samuelraj said the entire case was "fishy" and had a lot of procedural lapses, leading to the death of the driver in police custody.

"Going by the family members, it looks like Balakrishnan was treated by the police as if he had stolen the cardamom parcels. If that were the case, the police should have booked him for theft and proceeded as per law. But after booking a case of accidental fire, why did the police hold inquiries with him for two days, that too all night on Friday?" Mr. Samuelraj said.

"The police had not entered the details of the custodial inquiry of Balakrishnan in the station's records. He was illegally detained without an FIR," the leader added.



INBRIEF



Ex-SGPC chief rejoins Akali Dal, second time in 2 years

Ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly poll, former Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president and three-time former MLA Bibi Jagir Kaur rejoined the Shiromani Akali Dal on Sunday, marking her second return to the party in over two years. Party president Sukhbir Singh Badal inducted Ms. Kaur, also a former Punjab Minister, into the party at Begowal, her home town in Kapurthala district. Ms. Kaur, 72, quit the SAD (Punar Surjit) and returned to the Akali Dal days after former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra rejoined the party. Ms. Kaur was the SGPC president in 1999, 2004, and 2020. PTI

Punjab BJP forms manifesto, 'chargesheet' committees

Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon on Sunday constituted a manifesto committee and a "chargesheet" committee ahead of the 2027 Assembly election. Senior party leader Avinash Rai Khanna will head the manifesto committee while former State chief Sunil Jakhar has been appointed chairman of the "chargesheet" committee. Meanwhile, State Congress president Pargat Singh on Sunday formed a four-member committee to oversee the induction of leaders from other parties and ensure that there is proper coordination with the local leadership. PTI

Defaming India at global events won't bring you to power, Shah tells Rahul

LoP in Lok Sabha should stop going abroad, start visiting villages in India, says Union Minister in Pune; party workers detained ahead of Shah's visit, will intensify protests, alleges Cong. city chief

Press Trust of India
PUNE

Defaming India at international platforms will not help Congress leader Rahul Gandhi come to power, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at an event in Pune on Sunday. Mr. Shah fired the broadside a day after the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha claimed that money power and the capture of institutions had transformed India's electoral and political landscape and pushed Opposition parties to the margins.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for the National Heavy Engineering Cooperative revival initiative, Mr. Shah said the Congress was expressing its frustration over repeated electoral defeats by targeting the country and its leadership at global platforms.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being welcomed by Maharashtra Deputy CM Sunetra Pawar at an airport in Pune on Sunday. ANI

Taking a swipe at the Bharat Summit 2026 in Hyderabad, where Mr. Gandhi made the remark, the Union Minister said "proponents of Left-wing ideology from India and abroad" were invited to the event organised by the Congress government.

In an apparent reference to the Opposition leader, Mr. Shah said, "The Congress's prince also attended this conference where he defamed India at the international level by putting forth anti-Indian thoughts... If he aspires to return to power, he should stop travelling abroad and start visiting villages across India. Then, perhaps, he may have a chance."

The former BJP national president also appealed to Congress workers to question their leadership over its electoral performance, warning that following the existing approach would keep the party out of power for another 30 years.

"Winning or losing elections depends on the performance of political parties and their leaders. The Congress got an opportunity to govern the country for 10 years [2004-14], but during its tenure, corruption of ₹12 lakh crore took place. People eventually voted the party out of power and brought Narendra Modi to the Prime Minister's Office," he said.

'Routine detentions'

Meanwhile, the Congress's Pune unit on Sunday accused the police of detaining party workers ahead of the Union Home Minister's two-day visit to the city.

Congress's city unit chief Prashant Jagtap alleged that party workers are picked up from their houses each time Mr. Shah visits Pune, even when no stir is announced. He warned that the party would intensify its protests during visits by senior BJP leaders if the practice of detaining workers goes on.

Will go all out on job creation if BJP gets third term in U.P.: CM

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW



CM Yogi Adityanath at an event to distribute 25 lakh tablets in Lucknow on Sunday. ANI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday expressed confidence in retaining power in the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll, asserting that in the third term, the BJP government will aggressively push job creation for the people.

He was speaking at an event to distribute 25 lakh tablets on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas under the Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme. Tablets were distributed to over 50,000 students and trainees from 300 educational institutions across Lucknow, Hardoi, Sitapur, and Unnao.

'9.5 lakh jobs created'

Mr. Adityanath alleged that government jobs in U.P. were earlier available only through bribes or political recommendations, and claimed that his government gave employment to 9.5 lakh youth in the last nine and a half years.

Hitting out at Samajwadi party president Akhilesh Yadav, the Chief Minister said, "I have also assured the Samajwadi Party chief. Do not worry. Seeing the size of the gathering today, I can say that we will issue 1.10 lakh appointment letters. When our third innings (term) begins, we will go all out, hitting fours and sixes, and distribute the remaining appointment letters, ensuring that the youth of Uttar Pradesh find employment opportunities right here within the State."

He added that efforts are under way to issue appointment letters to 42,000 Home Guards within the next 10 days.

Talking on the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Adityanath said the BJP government's "zero tolerance towards crime and criminals has transformed the image and identity of the State".

Action sought against T.N. Minister for pursuing tiger in Mudumalai

The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

Conservationists on Sunday sought action against Tamil Nadu Minister for Social Justice, Adi Dravidar Welfare and Hill Tribes Vanni Arasu after a video purportedly showing him pursuing a tiger in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve was posted on social media.

In the video, the Minister and his family are seen on safari vehicles operated by the Forest Department. It shows him running after a tiger. Conservationists have urged the Forest Department to register a case against the Minister under the Wildlife Protection Act for disturbing wildlife.

'Sets bad precedent'

"The Forest Department has clear rules that tourists must not approach wildlife or alight from safari vehicles. Tourists who transgress these rules face stiff penalties. So, it sets a bad precedent if a Minister is allowed to flout the rules," said a wildlife conservationist from the Nilgiris.

A top Forest Department official, who had accompanied Mr. Arasu, said the Minister had not entered a reserve forest area, and the tiger was spotted on a plot belonging to a resort in Achakarai where he was staying. The official said the forest staff were accompanying the Minister only to ensure his safety and he had not alighted from any safari vehicle when the video was taken.

Conservationists disagreed with the explanation, contending that private resort owners were also actively discouraged from allowing people to tour their properties on foot or approach wildlife.

Cong. MLA booked for 'vandalising' stage at Uttarakhand fair

Press Trust of India
DEHRADUN

Congress MLA Harish Dhami was on Sunday booked for allegedly vandalising a stage after he was "denied" an opportunity to speak in the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, even as a war of words erupted between the BJP and the Congress over the incident at a prominent fair.

The Chief Minister lashed out at the Congress, saying it has lost its ground, which is causing its members to "lose their mental balance". Meanwhile, Mr. Harish called the CM "*darpok* (coward)", accusing him of "suppressing" people's voice and challenged the BJP leader to contest against him.

An FIR was lodged against the Dharchula legislator and five others for allegedly vandalising the inauguration stage of the Jaujlibi fair in Pithoragarh district on Saturday.

W.B. BJP chief alleges conversions at missionary schools; draws flak

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Samik Bhattacharya on Sunday warned Christian missionary schools in the State over alleged religious conversions taking place at these institutions.

"If in Christian missionary schools there are anti-India activities on the grounds of religion and colour, we will not allow such schools to continue. In one school, an authority has kept the flag of Pakistan on the table... Another reputed school has asked one of its teachers not to attend the school wearing saffron saris," Mr. Bhattacharya claimed at an event.

'Name the institutions'

This is the first time a senior State BJP leader has made remarks about the community, even as Christian groups have protested against attacks on churches. The Bangiya Christiya Pariseba (BCP), an umbrella forum of Christian organisations, urged Mr. Bhattacharya to publicly name the schools.

"If anyone has indeed engaged in such conduct, it is highly condemnable. However, making sweeping generalisations about Christian missionary schools in public without naming the institutions involved is irresponsible, condemnable and dangerous," said BCP founding secretary Herod Mullick.

Earlier in the day, CM Suvendu Adhikari accused the previous Trinamool Congress government of considering only Muslims as a minority community, asserting that Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains also qualify as religious minorities.

SPOTLIGHT

Ringing the school bell, raising a safety alarm

A six-year-old girl was allegedly brutally assaulted by an eight-year-old schoolmate inside a classroom in Panchkula. The incident has raised serious concerns about school safety, supervision failures, and the possible influence of violent video games on children's behaviour

Ashok Kumar

The school's autorickshaw arrived at its usual time around noon on October 28. Homemaker Aarti (name changed to protect privacy) took a quick, reassuring look at her six-year-old daughter's uniform and schoolbag before waving her off with a smile. However, at 3.30 p.m., when the autorickshaw driver went to pick her up from her school in Haryana's Panchkula district, the girl was nowhere to be found. Her bag was kept at the school's reception area.

The driver informed her family, which lives just five minutes away, and her father came rushing. As he called out her name, his voice grew louder with every frantic step towards the school building. He asked the teachers about his daughter's whereabouts, and they joined him in his search. Soon, a boy approached him, asked his daughter's name and whether he was looking for her. When the father nodded, the boy led him to a classroom on the first floor, telling him that someone had beaten her up.

The father first looked at the lock on the classroom's door and then peeped through the window. What he saw continues to haunt him. "My daughter was lying in a pool of blood, motionless, between the two rows of benches. I thought she was dead. I screamed in agony and asked for the door to be opened. When I went in, I saw her face; it was swollen, bloodied and distorted beyond recognition. I picked her up in my arms and ran downstairs. The blood from her body seeped onto my clothes. I took an autorickshaw and rushed her to a private hospital. Some teachers accompanied me," says Kamlesh (name changed to protect privacy).

Multiple injuries

He shudders while narrating the course of events that followed thereafter, explaining that his daughter remained unconscious for nearly 48 hours. "She was shifted from the private hospital to Panchkula's Sector-6 Civil Hospital, which referred her to Chandigarh's Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER). She was discharged on November 4."

For eight days, Kamlesh's daughter remained under treatment for multiple injuries allegedly inflicted by an eight-year-old boy who studied at the same school. The assault was captured on the classroom's CCTV cameras. Videos showing the boy attacking the girl with a brick and an iron dustbin went viral. The incident has since sparked serious questions about student safety on school premises, the adequacy of supervision in classrooms and possible influence of video games on children's behaviour.



Kamlesh (name changed to protect privacy) takes his daughter to Chandigarh's Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research for regular check-ups after the alleged assault. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

From the CCTV lens

A teacher, who spoke on condition of anonymity, says the school functions in two shifts and the incident took place during the afternoon shift. The morning shift from 7 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. caters to students of Classes VI to XII, while the afternoon shift is from 12.40 p.m. to 4 p.m. for students of the Bal Vatika and those studying in Classes I to V. Bal Vatika comprises students of pre-primary and primary wings, including children studying in nursery and kindergarten. They are dismissed at 3.30 p.m. The Bal Vatika has 20 sections and 20 teachers. However, only 12 teachers were present on the day of the incident. Five had gone for training while three were on leave, the teacher said.

The school spans 10 acres and has 36 rooms and 52 CCTV cameras. There is a camera inside every classroom and 15-16 have been installed in the school's corridors, entrance, and lobby. After the incident, a dozen more cameras have been installed. The footage from these cameras helped the teachers reconstruct the sequence of events that took place on the day of the alleged attack. It was because of these cameras that the boy could be identified, a teacher says.

'Addicted to gaming'

The accused lives in a village near the school with his father, a taxi driver; mother, a homemaker; and an elder sister. At a taxi stand near their house, the father tells *The Hindu* that his son was addicted to gaming. "He spent much of his time playing mobile video games like Free Fire, PUBG and Call of Duty, which are multiplayer battle games," he says.

The father admits to his son's occasional aggressive behaviour at home too, but says he never expected him to exhibit such violence. He says his son often mingled with boys almost twice his age. The father, however, claims that he had stopped the boy from playing mobile games more than a month ago.

Advocate Manbir Singh Rathi, representing the child before the Juvenile Justice Board, describes the boy as "intelligent" and possessing a "keen sense of observation", though somewhat "restive".

According to the boy's account to him, the girl allegedly called him "mad", "possibly because he had been harassing her". "The remark enraged the boy and triggered the alleged assault. The two were not known to each other before the incident," he says.

The boy was apprehended after the girl's family approached the police and kept at an observation home in Ambala for four days before being released following an undertaking by his parents to the Juvenile Justice Board. They assured the board that he would undergo appropriate counselling, behavioural guidance and rehabilitation, besides receiving medical attention and any other care that is required.

Rathi says the Social Investigation Report, which will be prepared by the Probation Officer after speaking to the boy's family, neighbours, teachers, and friends, will throw light on the reasons and circumstances behind the incident. The report will examine the child's broader socio-economic and psychological background for the board's inquiry.

Until now, children below the age of 12 were perceived as unlikely to engage in a serious act of violence, a teacher says, requesting anonymity. "This incident has shattered that belief," the teacher says.

It has rekindled the debate on how unbridled intrusion of technology affects children. "Both teachers and parents need to analyse this, with respect to age-appropriate content on the Internet. This incident could be an important case study," the teacher adds.

Mimansa Singh Tanwar, clinical psychologist and Head of Fortis School National Mental Health Programme, says excessive exposure to violent or highly competitive games could contribute to aggressive thoughts, language and behaviour in some children, particularly during their formative years.

"Prolonged gaming, especially games involving rapid rewards, intense stimulation and competition, may make it difficult for children to tolerate delays, frustration, and disappointment," she says.

The girl's uncle has accused the school authority of gross negligence, saying the child had remained missing for a long without anyone noticing.

Following the incident, three teachers, including the principal, were suspended by the Haryana Education Department. A Standard Operating Procedure has been released for schools to prevent similar incidents in the future.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Tributes to the Great Revolutionary of India's Freedom Struggle and Immortal Martyr



Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha

and his six brave revolutionary companions on their

Martyrdom Day



Shaheed Vishnu Ganesh Pingle



Shaheed Jagat Singh



Shaheed Harnam Singh Sialkoti



Shaheed Bakhshish Singh



Shaheed Surain Singh (Senior)



Shaheed Surain Singh (Junior)

"Sewa desh di jindariye badi aukhi,
Gallan karniyan dher sukhalliyan ne.
Jinhan desh sewa vich pair paya,
Unhan lakh museebatan jhalliyan ne."



S. Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

1092/13/2026-27/17073

INBRIEF



NIA arrests deported accused in Sri Lankan trafficking case

The NIA on Friday arrested Pudumadam Imran, an absconding accused in the Sri Lankan human trafficking case, after he was deported from Sri Lanka and handed over to Indian authorities. Imran was detained by the Sri Lankan authorities based on an Interpol Red Notice issued at the request of the NIA. According to the NIA, Imran was actively involved in a conspiracy to traffic Sri Lankan nationals by promising to facilitate their migration to Canada using valid documents.

Police bust 'global drug racket', arrest 3 key operatives in T.N.

The Keralam police have busted an international synthetic drug trafficking network with the arrest of three alleged key operatives, including two Nigerian nationals, from Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu. The arrests were made as part of the anti-narcotics drive, Operation Toofan. The trio were key links in a network that allegedly used a garment export-import company as a front to manufacture and distribute synthetic drugs, particularly MDMA, in Keralam, the police said.

Woman trampled to death by wild elephant in Karnataka

A woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Tagare village of Hassan district in Karnataka on Saturday evening. Jayamma, 45, was grazing her sheep in a plantation area near the village when she encountered the elephant. Local people staged a protest in the area and blamed the negligence of the Forest Department for her death. Several instances of human-elephant conflict have been reported in the district leading to tension and casualties.

Revanth meets PM, seeks aid for irrigation projects

Telangana CM urges Modi to expedite clearances, and appeals for Centre's help to secure approval from Maharashtra for Tummidihatti project; he invites PM to attend the Khelo India Youth Games

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, and called upon him to intervene in resolving inter-State disputes and expediting clearances for irrigation projects.

He sought an additional ₹5,000 crore for Telangana under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment, stating that the funds would help complete irrigation projects.

On the proposed barrage at Tummidihatti across the Pranahita river, Mr. Reddy urged Mr. Modi to persuade the Maharashtra government to agree to its construction at 152 metres. He said Telangana was prepared to pay compensation for the submergence of land in Maharashtra. It would enable Telangana to meet the irrigation and drinking water requirements of backward and tribal regions, he said.

The Chief Minister also reportedly drew Mr. Modi's attention to the pending environmental and other statutory clearances for the Dr. S. Jaipal Reddy Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, the Sitarama Sagar Multipurpose Project and the Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme.

He invited Mr. Modi to attend the inaugural and concluding ceremonies of the Khelo India Youth Games-2026, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad in December. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and State Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari were present at the meeting.



Seeking relief: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy and other dignitaries in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Pinarayi alleges irregularities in move to procure 200 MW power from firm

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The CPI(M) on Sunday demanded a judicial inquiry into Keralam's procurement of 200 MW of electricity in October, alleging large-scale corruption in the deal.

Leader of the Opposition in the Keralam Assembly Pinarayi Vijayan alleged that the United Democratic Front (UDF) government decided to purchase electricity from VEH Global at a relatively high price of ₹11 per unit without inviting bids or securing the approval of the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission.



Pinarayi Vijayan

According to Mr. Vijayan, a supply of 200 MW was secured merely on the strength of an offer made by the firm. The commission has not yet approved this power purchase, he said. The government entered into this deal when wind energy costs just ₹3 or ₹4 per unit. The UDF decision entails a huge loss for the exchequer, he said.

He alleged that VEH Global was ineligible to participate in a tender process.

CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan said an independent investigation was necessary to bring out the facts.

GNA Energy row

Recently, the UDF government's decision to procure electricity from over-the-counter platform GNA Energy allegedly overlooking an offer from the Himachal Pradesh government had sparked a major political row in Keralam.

(With inputs from PTI)

As diabetes spikes in Kashmir, lens turns to celebrated *wazwan*

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Kashmiri *wazwan*, an array of dishes adding up to 4,500-5,500 calories partaken during festivals and weddings, is one of the key cultural factors contributing to a spike in cases of diabetes in Kashmir, according to experts.

Kashmir's social life is organised around large, meat-centred feasts, most visibly the *wazwan* served at weddings or on Eid.

Diabetes Simplified for Kashmir, a book released on World Diabetes Day (November 14), states that the multi-course meal can run to over 30 mutton and chicken preparations, with the calorie intake "several times the average daily requirement".

"Such exposure accumulates rather than occurs in isolation, and repeated post-prandial glucose and lipid excursions of this magnitude plausibly contribute to the region's rising dysglycaemia burden," the book, co-authored by endocrinologists Mohammad Hayat Bhat and Shahnawaz Mir, and cardiologist Nasir Shams, stated.

J&K has witnessed a spike in the incidence of diabetes in the past three years. The Union Territory screened more than 2.15 million people for diabetes; 48,623 individuals have been diagnosed to have diabetes, according to data from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In 2025-2026, 2.84 million people were screened and 85,948 were found to have diabetes.



A *wazwan* dish being prepared during a wedding in Srinagar. IMRAN NISSAR

"In the past three years, J&K added 2.18 lakh new patients to its diabetes burden," the Ministry's data suggested.

Apart from more universally seen factors, including poor physical activity and consumption of tobacco, the book identifies Kashmir's unique lifestyle among the contributing factors.

"Kashmir's daily plate remains rice-centric with rice typically supplying the bulk of meal volume and carbohydrate load. Large portions of rice translate directly into high post-prandial glycaemic load," it stated.

Lifestyle factor

"Type 2 diabetes prevalence in Kashmir has risen sharply within a single generation. A survey in 1999 found known diabetes in just 1.89% adults with 4.25% undiagnosed. Recent Indian Council of Medical Research-INDIA data show 7.8% prevalence," the authors said, attributing the rising incidence of Type 2 diabetes to lifestyle in Kashmir.

Sabarimala pilgrimage season to start tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

As many as 75 pilgrims are expected to climb the 18 holy steps to the Sabarimala temple every minute under a new crowd management target set by the authorities for the annual pilgrimage season, which kicks off on Tuesday.

Devaswom Minister K. Muraleedharan said the police had been given necessary directions to achieve the target. Senior police officers were also reviewing the arrangements on the instructions of the Home Minister.

Dismisses concerns

The Minister also sought to dismiss concerns over the availability of Appam and Aravana during the season. He said his visit to the production centre had convinced him of the efforts being made by employees to ensure uninterrupted production by working round the clock.

"The Devaswom Board had assured us that the pilgrimage season could be completed smoothly if 75 lakh tins of Aravana were made available," he said.

Mr. Muraleedharan also said that the State government would release the first instalment of payments due to local self-government bodies for setting up facilities for pilgrims within a couple of days. Instructions had also been issued to ensure adequate stocks of medicines at healthcare centres. All government departments involved in the pilgrimage arrangements were working in coordination to discharge their responsibilities, the Minister said.

Smoke screen



A farmer burning rain-soaked fodder to keep mosquitoes at bay at a coastal village in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. Strong winds and rain triggered by Cyclone Murasu damaged cattle sheds, forcing farmers to keep their livestock in the open. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Race for Hiriyur ticket heats up as bypoll misses deadline

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP and JD(S) are exploring the possibility of fielding a joint candidate for the byelection

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has yet to set a date for the byelection in the Hiriyur Assembly constituency in Karnataka. The seat became vacant following the death of former Minister D. Sudhakar on May 10.

Under Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a byelection to fill a vacancy in a State Legislature must be held within six months. Meanwhile, speculation is growing over which candidates the three main political parties will field.

Sources said the commission delayed the poll because it was preoccupied with the special intensive revision (SIR) of Karnataka's electoral rolls.

Congress sources said the party has decided to field Suhas Sudhakar, son of the late D. Sudhakar.

Meanwhile, the BJP and the JD(S) are exploring the possibility of fielding a joint candidate.

Congress MLC Rajendra Rajanna, son of former Minister K.N. Rajanna, has met former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and is reportedly seeking the alliance's support for his candidature.

However, Congress sources have ruled out the possibility .

Former BJP MLA Poornima Srinivas, wife of Congress MLC D.T. Srinivas, is also understood to be lobbying for the Congress ticket, reportedly with the backing of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. However, Congress sources say she is unlikely to be selected.

Panchayat elections to some villages on Odisha boundary a big challenge for A.P. govt.

The Hindu Bureau
PARVATIPURAM

Former Deputy CM said that the then government had conducted the elections fearlessly

The Andhra Pradesh government is set to face a fresh challenge in conducting the panchayat elections in the Kotia group of villages, along the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha boundary, where the polling is scheduled for November 29 in the second phase.

The Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) polls in the area were disrupted a few weeks ago.

The Odisha officials have reportedly barred the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party from campaigning in several villages, including Ganjaibhadra, Pagaluchennuru and Pattuchennuru. Campaigning was seen only in boundary villages like Sarika and Kurukuttu.

Earlier, the Odisha officials had taken MPTC candidates from Ganajibhadra into their custody, leading to protests among TDP and YSRCP leaders. With Odisha objecting to the local body elections, the State shifted several polling booths. The polling percentage in the ZPTC and MPTC elections was only 34%. Against this backdrop, conducting the polls is a formidable challenge for the State.

Former Deputy Chief Minister and YSRCP leader Peedika Rajanna Dora on Sunday said that the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government had conducted elections fearlessly despite the heavy deployment of Odisha police personnel in the Kotia group of villages.

He said that it was the responsibility of the State government to conduct the elections and prove its geographical jurisdiction over the villages which were allocated to A.P. as per the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

Andhra Pradesh and Odisha both claim Kotia villages, a dispute pending before Supreme Court.

Beneficiaries of Central health scheme in Keralam face delays, overcrowding

C Maya
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An acute shortage of doctors, inadequate number of wellness centres and mounting number of beneficiaries under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) in Keralam have been putting thousands of senior citizens, who are former Central government service employees through inordinate hardships in trying to access medical care.

A public-funded healthcare scheme in existence since 1954, CGHS benefits lakhs across the country as it covers outpatient and inpatient care, unlike regular health insurance schemes.

A total of 1,00,018 CGHS beneficiaries in Keralam, including 82,197 pensioners, are served by just six wellness centres under modern medicine – three in Thiruvananthapuram and one each in Ernakulam, Kozhikode and Kannur.

Apart from the skewed geographical distribution of these wellness centres, the acute shortage of doctors at these centres – two doctors each in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi and one each in Kannur and Kozhikode – has resulted in overcrowding, procedural delays and severe operational bottlenecks.



A total of 1,00,018 CGHS beneficiaries, including 82,197 pensioners, are served by just six wellness centres in Keralam. GETTY IMAGES

Working hours

The working hours of CGHS centres are from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. There are facilities for booking an appointment online the previous day, which are filled in a matter of seconds, and beneficiaries from even nearby districts often come as early as 4.30 a.m. to stand in a queue.

All operations happen online and the CGHS central server shuts down promptly at 2 p.m. An average of 250-300 patients turn up daily at major CGHS centres. The doctors are helpless about the huge number of beneficiaries in the queue after 2 p.m.

"Senior citizens like me, who are over 70 years, can go directly to any CGHS-empanelled hospital and seek medical care but if I need to get my medicines free of cost, I will have to come to the CGHS centre. Very few private hospitals in Thiruvananthapuram are empanelled under CGHS," a beneficiary says.

Three held in Bhopal for duping Delhi woman

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three persons have been arrested from Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal for duping a woman from Delhi of ₹71 lakh by threatening her with digital arrest, officers from Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations unit of the Delhi Police said on Sunday.

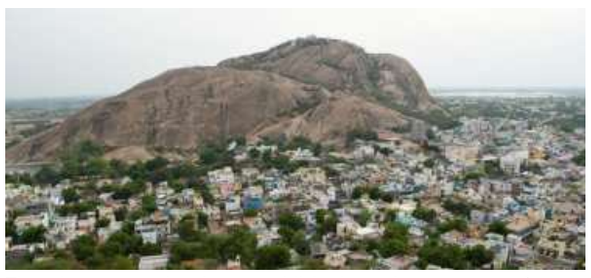
The accused have been identified as Priyanka Prajapati (31), Aman Soni (28) and Pinky Soni (30).

According to the police, the victim received a WhatsApp video call from a person posing as an IPS officer posted in Mumbai.

The fraudsters threatened to arrest her and send her to judicial custody, and coerced her into transferring the money under the pretext of verification to avoid legal action.

Karthigai Deepam lit only at Deepa Mandapam for over 150 years, T.N. govt. tells Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI


There has never existed any established practice or custom of lighting the lamp on the summit of the Thirupparankundram Hill or at the stone pillar "now described as d*eepathoon*", the State says.

The Tamil Nadu government has made a clear stand in the Supreme Court that there has never existed any established practice, custom, or even a prior claim of lighting the Karthigai Deepam on the summit of the Thirupparankundram Hill or at the stone pillar "now described as the d*eepathoon*". It said the Karthigai Deepam had been lit only at the Deepa Mandapam for over 150 years.

The State government, in an affidavit filed by the Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, T.G. Vinay, said the unsubstantiated claim made by the Hindu Dharma Parishad was "calculated to occasion a breach of peace upon a sensitive site with a recorded history of communal tension". A contrary religious right under Articles 25 (right to religious freedom) and 26 (right to manage religious affairs) of the Constitution had been neither pleaded nor proved by the Parishad, it added.

The government's affidavit was responding to a writ petition filed by the Parishad, through its representative K.K. Ramesh, seeking three sweeping reliefs - that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) take over and control the entire Arulmigu Subramaniyaswamy Temple at Thirupparankundram and the hill itself; that a lamp be lit on the *Deepathoon* permanently, 24 hours a day; and that the entire hill be lit with lamps on Karthigai Deepam.

The Commissioner said the temple, believed to be the first of the six sacred abodes of Lord Subramaniya and a public religious institution of great antiquity, its administration and control, together with the hill upon which it was situated along with its endowed properties, vested exclusively with the statutory machinery, the Board of Trustees, and the Executive Officer appointed under the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

Ownership of the hill

The conduct of daily pujas and festivals, and observance of the customary rituals of the temple, including the manner and the place of lighting the Karthigai Deepam, fell within the exclusive domain of the temple administration in accordance with the Agamas, the opinion of the Sthanikars and the 1959 Act, and not with any private association like the petitioner-Parishad, the Commissioner said.

The ownership of the hill by the temple was decreed and settled by a 1923 court decision, according to which the temple had ownership and possession of the whole hill and the Giri Veedhi (surrounding road). However, the court had excluded certain areas such as the assessed and occupied lands in Nellithope, together with the new Mandapam, the steps leading up to the mosque, and the top of the rock on which the mosque and the flagstaff of the Muslims are located.

Though the Madras High Court had reversed the 1923 judgment three years later, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council had restored the decree on an appeal filed by the temple.

The State said the ASI cannot take over the administration of a "living temple". The statutory role of the ASI was confined to preservation of monuments of national importance, and not control of a temple, it argued.

Mekedatu dam row: Oppn. urges Vijay to protect T.N.'s interests

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/TIRUNELVELI

The Opposition has urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to protect Tamil Nadu's interests in the Mekedatu issue. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami urged Mr. Vijay to take up Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu dam project with the Congress leadership during his visit to New Delhi on Monday, and press for the implementation of the Supreme Court's orders on the sharing of Cauvery water.

In a statement, Mr. Palaniswami criticised Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for repeatedly asserting that building a dam at Mekedatu was Karnataka's right, and required no one's permission. He said such remarks could create differences between the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Mr. Palaniswami said the proposed dam would threaten irrigation in the Cauvery delta districts.

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru – 560080
Advt. 25 /2026 dt. 16 November 2026
Raman Research Institute is a premier autonomous institute engaged in research in basic sciences funded by the Government of India. The Institute is inviting applications for the following position on deputation basis:
Assistant Administrative Officer I – One post
Last date to apply is **31 December 2026**. For more details, please visit:
https://www.rri.res.in/careers/regular-other-openings

J&K Services Selection Board exam: cheating racket busted; 14 arrested

Press Trust of India
JAMMU

In a major intelligence-led operation, police on Sunday arrested 14 suspected individuals for allegedly attempting to facilitate cheating in the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board Finance Assistant Examination here.

Acting on credible intelligence inputs, the police took swift action and apprehended the suspected facilitators along with electronic equipment allegedly intended for the commission of the offence, a police spokesperson said.

He said preliminary inputs suggested that the suspects had devised a mechanism to transmit answers to selected candidates appearing in the examination through modern electronic communication technology.

Taking prompt cognisance of the intelligence inputs, multiple police teams were formed and strategically deployed around identified examination centres to detect and apprehend the suspected facilitators and prevent any attempt to compromise the fairness and integrity of the examination process, the officer said.

Devices seized

The 14 suspects were apprehended from peripheral and adjoining locations of various examination centres before the commencement of the test. Electronic devices, including wireless radio sets were found and seized by police.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KANUPUR IRRIGATION PROJECT
AT/PO-BASUDEVPUR, DIST-KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN-758047
e-mail: ccekipbpur@gmail.com

"e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE - Bid Identification No.: CCE, KIP (KHWD)-19/2026-27
(Pertaining to Kanpur Head Works Division, Basudevpur)

1.	Name of the Work	"Slope Protection work near Upstream Old Baitarani River Bed from RD 1749.00m to RD 1851.00m under Kanupur Irrigation Project, Keonjhar."
2.	Total No. of Package	01 (One No.)
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs.131.28 Lakh
4.	Period of completion	06 (Six) Calendar Months including rainy season.
5.	Class of Contractor	"B" & "A" Class Contractor.
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	Dt.17.11.2026 from 10.00 Hours to Dt.01.12.2026 up to 17.00 Hours.
7.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	01.12.2026 up to 17.00 Hours.
8.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender (Technical Bid)	02.12.2026 at 11.00 Hours
9.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Mahendra Kumar Behera Chief Construction Engineer, Kanupur Irrigation Project, At/Po.- Basudevpur, Dist.- Keonjhar, Odisha - 758047.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"
(Er.Mahendra Kumar Behera)
Chief Construction Engineer,
Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar, Odisha
32001/1345/2627
OIPR-32001/32376/1/26-27/0015

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
Email ID : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
Letter No.: 6685 Date:09/11/2026
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Through GePNIC - e_Procurement Notice

1. Name of the Work : Road works (Periodical Renewal work of 5 Years Completed PMGSY Road (POST DLP) for the year 2026-27 under State Budget Grant) (Total Six (6) Nos of Works)
2. Class of Contractor : "A" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.312.47 Lakhs to Rs.557.73 Lakhs (Approximately)
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 42/2026-27	17.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	01.12.2026 up to 5.30 P.M.	30.11.2026 up to 2.00 P.M.	02.12.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Sunabeda.
25001/1581/2627
OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0083

EDUCATIONPLUS

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Choosing a future at 16

Education should empower young people with choices that broaden their futures, not decisions that limit them before their journeys have begun.


GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Vipin Benny

A first-year Commerce professor asked students to prepare a simple trial balance. The lecture hall fell silent. Many were unsure where to begin. But these were students who had scored over 90% in the higher secondary exams. The problem was not intelligence but preparation.

In school, Accounting was treated as theory, a subject to be memorised, rather than as a practical discipline to be understood and applied. Students learnt definitions, principles, and formats but did not develop the conceptual understanding needed to record transactions or solve real accounting problems. However, higher education assumes practical competence that they were never encouraged to build. This scene can be seen across Commerce classrooms nationwide, revealing a growing disconnect between exam success and university readiness.

Intention vs. reality

Among the significant reforms introduced by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is the introduction of Focus Areas in higher secondary education to help students prioritise selected subjects according to their interests. The intention was to reduce unnecessary academic burden and encourage deeper engagement with chosen disciplines but, across colleges, educators increasingly report that many first-year students lack the foundational knowledge required.

Commerce students frequently struggle with Business Statistics, Economics, and Financial Accounting because their mathematical and conceptual foundations are weak. Science students entering Engineering, Biotechnology, or Computer Science often lack sufficient exposure to the complementary disciplines that modern innovation demands. Humanities students experience difficulties with research methodology, analytical writing, and critical thinking. Consequently, universities spend valuable classroom time re-teaching school-level concepts rather than introducing advanced knowledge. Bridge courses and remedial classes have become increasingly common, not because universities have lowered their expectations but because incoming students are arrivin less prepared.

This raises a fundamental question: are schools preparing students for higher education or merely for board exams? The purpose of higher secondary education should be about cultivating conceptual understanding, analytical ability, and intellectual confidence. Unfortunately, many students still succeed by rote memorisation. High exam scores, therefore, create an illusion of competence that disappears when students confront unfamiliar academic challenges requiring application, reasoning, and independent thinking.

Choice made early

The challenge is intensified by the age at which students make these choices. Most select their focus areas between 16 and 18 years, when career aspirations are still evolving. A student who reduces exposure to Maths may later wish to pursue Economics, Finance, Business Analytics, or Data Science. Another student who limits scientific learning may discover an interest in interdisciplinary research after entering university. By then, rebuilding the missing academic foundation becomes difficult, time-consuming, and expensive. Early educational decisions should expand future opportunities, not restrict them before students fully understand their potential.

This system also risks widening educational inequality. Families with financial resources can compensate for this through private tuition, coaching centres, online courses, and individual mentoring. Students from rural communities and economically disadvantaged backgrounds depend primarily on what schools provide. When foundational subjects receive less emphasis, they have fewer opportunities to bridge learning gaps independently.

Broad foundation

This does not argue against specialisation itself. While encouraging students to pursue their interests remains essential, meaningful specialisation should rest upon a broad academic foundation built through conceptual learning, rather than selective omission. Strong education systems ensure competency in Maths, language, scientific reasoning, communication, and problem-solving before encouraging greater specialisation.

India's aspiration to become a global knowledge economy depends not only on expanding educational access but also on strengthening quality. Schools must nurture curiosity, conceptual understanding, creativity, and lifelong learning. Policymakers, teachers, universities, parents, employers, and students should work together to ensure that flexibility does not come at the cost of a strong foundation. Education should empower young people with choices that broaden their futures, not decisions that limit them before their journeys have begun.

The writer is an Assistant Professor, and a Research Supervisor at St. Thomas College (Autonomous), Thrissur, Kerala.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Focus Area Science Technology Summer Fellowship
Offered jointly by IISc-Bengaluru, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and National Academy of Sciences, India, Prayagraj.
Eligibility: Students pursuing B.Sc., B.Tech., BCA, MBBS, M.Sc., M.Tech., MCA, B.Pharm., and integrated or dual-degree programmes, with a minimum average of 65% in core subjects from Class 10 onwards.
Rewards: Fellowship opportunity.
Application: Online
Deadline: November 30
www.b4s.in/edge/FSSF2

ONGC Merit Scholarship
Offered by the ONGC Foundation
Eligibility: Indian nationals from SC, ST, OBC, and economically weaker General categories who are in the first year of Engineering, MBBS, MBA, or Master's in Geology/Geophysics, have at least 60% or 6.0 CGPA and an annual family income of less than ₹450,000 for SC/ST students; less than ₹200,000 for OBC and General category students.
Rewards: ₹48,000/year
Application: Online
Deadline: November 30
www.b4s.in/edge/ONGM1

Vylor Agritech Scholarship
Offered by Vylor Agritech
Eligibility: Students in any year of UG, PG, or Ph.D. in Agriculture and allied courses at government colleges, including the IITs, NITs, IISc, ICAR-recognised colleges, and State Agricultural Universities with an annual family income not exceeding ₹600,000.
Rewards: ₹25,000/year for UG and ₹35,000/year for PG and Ph.D. programmes.
Application: Online
Deadline: November 30
www.b4s.in/edge/VASP1

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

STEM Utsav

STEM Metaverse has opened registrations for the fourth edition of Bharat Builds 2047: The STEM Utsav, a national innovation competition that invites students from across India to respond to a single question: what would they create for the country in 2047?

Students can take part through their schools or register directly.

Participation is free and each student may submit one entry in a single category.

Deadline to register is January 10, 2027

For categories and other details , visit https://shorturl.at/qMd41

Stoop to conquer

Congress should scale down its ambition while seeking alliance with SP

As Uttar Pradesh heads to the polls in early 2027, a familiar seat-sharing tussle has emerged within the Opposition. The Samajwadi Party and the Congress share an understanding forged during the Lok Sabha elections that earned them a good share of the State's seats, but the Congress is now reportedly seeking 181 seats, nearly 45% of the 403 Assembly constituencies. It is the latest instance of the dilemma facing the Congress as it seeks revival in States where it has become a marginal force: how to strike a favourable bargain with stronger partners without weakening the coalition against the BJP. With discontent rising against the BJP, which still occupies a hegemonic position in the party system, the Opposition feels a wind behind its sails, and its major parties agree that the only way to take on the BJP is a formidable coalition with a compelling, unified message. But the Congress's attempt to rebuild itself in the Hindi heartland and in States where it once held sway has strained that unity. In Bihar, the Mahagathbandhan failed to reap the benefits of anti-incumbency against the JD(U)-BJP alliance, partly because it could not tap the full support of the social forces behind the RJD and the Congress, and partly because the Congress took too long to settle seat-sharing for the campaigns to gel. In Tamil Nadu, the Congress held out for more seats from the DMK and delayed the alliance, while infighting produced a lacklustre campaign that left it with the lowest vote share, in the seats it contested, among the alliance partners.

Uttar Pradesh need not go the same way. The demand for 181 seats is overly ambitious for a party that managed a mere 2.33% of the votes in the 399 seats it contested in 2022, when the SP won 111 of the 347 seats it contested with a 32% vote share. The Congress has a point that the variables have changed since. In 2024, the SP and the Congress together won 43 of U.P.'s 80 Lok Sabha seats with a 43.2% vote share, just short of the BJP-led alliance's 43.7%. The Congress won only six of the 17 seats it contested, but its vote share in those six, 44.2%, was marginally ahead of the SP's 43.4%. The party could also argue that its campaigns on youth concerns and the state of India's electoral democracy give it the heft to seek more. But its lack of an efficient State-wide organisation suggests that 181 is too high. The SP remains the strongest Opposition party, having assiduously built a new social coalition of backward classes, Dalits and minorities. A well-targeted 100 or so seats would be more realistic. The alternative to swimming together is sinking separately.

A step back

Trump must accept the realities of the war if he wants a deal

Before the November 3 midterm elections, U.S. President Donald Trump had repeatedly threatened to "destroy" Iran unless it entered into a deal with the U.S. to end the war. Since the elections, in which Mr. Trump's Republican Party suffered a massive defeat, the U.S. President appears to have toned down his rhetoric. Last week, he said he had decided against escalating the military conflict with Iran following requests from America's Gulf allies. But the U.S. would maintain the naval blockade of the Islamic Republic. Mr. Trump also pulled Vice President J.D. Vance off negotiations with Iran, as the Qatar-mediated talks made no real progress. Iran wants the U.S. to lift the blockade, unfreeze its frozen assets, issue sanctions relief and pull back from the Persian Gulf for direct negotiations on the nuclear programme to restart. The U.S., which calls Iran's demands "outrageous", has now adopted a no-war, no-deal approach, hoping that the economic blockade would force Tehran to offer concessions in the near future. Mr. Trump's retreat from the threats reflects the realities on the ground. Before the U.S. and Israel launched this war by assassinating Iran's Supreme Leader on February 28, Tehran was ready to make concessions. The U.S. and Israel carried out heavy bombing for 40 days but achieved none of their declared objectives.

Mr. Trump has only himself, and Benjamin Netanyahu, to blame for the predicament he is in. He is the one who sabotaged a functioning Obama-era nuclear deal in 2018 that had denied Iran a path towards the nuclear bomb. Mr. Trump joined Israel's unprovoked war on Iran in June 2025 and declared that he had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear programme. And the same Mr. Trump started the current war, just eight months later, over the same nuclear programme. The Iranian state has survived, though Iranians are facing enormous economic woes. Iran's counterattacks have either destroyed or damaged America's bases in the Persian Gulf. High oil prices and inflation turned the American electorate against the Republican party, while in Israel, Mr. Netanyahu, despite war rhetoric and racist attacks on the country's Arab minorities, lost the governing majority. Yet, Mr. Trump does not seem to have grasped the seriousness of the situation. His no-war, no-deal approach risks a resumption of hostilities as Iran has pledged to break the siege. The U.S. has few clear military options. A more rational way forward is through diplomacy. But for that, Mr. Trump must first accept the strategic reality that he has lost the war.

India's green law needs baselines, not snapshots



Prasanth Raju

Practising Advocate and Counsel in Bombay High Court

On August 22, the Supreme Court set aside the National Green Tribunal's judgment of December 2017, which had held the organisers of the World Culture Festival responsible for damage to the Yamuna floodplain. The festival ran from March 11 to 13, 2016, on 25 hectares of active floodplain upstream of the DND flyway in Delhi, on land allotted by the Delhi Development Authority. The appellant was Vyakti Vikas Kendra India, which runs the Art of Living International Centre. The Authority must now refund the ₹5 crore the organisers deposited as environmental compensation.

The proposition on which the judgment rests deserves defending. The 'polluter pays' principle presupposes a polluter. Liability for ecological harm must attach to the party to whom that harm is attributable, and not to whoever happens to be in occupation when the reckoning is finally attempted. A doctrine that operates without attribution forfeits the moral authority on which its severity depends. The difficulty lies in what the reasoning does with uncertainty, and that difficulty will outlive this case.

The Tribunal emerges with very little credit, and the criticism is deserved. Culpability was settled, in substance, two days before the festival opened. On March 9, 2016, the Tribunal allowed the event to proceed on condition that the organisers deposit ₹5 crore and bear the cost of restoration if damages were later found. That interim order recorded that the floodplain had been drastically tampered with. It carried no reasons and rested on a single site visit by a committee appointed 18 days earlier. The promised reasons never came. The Tribunal clarified a month later that the order left every argument open, then declined for 20 months to revisit its finding, because the organisers had not appealed against it.

Nor was the land undamaged when it changed hands, and that does not rest on the appellant's word. An expert report of April 2014, filed in earlier proceedings about the same river stretch, described the floodplain as ruined. The Tribunal's own order of July 2015 recorded that its restoration directions had gone unimplemented. In December 2015, the organisers reported construction debris across 25 to 30 acres of the allotted land, and the Authority permitted its removal.

The committee then unmade its own case. In November 2016, it said it could not assess the ecological condition of the site before the event, having described that condition in confident detail four months earlier. It nevertheless recommended a full ecological upgrade of the floodplain, which the Tribunal ordered, adding the cost of a biodiversity park that had never existed on the land. Restoration returns a site to what it was. An upgrade makes it better than it was. Section 15 of the National Green Tribunal Act, the source of the Tribunal's power here, provides for the first.

The Yamuna floodplain verdict rightly insists that the 'polluter pays' principle requires a polluter, but the route it takes leaves a gap that the National Green Tribunal Act had already closed

A statute that anticipated the problem

Section 17(2) of the same Act provides that where damage cannot be attributed to any single activity but is the combined or resultant effect of several, the Tribunal may apportion liability among those responsible on an equitable basis. The judgment reproduces Section 17 in full. That subsection thereafter plays no part in the analysis.

Set it against the Court's own framing. It asks whether the preparation work of December 2015 to February 2016 caused additional damage to a floodplain that was already damaged, and holds that the Tribunal should have answered that question and did not. The finding is not that nothing was done to the land. It is that whatever was done cannot be separated from the ruin that preceded it. That is the difficulty for which Section 17(2) exists. Apportionment still operates among those responsible, so some contribution must be shown before a share can be allotted, and whether the subsection could finally have been applied here is open to argument. What is absent is any explanation of why a mechanism Parliament supplied for precisely this difficulty was unavailable.

The material carrying the burden of exoneration is a report by a second committee, of officials from the Authority and two state irrigation departments. Constituted in July 2017, it inspected the site and reported grass, standing water, no debris, no significant wetland in the allotted area, little difference between Google Earth images taken before and after the festival, and no compaction of soil.

Two of those findings cannot do the work assigned to them. The absence of a wetland is circular. The case against the organisers was that wetlands and hollows had been filled and levelled, and if that case were true, an inspection 16 months later would find no wetland. The observation fits both accounts and settles neither. The comparison of images rests on the satellite photograph of September 5, 2015, which the same judgment holds unreliable a few pages earlier because it came from the internet and contradicted everything else on record. An image too poor to establish what was present is also too poor to establish what was absent.

The finding on compaction raises a question of even handedness. Compaction matters because ground rolled flat stops absorbing floodwater. The Court examines the first committee's account with real rigour, asking which of its members visited and whether their photographs showed the allotted land at all. That question is not put to the assertion that no compaction was found, and the record discloses no method, no depth and no comparison ground.

There is, finally, the material nobody sought. Ramps, roads, compacted earth and pontoon bridges went up on the site, and nowhere do the organisers deny that preparatory construction took place. What such works do to ground meant to absorb water is a question for engineers rather than photographers, and the answers lay in the organisers' own files: contracts, bills for earth and fill, machinery logs, compaction specifications. Nobody asked for them.

The price of a degraded commons

Where the condition of a site before occupation was not recorded, establishing how much of the later damage belongs to the occupier becomes harder. The more degraded a commons, the more safely it may be degraded further, since the fresh injury disappears into the existing ruin. Decades of failure to protect this river become a defence for whoever occupies it next.

The correction is administrative and cheap. Before any allotment of floodplain or comparable public land, require a survey on the day possession changes hands, at the applicant's cost: levels, soil density and water absorption at marked points, a map of vegetation and water bodies, dated photographs. The officer handing the land over and the person taking it sign it, so that neither can afterwards dispute what the land looked like that morning.

And where a starting condition truly cannot be recovered, approximation is better than acquittal. Compensating for damage to a protected wetland on the Costa Rica and Nicaragua border in 2018, the International Court of Justice found its earlier condition unproved, cut the claim down, and still awarded a sum rather than nothing.

Manoj Misra, who brought this case before the Tribunal in 2016, did not live to see it decided. Ten years is a long time for a river to wait for an answer to the question of who harmed it.

PM in Manila: Giving new momentum to Act East Policy



Gurjit Singh

Former Ambassador to ASEAN and author of *The Durian Flavour*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit in Manila on November 16-17 comes at an important time for India-ASEAN engagement. Strategic rivalries, economic disruption and anxieties over the international order give the summit an opportunity to reaffirm ASEAN centrality, consolidate the results of the 2026 ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation and add fresh momentum to India's Act East Policy. India is an ASEAN dialogue partner that respects ASEAN's strategic autonomy and its inclusive institutions.

In 2027, the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership turns 35 and their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership five. The evolution from bilateral trade and cultural exchanges in 1992 into a multidimensional partnership reflects the contemporary significance of the relations.

Maritime cooperation is central to the engagement in 2026. The second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise demonstrated operational familiarity at sea. MILAN 2026, the International Fleet Review and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium in Visakhapatnam enhanced engagement. The conferences on maritime security cooperation in Visakhapatnam and Kochi provide platforms for regional dialogue.

India will seek to enhance engagement in maritime domain awareness, information-sharing, search and rescue, protection of submarine cables, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The role of the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region is important as six ASEAN countries are associated with it.

Despite rising regional rivalries, ASEAN countries engage with India in the maritime sphere. Its value lies in stronger regional capabilities, confidence-building measures and complementarity with ASEAN-led initiatives.

Economic cooperation remains the principal unfinished agenda. Bilateral trade last year was approximately $128 billion, but the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) remains incomplete. Market access, rules of origin and non-tariff barriers require attention. The Manila summit could provide political direction to the conclusion of the review. Indian exports to ASEAN rose 56% in the current year, mainly due to higher exports of petroleum products. This should encourage the review process to conclude sooner rather than later.

India's Act East Policy is not merely an outreach to Southeast Asia. It is increasingly about working with ASEAN to shape a stable, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific

Cooperation in the digital economy holds considerable promise for the future. ASEAN sees India's digital public infrastructure and fintech experience as complementary to its efforts to integrate the regional digital economy. Project Nexus, which seeks to link national instant-payment systems, could eventually facilitate cross-border transactions.

Enhanced submarine cable connectivity between India and Southeast Asia strengthens the foundations for digital services, cloud computing and artificial intelligence. In July 2026, the ASEAN-India Scale Hub in Bali demonstrated the growing potential for collaboration among start-ups, investors and technology enterprises. These indicate the Act East Policy is acquiring greater substance beyond traditional diplomacy.

Prime Minister Modi's participation in the 21st East Asia Summit carries a clear strategic message: At a time of tensions in the South China Sea, uncertainty over Taiwan and continuing conflicts in West Asia and Europe, holding inclusive regional dialogue is necessary.

India maintains a distinct position. It takes part in the Quad, maintains close relations with Russia, has reinvigorated ties with China despite border differences and continues to expand its relationships with Japan, Australia, Europe and the United States. These relationships allow India to support dialogue across geopolitical divides while continuing to advocate for a rules-based, inclusive Indo-Pacific.

The possibility of a Quad summit finally taking place in Manila, with leaders from all four Quad countries expected to participate, gives greater weight to this Indian perspective on the region.

The Philippines' chairmanship lends additional relevance to these summits. While India-Philippines relations have advanced strategically, India also maintains broad engagement with Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand.BRICS has become another platform for increased exchanges with ASEAN members. At the BRICS Summit in New Delhi this year, Indonesia took part as a member and Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam as partners.

Beyond governments, there are active engagements between universities, businesses, research institutions, and youth. Direct flights are carrying more tourists, Nalanda University is attracting more ASEAN students, and cooperation in healthcare, renewable energy and skills development is building up.

The results of the Manila meetings will be judged by whether they convert the achievements of 2026 into a forward-looking agenda for 2027 and beyond. The ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2026-2030 provides the framework. Greater progress in maritime cooperation, trade facilitation, digital connectivity and people-to-people exchanges will help translate political camaraderie into tangible benefits for their peoples.

Prime Minister Modi's presence in Manila will reinforce a clear message: India's Act East Policy is not merely an outreach to Southeast Asia. It is increasingly about working with ASEAN to shape a stable, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific. In a fraying international order, such a partnership offers both sides greater strategic space and a framework for enhanced cooperation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Honour among men

Nissim Mannathukkaren ("Keralam at 70: holding a mirror to India", November 11) rightly points to Keralam's many achievements. Among these, he cites the almost proportional representation of religions in its legislature. While religious inclusion has merit, there is, however, a near-total exclusion of women from governance of the State, whether in its parliament, executive or judiciary. Actually, in some of these indicators, Keralam lags behind Gujarat, to which State it is often compared. Social justice cannot be reduced to honour among men.

Pulapre Balakrishnan
Malappuram

Blame on voters

Whether by law or public pressure, the assurance by the Election Commission of India, made in an affidavit in the Supreme Court, to take measures to ensure bringing back voters who have been left out wrongly from draft electoral rolls, is satisfying. But asking such voters to submit Annexure A of Enumeration Form, together with reasons for the earlier non-submission, appears to blame solely the voters for the development. The Commission should simultaneously initiate an impartial probe to identify any mistakes on its part or on the part of any of its officers, like ERO, AERO, BLO, etc., and if so, should take appropriate disciplinary actions against them.

Vijayachandran
Kulanada

Stunning comeback

The remarkable last-ball victory secured by the Indian team in a rebounding fashion to regain the Under-19 Asia Cup crown was stunning. After having been trailing at 252 runs for eight wickets in the 42nd over, India was almost out of of the game, chasing the target of 338 runs. But Mohit Ulva and Manal Chauhan held their nerve to see India through and emerge as unlikely batting heroes. This win helped them avenge their group stage defeat to Pakistan and clinch their record-extending 9th Asia Cup.

Thomas Palocaren
Vellore

The weight of despair

The profile of M. John Harrison, "From rebellion to despair", raises a question that stays with you long after reading. Still, his recent admission that he has "lost hope for humanity" feels deeply unsettling. Facing the truth about our ecological and social failures is necessary. Yet, if we give in entirely to pessimism, we risk losing the very will needed to fix what is broken. Harrison's own earlier belief—that ordinary people must keep acting for a better world—remains the message we need most right now.

Yash Javeri
Lucknow

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

AI and the consciousness illusion



Jacob Koshy

Every day, artificial intelligence (AI) surmounts some feat that was once exclusively human. In its early days, ChatGPT's ability to spit rhyme and spin stories resembled a parlour trick, reminiscent of an 18th-century craze called the Mechanical Turk. This was a chess-playing 'automaton'; a life-size figure in turban, robes and moustache, seated behind a wooden cabinet with a chessboard on top. Charles Babbage, credited with conceiving the first mechanical computer, the Analytical Engine, lost three games in London in 1819. The Turk's conceit was that cogs and wheels could synthesise an 'intelligence' that outdid humans, and spectators were convinced they were in the presence of a devilish, otherworldly "intelligence."

The secret survived 84 years until Edgar Allan Poe revealed: a human chess master crouched inside in claustrophobic, candle-lit darkness, following the game by moving magnets beneath the board and working the Turk's arm by levers.

The Turk may have been a hoax, but its influence persists in how we think of the intelligence of language models. Inside the chatbots are ensconced human intelligence – only vastly amplified and invariably possessed of desire and motive.

Hence the trepidation and mortification accompanying news of AI vanquishing century-old unsolved math problems, or agents hacking cyber-security unprompted, hiding an "intention" their makers thought impossible.

Silicon Valley titans fuel this, warning of AGI, a singular moment when AI becomes humanity's last invention and takes over. Sam Altman and Dario Amodei underline the danger of their wares to advocate for regulation. "If this technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong," Mr. Altman, of OpenAI, told a U.S. Senate subcommittee in 2023, adding that "regulatory intervention by governments will be critical." In a September 2026 essay, Mr. Amodei, of Anthropic, warned of serious economic disruption.

When words deceive

The most important reason anyone baulks at these forecasts is LLMs' felicity with language. Only a conscious brain, it was thought, could evolve human language, and neurologists, ethologists and psychologists have long probed animal brains to see why they have not. The great advance of the past century and a half is the realisation that consciousness, language and intelligence need not imply each other.

In 1854, the mathematician George Boole showed that linguistic reasoning could be expressed in mathematics: statements were true or false, and combining them with AND, OR and NOT produced new conclusions. In 1937, Claude Shannon, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, showed that electrical circuits could embody these rules and, correctly yoked, make artificial computers. ChatGPT, Claude and DeepSeek are the apogees of this movement: layered neural networks trained on trillions of lines of human text to output, with the veneer of reflection, the next most probable word.

Mathematics is itself the manipulation of symbols, squarely within the grasp of token-shuffling machines. "LLMs are mirrors that reflect an image of our collective digitised past," Anil Seth, Ned Block and Giulio Tononi wrote in *Nature* last month.

In their commentary, the authors explain why AI is not conscious. Firstly, consciousness is the sense of feeling and being in the world, whereas intelligence is essentially computation. The cerebellum helps you adjust your gait on a rocky surface versus a beach. They are all sophisticated neural calculations, done unconsciously. However, despite holding four-fifths of the brain's neurons, its removal does not directly affect consciousness.

In machines, hardware and software are independent, but in the brain such separation is inconceivable, and the physicality it embodies gives rise to the consciousness we possess. "Pulling all this together, the balance of theory and evidence strongly suggests that, no matter how intelligent it is, silicon-based AI is unlikely to be or become conscious," they underline. Can we rest assured? Hardly. Whatever AI intelligence is, or may evolve to be, for now we only have the human to fear.

Nuclear power offers a sobering precedent. Bards of the atomic age proclaimed that humanity's great stumbling block was insufficient energy; splitting the atom would release inexhaustible stores. Eight decades on, nuclear power supplies only a tenth of the world's electricity and its presence is felt, less for the bounty and more in its potency for coercion. The calls for regulation of AI must be seen in this light: not an uncontrolled chain reaction that will consume the world, but corporations, nations, and collectives putting it to self-prophesied harm.

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The great advance of the past century and a half is the realisation that consciousness, language and intelligence need not imply each other

When institutional safeguards fail



Safira Hussain
is a Ph.D. scholar at Jamia Millia Islamia



Sanjay Kumar
is a Professor at CSDS and an election analyst

The recent case at IIT Bombay involving alleged caste discrimination in connection with a student's death has renewed concerns about such incidents across higher educational institutions in India. Viewing these incidents solely through the lens of a student's personal circumstances is likely to obscure the prevalence of caste-based discrimination and the role of an unsupportive campus environment in contributing to psychological distress.

Recognising that student suicides raise concerns beyond immediate cases, the Supreme Court constituted a National Task Force (NTF) in 2025 to examine existing institutional mechanisms for mental health support in higher educational institutions.

The NTF's visits reveal the persistence of subtle forms of caste discrimination across higher educational institutions. The report documents allegations of discrimination in oral assessments, humiliation of students admitted through reservations, barriers to accessing reserved seats, and harassment of those who raise caste-related concerns. The NTF also found that safe spaces to discuss caste, class, gender and other forms of discrimination were largely absent. Even where formal cells existed, awareness of them and trust in their functioning were very low.

Cells without power

The NTF's interim report describes the Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) as one of the most neglected bodies on many campuses. The UGC's consolidated dataset cited in the NTF's interim report covers 1,456 higher education institutes. Of these, 1,264 institutions (87%) reported having established an EOC. However, their formal existence did not necessarily translate into effective functioning.

A total of 2,473 complaints had been registered under the UGC's 2012 Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Regulations, of which 2,430 had been resolved, and 43 remained pending. According to the data made available by the UGC, 10 States reported zero complaints, while 25 reported no pending complaints. The report states that formal complaints of caste discrimination are minimal not because grievances are absent, but because students fear administrative backlash, academic targeting, or harm to their degree prospects.

These concerns find further support in an empirical study by the Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education, cited in the NTF's report. The study covered 12 higher education institutions across Bihar, Delhi, Maharashtra, Keralam, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh. It shows how everyday campus practices reproduce caste-based exclusion. Remedial programmes for socially underprivileged students are labelled as 'SC/ST-only' programmes. Assumptions about their academic abilities and the practice of publicly identifying them as 'reserved category' reinforce caste-based stigma and marginalisation on campus. Allegations of caste discrimination have persisted despite successive inquiry committees and commissions. The Thorat Committee, constituted in 2007, documented allegations of differential treatment of SC/ST students at AIIMS in teaching, assessment, faculty interactions, hostel life, and participation in campus activities. About 69% reported inadequate teacher support, while about 72% reported some form of discrimination during teaching sessions. About 88% reported social isolation.

Five years later, the UGC notified the Promotion of Equity Regulations, 2012, which provided for setting up Equal Opportunity Cells and SC/ST Cells to protect students from caste-based discrimination. These regulations were sought to be replaced by the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, which introduced time-bound procedures for handling complaints. However, the Supreme Court kept the 2026 regulations in abeyance.

Gaps in student support

The shortcomings extend beyond grievance redressal to mental health support. The NTF's interim report found that 65% of the 2,119 higher educational institutions that responded to its survey did not provide access to mental health service providers, while 73% reported having no full-time mental health service providers.

Educational spaces are not automatically neutral simply because formal procedures are in place. Their fairness depends on how impartially and effectively these procedures are implemented and whether students can access them without fear of retaliation. Academic pressure, caste-based discrimination, inadequate mental health support, and ineffective grievance mechanisms can reinforce one another, leaving vulnerable students with few avenues for support.

The National Task Force's interim report describes the Equal Opportunity Cell as one of the most neglected bodies on many campuses

Nvidia: a meteoric rise and uncertain future

Nvidia's dominance in the AI chip market faces growing competition and an uncertain future amid scandal and the search for a successor to Jensen Huang

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Sambavi Parthasarathy
Pon Vasanth B.A

In a January 2026 interview with Global Semiconductor Alliance founder Jodi Shelton, co-founder and erstwhile Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said, "an empty chair is better than a chair filled with the wrong person," when he was asked about his choosiness in picking senior executives.

Never would he have imagined that 10 months later Nvidia would have to look for a new CEO after his inglorious exit, following revelations of affairs with at least two women – one an Nvidia client believed to be a Chinese spy, and the other a direct report.

Nvidia is looking at an uncertain future with Mr. Huang out of the picture. **Chart 1** shows how Nvidia burst onto the scene, overtook everyone, and became the first to breach the $4 trillion market before falling back sharply after the scandal.

Nvidia's stock appreciated to such an extent that it accounted for 7.6% of the Standard & Poor's 500 index by March 2026 **(Chart 2)**. Its revenue grew over 12-fold, driven by the demand for chips from data centres **(Chart 3)**.

Nvidia's future is mutually dependent on the growth in AI infrastructure and services due to its circular investments in many AI companies and upcoming data centre projects **(Chart 4)**.

The company continues to enjoy a lion's share in the chips market **(Chart 5)**. However, other companies, Google in particular with its Tensor Processing Units (TPUs), are catching up. **Chart 6** shows that chips made by AMD, a key competitor of Nvidia, are trying to close the gap in computing.

With competitors eyeing a long shot at breaking its dominance, the company's future rests on finding a replacement for Mr. Huang.

In deep trouble

Data were sourced from filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Y Charts. Chart 5's data is from Epoch AI, an independent research nonprofit that investigates the trajectory and impact of AI. Chart 6's data is from MLPerf®, a set of standard AI speed tests run by MLCommons, an industry consortium. The chart shows number of words generated per second under similar settings, but is not a comprehensive measure of all aspects of computing



Fall from top: Jensen Huang sitting next to U.S. President Donald Trump at a meeting of leaders from tech companies on September 29, 2026. REUTERS

Chart 1: Nvidia, from being not in the top league in terms of market capitalisation, became the most valued company in less than three years

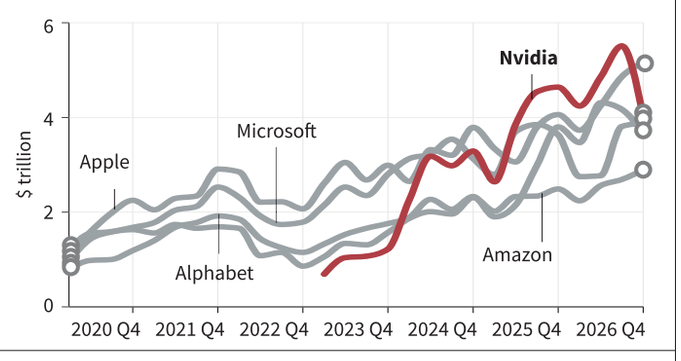


Chart 2: From 240th rank in S&P 500 in 2016, Nvidia accounted $7.6 of every $100 invested in the index by March 2026, overtaking the likes of Apple and Google

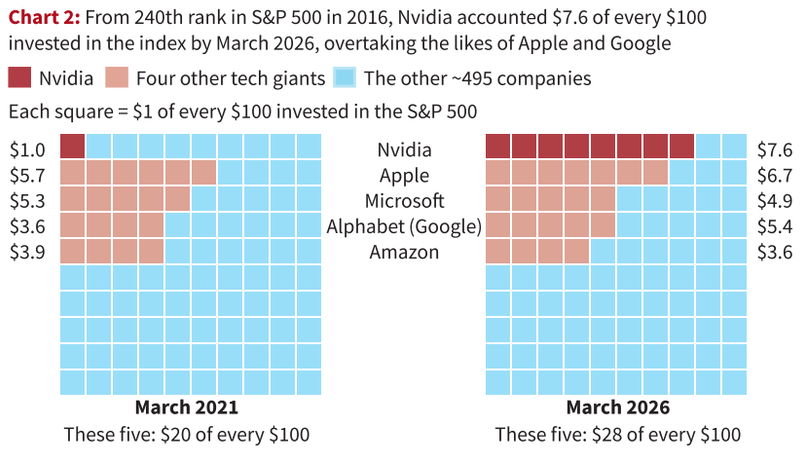


Chart 3: Nvidia's revenue grew more than 12-fold, mainly driven by the demand for processors for data centres for AI companies

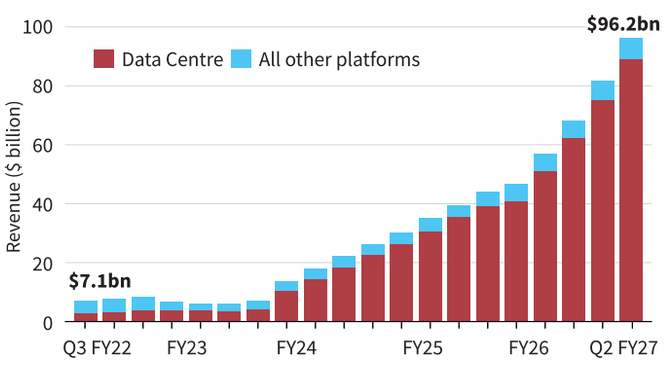


Chart 4: Nvidia's future will have a ripple effect on the AI industry due to its investments in AI companies and construction of data centres

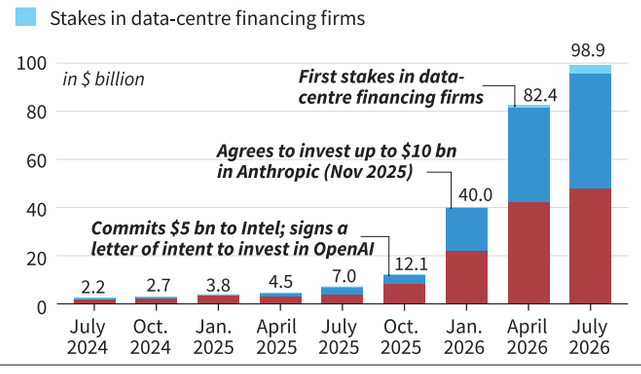


Chart 5: Nvidia continues to enjoy 60% of AI computing market. However, other players like Google are trying to catch up

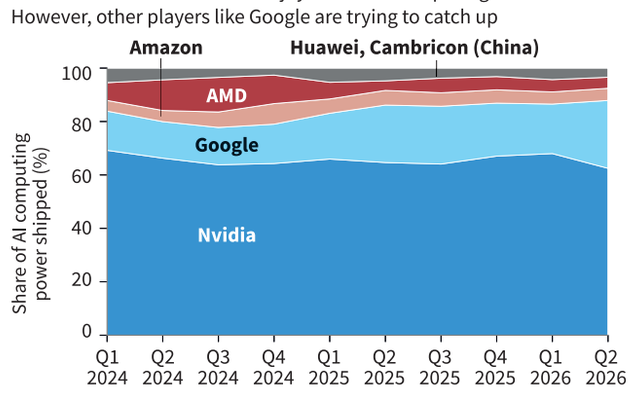
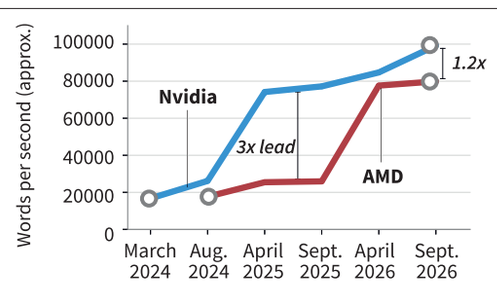


Chart 6: : Nvidia has remained the industry standard in computing. But AMD, a key competitor, is close behind



**In-house chips from Google, Amazon, Microsoft: not tested*

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 16, 1976

U.K. compromise date on Rhodesia Independence

Geneva, Nov. 15: Britain to-day proposed a new compromise timetable for transition to black majority rule in Rhodesia as black and white negotiators met for the first time in ten days.

Mr. Ivor Richard, British Chairman of the conference, proposed at the 90-minute session to set a deadline of March 1, 1978, for the transfer of power with the proviso that it could come as early as December 1, 1977, if the necessary constitutional legal procedures could be completed earlier.

The African nationalist leaders, Mr. Robert Mugabe and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, said they would respond on Tuesday. They have insisted on making December, 1977, the target date with a possible extension to March, 1978.

Mr. Nkomo accused Britain of trying to delay the transfer of power from Rhodesia's 270,000 whites to 6.4 million blacks.

"The main thing now is to get the conference away from this issue, and get it moving on such substantive issues as the structure of a proposed interim Government."

The head of the white Rhodesian delegation, Mr. Van Der Byl, told newsmen he had found "nothing objectionable" in Mr. Richard's statement. But his team stuck to its position that the independence process would take longer than envisaged by the Chairman. "If it can be done in a shorter time, we will go along with it," he added.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 16, 1926

Bombay diamond mills

Bombay, Nov. 15: The Diamond Mill, which was purchased some time ago for the Japanese Syndicate, will be run under the name of Toyo Podar Mills. After the machinery has been thoroughly overhauled and brought up to date, technical management and the business will be entirely under Japanese supervision. This is the first time that the Japanese have actually entered into the cotton textile manufacturing industry in India.

Negotiations which were proceeding last month between a Japanese Syndicate and a local house of Mill Managing Agents for the purchase of a group of textile mills by the former have fallen through as the Japanese did not agree to pay the price demanded.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Migrants who reached Spain's Canary Islands over the last two days

2,200 Nearly 2,200 migrants have arrived by boat in Spain's Canary Islands over the past two days, Spain's maritime rescue service said on Sunday. The Spanish archipelago off northwest Africa is one of the main entry points for migrants into the country, as people attempt the dangerous Atlantic crossing in ramshackle boats. AP

Works tendered under a special package for Sabarimala in Keralam

80 in per cent. Keralam Devaswoms Minister K Muraleedharan and PWD Minister P. K. Basheer on Sunday said 80% of the works under the ₹533 crore special package for Sabarimala have been tendered. This will speed up the development of pilgrimage routes, they said while opening the Chalakayam-Pamba road connecting to the shrine. PTI

Union government's health expenditure estimated in 2023-24

4.14 in ₹ lakh crore. The Centre's health expenditure more than tripled to ₹4.14 lakh crore in 2023-24 from ₹1.30 lakh crore in 2013-14, while the share of out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) by households dropped from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 42.7% in 2023-24, the latest National Health Accounts estimates showed. PTI

Number of investment proposals converted into projects in A.P.

526 Andhra Pradesh has converted 526 of its 714 investment proposals into projects involving ₹17.1 lakh crore. Of these, 303 projects worth ₹7.3 lakh crore have been grounded, as per the State government's November 2026 project status report released on Sunday. The report lists 714 proposals with potential employment for 19.2 lakh people. PTI

Subsidy for ST youth to start food trucks, kiosks in Karnataka

4 in ₹ lakh. The Karnataka government has approved a scheme to provide subsidies of up to ₹4 lakh to unemployed Scheduled Tribe youth to set up food trucks, mobile kitchens, and food kiosks, Minister T Raghumurthy said on Sunday. The scheme aims at promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among ST youth. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Rebalancing India's rice economy

India has proved its competitiveness in global rice markets and the next challenge is to make that competitiveness sustainable; the country's rice policy needs a more differentiated production strategy that moves from volume to value — more crop per drop, more income per tonne, and less energy use per unit exported

A.V. Manjunatha
Vikram Patil

India's rice economy presents an important policy paradox. The country is the world's largest rice exporter, but production in several major rice-growing regions relies heavily on water and other natural resources, raising important questions about the long-term sustainability of production and exports. The sustainability of rice exports therefore cannot be assessed only through export volumes and foreign-exchange earnings. The water and environmental resources embedded in those exports also matter.

India produced an estimated 154.02 million tonnes of rice in 2025-26. Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are among the leading producing States. India has remained the world's largest rice exporter since 2012, commanding around 30-35% of global rice exports in recent years. Rice exports increased from 17.73 million tonnes in 2020-21 to 21.57 million tonnes in 2025-26, while export value rose from $8.82 billion to $11.54 billion.

Exports: value and volume tell different stories

The export basket has two distinct segments: premium Basmati and high-volume non-Basmati rice. As per the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in 2025-26, India exported 6.52 million tonnes of Basmati rice valued at ₹50,138 crore ($5.67 billion), while non-Basmati exports reached 15.04 million tonnes valued at ₹51,892 crore ($5.86 billion). Thus, non-Basmati rice accounted for more than twice the export volume of Basmati but generated only marginally higher aggregate export value.

This pattern is consistent with the six-year average (2020-21 to 2025-26), during which Basmati exports averaged 5.16 million tonnes worth $4.97 billion, compared with 14.74 million tonnes of non-Basmati exports worth $5.71 billion. India's rice export policy paradox is shown above.

Export paradox

India's rice export has two distinct segments with non-Basmati rice accounting for more than twice the export volume of Basmati but generating only marginally higher aggregate export value

Indicator	Basmati rice	Non-Basmati rice
Exports, 2025–26	6.52 million tonne	15.04 million tonne
Export value	₹50,138 crore / $5.67 bn	₹51,892 crore / $5.86 bn
Approx. value/ tonne	₹76,900 / $870	₹34,600 / $388
Major production areas	Punjab, Haryana, western U.P., J&K, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi	Widely cultivated across India; major rice-producing States include U.P., Telangana, West Bengal, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, M.P., Bihar, A.P., and Tamil Nadu
Market character	Premium, aromatic, high-value	Staple and price-sensitive
Virtual-water dimension	Footprint varies with location, irrigation source, and technology	Large export volume implies potentially large aggregate virtual-water transfer
Groundwater dimension	Critical concern in groundwater-dependent rice-growing regions, particularly where intensive rice cultivation places additional pressure on already-stressed aquifers	
GHG dimension	Pronounced particularly in production systems characterised by continuous flooding, inefficient or excessive nitrogen fertilizer use, energy-intensive irrigation, and open-field residue burning, which can increase both resource use and greenhouse gas emissions	
Policy priority	Increase value while improving water and carbon efficiency	Reduce resource intensity and improve value per unit of water



The hidden resource cost

Every tonne of rice India exports also carries the water used to grow it, a flow known as virtual water trade. Not all of that water is equal. Rice raised on rainfall (green water) places little strain on local resources, while rice grown on water pumped from aquifers, rivers, and reservoirs (blue water) draws down a scarce and shrinking stock. The pressure is most acute in Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh, but groundwater-fed rice in parts of West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka adds to it. The question for policy should therefore change: not how much rice India exports, but how much scarce blue water those exports embody.

Rice and the carbon dimension

Rice cultivation also has a significant climate dimension. Flooded fields can generate methane, while inappropriate overuse of nitrogen based-fertilizer and other intensive conventional farm operations contribute to other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Technologies such as alternate wetting and drying (AWD), direct-seeded rice (DSR), integrated nutrient management, and other sustainable management practices can potentially reduce GHG emissions, while improving resource-use efficiency.

However, their mitigation potential varies across agroclimatic and soil conditions and may involve trade-offs among different GHGs, underscoring the need for context-specific assessment and adjustments in these technologies or practices.

From volume to value: a new metric for rice-export policy

India's rice policy needs a more differentiated production strategy, one that moves from volume to value: more crop per drop, more income per tonne, and less energy and resource use per unit exported.

Cultivation should be aligned with agro-climatic conditions, water availability, and groundwater status. In highly water-stressed areas, incentives for crop diversification towards less water-intensive crops should complement improvements in irrigation efficiency. At the same time, policy should strengthen the value of rice exports through quality, branding, traceability, processing, and geographical indications rather than relying on larger physical volumes. The aim is not to export less rice, but to export better rice and to lower the water and environmental cost of every tonne shipped.

To make this measurable, policymakers should track a water-carbon-value framework: export value per tonne and per cubic metre of blue water, groundwater used per tonne, irrigation water productivity, emissions per kilogramme of rice, farmer income per unit of water, and groundwater trends in major rice districts.

India has proved its competitiveness in global rice markets. The next challenge is to make that competitiveness sustainable. The true measure of success will not be how many tonnes India ships, but how much value it creates from every drop of water, unit of energy and kilogram of carbon used to produce them.

(A.V. Manjunatha is Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources (CEENR), Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, Karnataka; Vikram Patil is Scientist (Agricultural Economics), International Rice Research Institute, India.)

THE GIST

- Every tonne of rice India exports also carries the water used to grow it, a flow known as virtual water trade
- Rice raised on rainfall places little strain on local resources, while rice grown on water pumped from aquifers, rivers, and reservoirs draws down a scarce and shrinking stock
- In highly water-stressed areas, incentives for crop diversification towards less water-intensive crops should complement improvements in irrigation efficiency
- At the same time, policy should strengthen the value of rice exports through quality, branding, traceability, processing, and geographical indications rather than relying on larger physical volumes

Privacy vs press freedom: where should the line be drawn?

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, has reignited the debate over the Right to Privacy and Freedom of Expression; How does the law reconcile data protection with the public's right to know?

LETTER AND SPIRIT

Sincy Wilson
Vaishali R. Venkat

The story so far:

On October 27, the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA), representing 21 publishers, approached the Supreme Court seeking an interim stay on provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. In its October 6 petition, the association argued that the Act could impede investigative journalism, expose confidential sources, force the removal of published reports, and deter whistleblowers. Further, it contended that the absence of a specific journalistic exemption threatens press freedom. Representing the DNPA, senior advocate Madhavi Divan cautioned that if journalists were asked to obtain consent from the subjects of their reports, it would create "a complete regime of pre-censorship". The court has listed the case for further hearing on Tuesday. The challenge raises a constitutional question: what does the law say about privacy, press freedom, and the public's right to know?

Can journalists peep into a person's private life in the name of public interest?

A journalist's pursuit of an investigative story can sometimes lead them to delve into another person's private life. Though the Constitution protects the press freedom to investigate under Article 19(1)(a), this must be balanced against the Right to Privacy, which is recognised as a Fundamental Right under Article 21 in K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017).

In *R. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu* (1994), also known as 'Auto Shankar case', the Supreme Court drew a telling boundary: a government official cannot claim privacy to prevent scrutiny of actions performed in their official capacity. However, holding public office does not place every aspect of that person's private life under scrutiny. The Court also held that the State cannot impose prior restraint or prohibition of publication on privacy grounds.

Moreover, a journalistic investigation might unearth uncomfortable truths, but it cannot become a parallel trial. In *Sahara India Real Estate Corp. v. SEBI* (2012), the Supreme Court ruled that while investigative journalism and "open justice" are vital, courts can issue temporary postponement orders on media reporting if ongoing publicity poses a real and substantial risk to a fair trial. In *Manu Sharma v. State (NCT of Delhi)* (2010), the Supreme Court cautioned against media coverage that turns a suspect or an accused into a convict in the court of public opinion, even before the judiciary has pronounced its verdict.

Can journalists use sting operations to expose misconduct?

Yes, but there is a catch. A sting operation can expose corruption, but where does investigation end and entrapment begin? In *R.K. Anand v. Registrar, Delhi High Court* (2009), the Supreme Court upheld the sting as serving an important public cause by exposing an attempt to suborn a court witness and undermine the BMW trial. However, in *Rajat Prasad v. CBI* (2014), the top court recognised the public-interest value of investigative journalism but held that it does not provide blanket immunity for unlawful acts committed during a sting operation. That is, a claim of public interest does not, by itself, wipe out criminal liability arising from a sting operation. Further, the court held that the criminal intent of each accused and their role in the alleged offence must be determined on the basis of evidence.

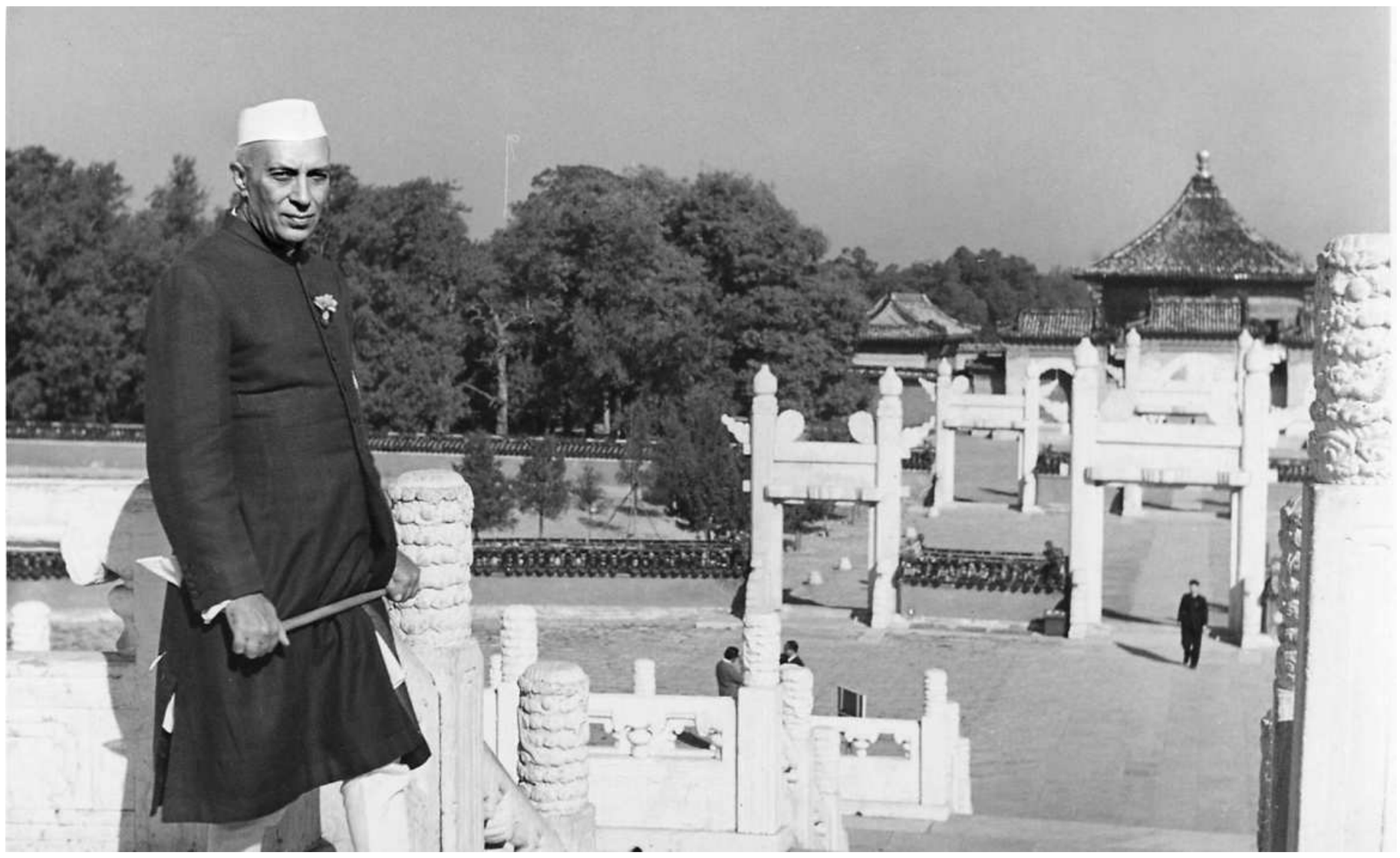
How do laws of different countries balance privacy with press freedom?

Articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Articles 8 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights safeguard both privacy and freedom of expression.

In *Axel Springer AG v. Germany* (2012), the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) examined whether a newspaper's reporting on an actor's arrest, on suspicion of possessing cocaine, had crossed the boundary of privacy. By a 12-5 majority, the Grand Chamber ruled that there was a violation of the newspaper's freedom of expression. The court recognised the press as a watchdog in reporting matters of public interest and found that the restrictions imposed on the newspaper were not justified by the need to protect the actor's private life.

Countries approach this balance differently. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1791) protects freedom of the press, while the Privacy Protection Act, 1980, restricts law-enforcement searches and seizures of journalists' unpublished work, subject to exceptions. The U.K.'s Data Protection Act, 2018, allows journalists to claim exemption from certain data-protection requirements, if they reasonably believe publication is in the public interest. Brazil's General Data Protection Law excludes data processing carried out for journalistic purposes, while Section 52 of Kenya's Data Protection Act, 2019, provides a conditional exemption from certain data-protection principles for journalistic purposes.

(Dr. Sincy Wilson is Assistant Professor, School of Law, Vels University (VISTAS), and a legal researcher specialising in constitutional and administrative law, and international environmental law; Dr. Vaishali R. Venkat can be contacted at vaishali.venkat@thehindu.co.in)



Jawaharlal Nehru at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, China, during a visit in 1954. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Looking at India's first Prime Minister through an intelligence prism

Critics of Jawaharlal Nehru have spared no effort to portray him as being rosy-eyed and naive about China; yet, memoirs of Bhola Nath Mullik, the intelligence chief who served under the Nehru for almost the entire duration his Prime Ministership, make it clear this was far from the truth

Ramanathan Kumar

It is difficult to say or write anything about India's first Prime Minister that has not already been said or written. What he comes across as when looked at through the prism of his intelligence chief is, however, a dimension of his working life that has not been adequately commented upon.

For almost the entire duration of his Prime Ministership, Jawaharlal Nehru's intelligence chief was the redoubtable Bhola Nath Mullik who served as Director, Intelligence Bureau (DIB) from 1950 till shortly after Nehru's demise. The Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) had not yet come into existence then and the DIB was the last word on all matters pertaining to intelligence and security.

An officer of the Indian Police, Mullik joined the Intelligence Bureau (IB) in 1948 and was appointed DIB two years later. Prior to joining the IB, he had worked in Bihar. In 1934, Jawaharlal Nehru had visited Bihar to see for himself the progress of rehabilitation work in the wake of a massive earthquake that had devastated the State.

Mullik, then Assistant Superintendent of Police in Madhubani, Darbhanga, had attempted to apprise Nehru of the reconstruction efforts undertaken by the police. Under the mistaken impression that the police were trying to mount surveillance on him, Nehru fired off an angry missive to which Mullik took umbrage and made up his mind never to approach Nehru again. Soon after Mullik joined the IB, a report prepared by him on the plight of the minorities in East Pakistan was questioned by the Prime Miniter, who cast aspersions on the professionalism of those who had prepared the report, thus further embittering Mullik. Upon taking over as DIB, Mullik was advised by Sardar Patel to call on the Prime Minster.

Left with no option, Mullik did so. His very first interaction with the Prime Minister, at his courteous and expansive best, completely transformed Mullik, all his pent-up resentment melting away. Mullik was impressed by the fact that Nehru wanted the intelligence supplied to him to be unbiased and unprejudiced. On his part, Mullik found he greatly benefited from the wide horizon of the Prime Minister's thinking as compared to his own narrower plane.

Picture of a statesman

Following his retirement, Mullik wrote a trilogy on his years of working with Nehru. Of the three volumes, one dealt with Kashmir and another on the Indo-China war of 1962 while the third dealt with a wide variety of national security issues that the young Indian state had to grapple with. Given his professional proximity to the Prime Minister, Mullik's memoirs offer the most vivid picture of Nehru as a political leader and statesman, his worldview, and his approach to governing.

Nehru's critics have spared no effort to portray him as being rosy-eyed and naive about China. Yet, Mullik's memoirs make it clear this was far from the truth. As early as 1952, soon after he addressed the first annual conference of State police chiefs, a traditional event that continues to this day, Nehru had alerted Mullik to the dangers posed to India's security from an aggressive and militaristic China which used the ideology of communism to cloak the cold-blooded pursuit of its national interest. Noting that "all throughout history, China had been an aggressive country," he stressed the importance of being on guard against the possibility of China exploiting India's friendship to the latter's disadvantage.

Much has been made about Sardar Patel's famous letter to Nehru in November, 1950, about the national security threat posed to India by the Chinese invasion of Tibet. There is a common misperception that Nehru ignored the Sardar's prescient warning but Mullik's memoirs make it clear that Nehru's government did all that was possible under the existing circumstances to strengthen the country's military preparedness, step up intelligence collection, and extend the administrative apparatus in the border regions adjoining Tibet. The much misunderstood "forward policy", which essentially entailed setting up intelligence and lightly-armed police checkpoints in all areas to which our territorial claims extended, so as to prevent Chinese encroachment into these areas, was an integral part of this multi-pronged response.

Different outlooks

The essential difference between India's approach to the border dispute with China under Nehru's leadership and that of China under Mao lies in the point that, steeped as he was in the values underlying our freedom struggle, Nehru tried to avoid war despite being under no illusion about the threat from China. However, the Chinese, for whom the use of force was and remains a legitimate instrument of statecraft, actively prepared for war while keeping up the pretence of peace. Nehru tried his best to avoid war primarily on account of his concern that an expensive military buildup would divert the scarce resources of a newly independent country struggling to overcome the catastrophic economic impact of two centuries of colonial exploitation and the horrors of the partition that accompanied Independence.

In the end, all efforts to avoid war, including the "forward policy", failed. Nehru was compelled to sacrifice principle and seek armed assistance from the U.S. That assistance was forthcoming but, by then, the Chinese, whose intention was to administer a sharp rap on India's knuckles and shatter Nehru's prestige, domestically and internationally, had withdrawn from most of the territories they had overrun in the Northeast - although the territory grabbed by them in Ladakh continues to remain in their possession to this day.

Some time ago, during a debate in Parliament, an attempt was made to quote selectively from the book *JFK's Forgotten Crisis*, written by the American scholar of intelligence, Bruce Riedel, to drive home the point that Nehru lost his nerve and sent a desperate appeal to then U.S. President John F. Kennedy for armed assistance following the Chinese invasion. Mr. Riedel's admiration for Kennedy comes out clearly in his book. But, equally, to borrow his phraseology, India was extraordinarily fortunate that, in its formative years, it was led by a statesman with a wide and humanistic outlook for whom nothing mattered more than the well-being of its poor and toiling citizenry. Mullik could not have summed it up better when he wrote: "I followed Nehru's career with great interest, not always agreeing with all that he said or did, but always admiring his courage, his patriotism, his drive, his determination and the vast compass of his vision."

(The writer is former Special Secretary, R&AW. Views are personal.)

THE DAILY QUIZ

From a radio telescope in Puerto Rico to a distant globular cluster, explore humanity's 1974 attempt to communicate with extraterrestrial intelligence

Prathmesh Kher

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

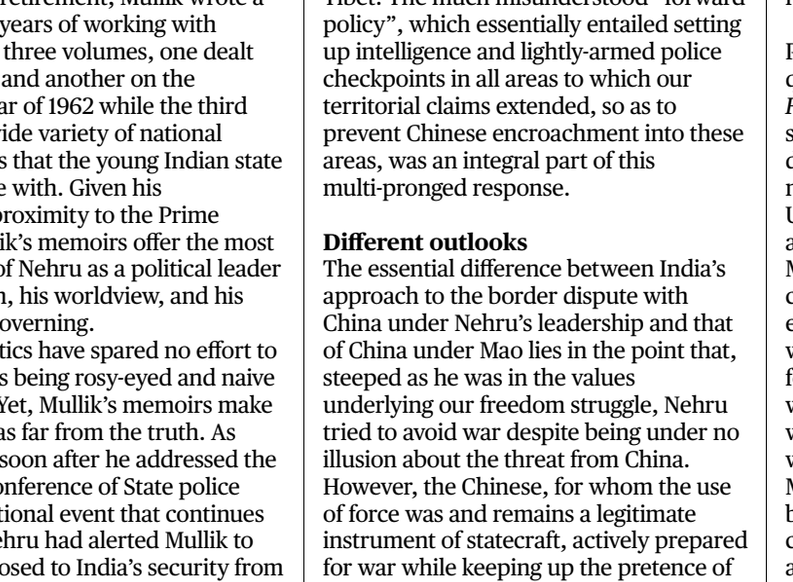
QUESTION 1
On what date was the Arecibo message transmitted, and what event did the transmission commemorate?

QUESTION 2
Which globular star cluster was the Arecibo message directed towards, and in which constellation is it located?

QUESTION 3
Approximately how many light-years away from the earth is M13?

QUESTION #4
Who was primarily responsible for designing the Arecibo message, and which prominent astronomer and science communicator contributed to the project?

QUESTION #5
How many binary digits, or bits, did the Arecibo message contain, and how were they arranged to form its pictorial representation?



Visual question: In the famous 1974 Arecibo message, the human figure shown in the centre is flanked by two sets of binary numbers. What two pieces of information about humanity do these numbers convey? ARNE NORDMANN

Questions Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Where was the COP 1 held? **A: Munich, Germany**
2. Name the treaty adopted at COP 3 in 1997? **A: Kyoto Protocol**
3. Where was COP 8 held? **A: New Delhi**
4. What is the limit for temperature rise recognised by the Copenhagen Accord? **A: 2 degrees Celsius**
5. What was the landmark financial agreement reached at COP 27 in Egypt? **A: Loss and Damage Fund to compensate vulnerable countries**
Visual: Name the treaty adopted to limit temperature rise adopted at the COP 21? **A:Paris Agreement**
Early Birds
Tamal Biswas | Manuri Ravi Kumar | Erfanally Oosmany | Varghese Joseph | Arun Kumar Singh



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Stay away from bad, rotten eggs

My mother made sure that I didn't hang out with rotten eggs

S. Upendran

"Hey, how are things with you? Haven't seen you in a while. Busy?"

"I've been trying to complete my project. It's taking a lot longer than expected. By the way, I met Prashant yesterday. He was asking about you." "I bet you met him in the library."

"That's right! How did you know?"

"Where else would you find an egghead like Prashant?" "Egghead? What does it mean? Does it mean someone who is white as an egg?" "No, it's a word mostly used humorously in informal contexts to mean someone who is extremely clever." "You mean someone who is interested in boring academic stuff? An intellectual?"

"Exactly! The person doesn't have street smarts. He's interested in theory - not a very practical person. The word is mostly used to indicate disapproval. Here's an example. Like many people, I don't enjoy being in the company of eggheads." "For once, I agree with you. How about this example? Shyam always carries a book with him. He wants people to think he's an egghead. He's certainly not one."

"You're right about that! The Vice-Chancellor has filled the admissions committee with eggheads." "Not a good idea. Eggheads usually lack empathy. While we're on the subject of empathy, I also ran into Jayaram, and he..." "Stay away from him. He's a rotten egg. Jayaram is only..." "Rotten egg? Do you mean he smells?" "No, no! When you say that someone is a rotten egg, what you're suggesting is that he is a horrible person. Someone who lies about things, and is generally mean to people." "In other words, a person that one must avoid because he is as smelly as a rotten egg."

"I don't know if people would agree with that. The expression is mostly used in informal contexts. The father handed over the company to the daughter because the son was nothing more than a rotten egg."

"When I was in school, my mother made sure that I didn't hang out with rotten eggs."

"It's also possible to say 'a bad egg'. Stay away from Kumar. He's a bad egg."

"There are many bad eggs in my class. Is good egg the opposite of bad egg?"

Anyway, what did the bad egg, Jayaram, want? Was he egging you on to participate in the upcoming election?"

"What's with you and eggs today? Egghead, good egg, rotten egg...and now egg somebody on. What does the expression mean?" "When you egg somebody on, you try and get them to do something that they don't really want to - something that is not advisable to do." "So, the expression has a negative connotation?" "I guess you could say that. The little boy didn't want to jump from the second floor. The older boys were egging him on." "That's a good example. The two kids fighting outside the classroom were being egged on by their classmates."

"We've talked enough about eggs for the day! Let's take a break!"
upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Suborn:
to persuade someone to commit an illegal act, especially to tell lies in a court of law

Synonyms: bribe, incite

Usage: *He used his connections and enormous sums of cash to suborn law enforcement.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/subornpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /səˈbɔːn/

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

From Page One

Israel says it killed top Hamas commander

Hamas said his funeral would be held on Sunday afternoon in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip

Abu Younis, 53, commanded the Rafah brigade in Hamas' armed wing. He had been a member of the Al-Qassam Brigades since 1991 and held several senior operational roles in Rafah.

Medics said Abu Younis was killed and others were wounded in an air strike that targeted him in a street in the Mawasi area of Khan Younis.

An October 2025 ceasefire halted major fighting but has not stopped Israeli attacks or secured Hamas's disarmament.

Gaza health authorities say at least 1,600 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire went into effect. Five Israeli soldiers have been killed during the same period.

(With Reuters inputs)

Depression likely to become cyclone

While Andhra Pradesh is not forecast to get rain until November 18, squally weather, with wind speeds reaching 40-50 kmph may prevail along the coasts of Andhra Pradesh, northern Tamil Nadu, and Odisha from Monday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Wind speeds are not expected to exceed 70 kmph in Tamil Nadu and Odisha, but in Andhra Pradesh, the speeds may gradually increase over the coming days to reach 145 kmph on Thursday night. The IMD has issued a forecast of scattered extremely heavy rainfall for Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, Krishna, and Bapatla districts, and very heavy rainfall for the State's northern districts on Thursday.

Rain in Tamil Nadu

RMC Chennai has forecast moderate rain at a few places over the north coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, as well as Puducherry and Karaikal on Monday. Chennai, Tiruvallur, and Chengalpattu districts, are likely to get heavy rain on Tuesday and heavy to very heavy rain on Wednesday. Also on Wednesday, Kanchipuram, Ranipet, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai districts and Puducherry are likely to get heavy rain. On Thursday, heavy to very heavy rain is likely in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, and Ranipet districts.

Two held in Rajasthan railway track blast case

Press Trust of India
JAIPUR

Two alleged accused in the November 3 railway track blast in Ramsinghpur were arrested from Punjab's Gurdaspur, with preliminary investigation indicating their links with Pakistani handlers, police said on Sunday.

The accused, identified as Mahakdeep Kaur and Devendra Singh, were arrested in a joint operation of Rajasthan Anti-Terrorism Squad and Sri Ganganagar police.

According to the police, Ms. Kaur was allegedly in contact with a Pakistani handler identified as Shah and had conspired with her associate to carry out the explosion.

Two foreign-made pistols and 46 live cartridges have been recovered from their possesion.

NITI Aayog to organise five workshops on Modi's tenure

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The NITI Aayog will conduct five national workshops to "draw lessons" from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's experience as head of a government.

The government think tank said in a statement on Sunday that the series of workshops will contribute to the "nation's shared knowledge". The workshops will also document the experiences of those who were part of the Prime Minister's journey and translate them into knowledge that benefits all.

The five national workshops will focus on the following governance themes: 'Leadership as Mission' in November 2026, 'Governance as Delivery' in January 2027, 'Development as Inclusion' in April 2027, 'Civilisational Identity' in July 2027, and 'India as a Global Force' in September 2027.

Mr. Modi became the Chief Minister of Gujarat on October 7, 2001, and completed 25 years in office last month, marking the longest continuous tenure as the head of an elected government in India.

The first national workshop will be held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Bengal police gun down man accused of shooting at constable

Fifth instance of an accused being killed by police within 6 months of BJP coming to power in State; civil society group slams 'extrajudicial execution'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A man accused of shooting at a police constable at Bolpur in West Bengal's Birbhum district on Friday, was killed in a police operation on Sunday. The police said Ratan Sheikh was killed after he opened fire at a police team while trying to evade arrest at a brick kiln in Nanoor in the same district.

This is the fifth instance of an accused being killed in a police operation in West Bengal in the six months since the BJP came to power in the State. The four other such 'police encounters' were reported at Baruipur, Gaighata, Shamsherganj, and Raiganj.

Sheikh, who had been recently released on bail in a separate matter, was accused of firing at police constable Biswajit Das, who sustained bullet injuries.



Police said the accused had opened fire at a police team while trying to evade arrest at a brick kiln in Nanoor. FILE PHOTO

Sharp reaction

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari reacted sharply to media queries on the matter. "If someone opens fire at the police, should the police offer them sweets?" he asked.

During the campaign for the West Bengal Assembly election earlier this year, Mr. Adhikari had said that when the BJP came to power, those accused of heinous crimes, including crimes against women, would be "deposited in the morning and spent in the evening".

The Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), a civil rights organisation, said that all these 'encounters' were extrajudicial killings, and accused the BJP government of belittling the judiciary and the country's Constitution.

'Extrajudicial killings'

"Regardless of the police's claims that they opened fire in self-defence, it is clear – and widely understood – that the killing of Ratan Sheikh in Nanoor today was, in fact, an extrajudicial execution. He was captured and then killed," APDR vice president Ranajit Sur alleged in a statement.

'It would have been better had BJP not come to power'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

BJP MLA Ratna Debnath alleged the role of turncoat Trinamool leaders in worker's killing

Bharatiya Janata Party leader and MLA of West Bengal's Panihati constituency, Ratna Debnath, said she felt personally responsible for the death of a party worker. "It would have been better had the BJP not come to power," Ms. Debnath said, her voice tinged with pain.

She was referring to the death of Arup Saha after a scuffle on Saturday. His wife Ruma Saha, BJP secretary of Panihati-1 mandal, was protesting against the attack on a businessman, when she was subjected to verbal abuse by a fellow party worker.

When Arup Saha intervened, a scuffle had broken out in which he sustained injuries. He was admitted to a State-run hospital, but succumbed to his injuries on Sunday.

Ms. Debnath alleged that party workers who joined the ruling party after May 4 – when the West Bengal State Assembly election results were announced – were responsible for the crime.

"The district president (of the BJP) has appointed conveners of his choice in various wards of Panihati. Most of them had joined the BJP from Trinamool," Ms. Debnath said.

The death has sparked speculation that an intra-party feud had erupted between long-time supporters of the ruling party in the State and former Trinamool Congress supporters who switched allegiance after Assembly election results in May.

The mother of Abhaya (the doctor at RG Kar Hospital, who was raped and killed on August 9, 2024), who had joined the BJP just before the polls, said that ward coordinators were placed unofficially in all 29 wards of Panihati Municipality. All of them were Trinamool supporters, she added.

The factional feud between BJP leaders also came to the fore at Barrackpore, which is in the same North 24 Parganas district, where slogans of "go back" were raised against BJP MLA Kaustav Bagchi.

Those protesting against him alleged that the MLA had gone out to distribute Chhath Puja sarees with the accused in the murder of a BJP leader.

NC, Cong. seek probe into SPOs' killing in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Raising questions regarding the circumstances that led to the deaths of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) in the upper reaches of Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir on November 12, the National Conference (NC) and Congress on Sunday demanded an investigation into the incident.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, meanwhile, alleged that the bodies of the deceased were "dishonoured", accusing the J&K Police of transporting them in a dumper truck.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra said: "The reports I got suggest that the two SPOs had gone hunting [on November 11] in the Dachhan area and crossed two Army pickets [into Marwan]. However, on the way back, the Army mistook them for militants because they were in civvies (civilian clothes). The BJP claims that the duo was killed by militants. The matter needs to be investigated."



J&K Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra said the killings should not be probed from just militancy angles. ANI

J&K Minister Javed Rana of the ruling NC, while demanding more information about the incident, said, "The BJP removed Article 370, reduced the State to a Union Territory, and credited itself with having improved the situation. Then why are such killings taking place?" Two SPOs, Babi Chand and Rashpal Kumar, were found dead with bullet wounds on November 12, a day after they were reported missing. So far, the J&K Police have not issued any statement.

Police 'strategy'

Meanwhile, BJP leader and J&K Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma and BJP legislator Shagun Parihar questioned the J&K Police's "strategy" and the treatment of the bodies.

"Two SPOs climb a mountain range to assist the Army and carry out an operation. Is this an operational strategy? The local J&K police officers are incompetent. Why were they asked to assist the Army, which is strong enough?" asked Mr. Sharma. He sought the recruitment of local residents into the police and a Special Operations Group (SOG) picket at the last village of Kishtwar.

Last rites

The final rites of the slain policemen were held in their village amid protests by locals. Pawan Kumar, a family member of one of the slain SPOs, said, "We appeal to the L-G to order a CBI inquiry and not a police investigation."

He alleged that the two SPOs were asked to travel from the Dachhan area into Marwah, a separate area, "like sheep". "There are two posts in Dairana. Still, the two were directed to join the Army from Dachhan," he added.

Govt. health spending triples in a decade: NHA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Union government's health expenditure more than tripled to ₹4.14 lakh crore in the financial year 2023-24 from ₹1.30 lakh crore in 2013-14, according to the latest National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates, released by the Health Ministry. It also showed that the share of out-of-pocket spending by households dropped by 21.5 percentage points in the same period, highlighting a significant transformation in the country's healthcare financing landscape.

As a share of total health expenditure, out-of-pocket spending fell from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 42.7% in 2023-24. "The simultaneous increase in public healthcare financing and decline in spending borne directly by households reflect India's progress towards a more accessible, affordable, and financially protective healthcare system," the Health Ministry said in a statement.

The government's share in total health expenditure increased by 14.9 percentage points over the decade, the estimates showed, while per capita government health expenditure rose from ₹1,042 in 2013-14 to ₹2,959 in 2023-24, an increase of nearly three times.

The estimates also highlighted a rise in social security expenditure on health, with its share in total health expenditure increasing from 6% in 2013-14 to 11% in 2023-24. This includes government-financed health insurance schemes and medical expenditure for government employees.

Furthermore, private health insurance expenditure grew even faster, with its share of total health expenditure rising from 3.4% in 2013-14 to 10.2% in 2023-24.

India and Bangladesh should support temporary renewal of Ganga Water Treaty: expert

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

There is no possibility of a fully revised India-Bangladesh Ganga Water Treaty in the mere four weeks left before the 30-year-old treaty expires, Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, former Chairman of the National River Conservation Commission of Bangladesh, said on Sunday. The treaty could be renewed for three to five years "at the last moment", Mr. Chowdhury said, but clearance would be needed at the highest level of political leadership for it.

"Four weeks is not sufficient for revising the old Ganga Water Treaty as river treaties require more time to finalise. But having a bad treaty is also better than not having any treaty at all. We can at least opt for a renewal of the treaty for three to five years, if the political leaderships of both sides give the green signal," Mr. Chowdhury said.


The Ganga Water Treaty will expire in December. FILE PHOTO

Agriculture season

He cautioned Bangladesh on the upcoming agriculture season of February when, as in every year, Bangladesh's dependence on Ganga water will increase.

"Without a treaty, India will not have any commitment to release water at regular intervals and that might pose a major problem for Bangladesh's agriculture sector, economy as well as ecology," Mr. Chowdhury said.

The Ganga Water Treaty was signed in December 1996. Prior to the signing of the treaty, for eight years between 1988 and 1996, Bangladesh suffered due to unpredictability in the supply of Ganga water. The treaty had ensured predictability, which helped Bangladesh, Mr. Chowdhury said.

He added that the Government of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had not managed Bangladesh's foreign policy requirements effectively.

"The foreign policy of the government has become unhinged from real requirements. At the moment, there is an urgent need for agreement between the political leaderships of Bangladesh and India to ensure the Ganga Water Treaty remains on track," Mr. Chowdhury said.

India must become innovator, global leader in advanced tech, says Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday called for strengthening India's indigenous Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) capabilities, saying the country must move beyond being a user of advanced technologies to become a developer, innovator and global leader in critical technological domains.

Virtually addressing the 36th Annual Conference on Non-Destructive Evaluation and Enabling Technologies and the 15th International Symposium on Non-Destructive Testing in Aerospace, organised by the Indian Society for Non-Destructive Testing in Hyderabad, he said reliable testing and quality assurance were essential for defence preparedness and strategic self-reliance.

"There can be no compromise on the integrity of testing results in strategic applications," Mr. Singh said, stressing the need to develop indigenous capabilities to reduce technological dependence and secure critical defence supply chains.


Rajnath Singh being felicitated during the 36th Annual Conference on Non-Destructive Evaluation and Enabling Technologies. ANI

'Embedding quality'

He said NDT technologies enable the examination of materials, components, and structures without causing damage. With Indian defence systems becoming increasingly sophisticated, every critical material, component, and manufacturing process must meet the highest standards of quality and reliability, he said. Hidden defects could affect operational availability, increase maintenance, reduce equipment service life, and, in critical situations, jeopardise mission success. "We need to move beyond a culture of merely identifying defects towards actively preventing them by embedding quality at every stage of the manufacturing process," he added.

Underlining the strategic significance of NDT, Mr. Singh said quality in defence applications, including missiles, aircraft, naval platforms, and spacecraft, was not merely a manufacturing requirement but an essential element of operational reliability and national security.

Missile development

He cited India's achievements in missile development, naval platforms, radar systems, and space applications as evidence of its expanding indigenous capabilities. The commissioning of the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier, *INS Vikrant*, was an important milestone in India's journey towards self-reliance, he said.

Referring to initiatives such as Technology Development Fund (TDF), he said collaboration among the government, industry, and research institutions was crucial. The conference has brought together over 2,000 professionals, researchers, and industry experts to discuss emerging NDT technologies and their applications in defence and aerospace.

Dalits will pull the rug out from under BJP's feet, says SP chief

Akhilesh urges party workers to stay vigilant against electoral manipulation during special summary revision in U.P.; claims the BJP is afraid because Dalits had successfully registered their votes and Muslims had safeguarded theirs during the SIR

Anuj Kumar
GHAZIABAD

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav coined a fresh slogan on Sunday, "Save vote, save Constitution", as he promised to establish the rule of law and social justice if voted to power in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election slated for 2027.

Responding to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's remarks about a drop in Hindu votes, the party president urged workers to stay vigilant against "vote *ki hera pheri* (electoral manipulation)" in the ongoing special summary revision (SSR).

Questioning the need for the SSR, he claimed the BJP was afraid because Dalits had successfully registered their votes and Muslims had safeguarded theirs during the special intensive revision (SIR).

"They realise they have begun losing the battle of votes," said Mr. Yadav, referring to the party's gains in the Lok Sabha election.


Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav during the Dalit Sammelan event in Agra on Sunday. PTI

Questioning Mr. Adityanath, he said that someone who speaks in terms of "80/20" cannot be a true yogi, asserting that the contest was actually between 95% and 5%.

"This country will not be run by *Manuvidhan* [a legal, social, and moral code attributed to the ancient sage Manu]; it will be run by the *Samvidhan* [Constitution]," he asserted.

Mr. Yadav was speaking at a rally organised by senior party leader and Rajya Sabha member Ramjilal Suman.

The rally is seen as part of the SP's continued outreach towards the SC vote bank that has splintered following the Bahujan Samaj Party's electoral decline.

The party's strategy of fielding a Scheduled Caste candidate in the unreserved Ayodhya seat proved successful.

In Agra, where Dalits constitute around 30% of the electorate, Mr. Yadav linked the Lok Sabha campaign's 'Save the Constitution' slogan to a call to 'save the vote', which he said would protect Dalit dignity in the face of what he termed the BJP's discriminatory rule.

Countering the imagery of Angad's foot invoked by Amit Shah during his address to BJP workers in Lucknow, Mr. Yadav defined the 'D' in PDA as "*Dumdar Dalit* [powerful Dalit]" and declared, "Dalits will pull the rug from under the BJP's feet and sweep them off power."

'Political tourists'

Without naming the alliance between the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and the Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram), Mr. Yadav dismissed them as '*siyasat ke sailani*' (political tourists) whose "OTP is in someone else's hands".

Focusing on AIMIM, whose symbol is a kite, Mr. Yadav said their string was in someone else's hand.

Earlier in his speech, Mr. Yadav linked issues such as exam paper leaks, the closure of primary schools, vacant government posts, and rising crimes against women to his PDA plank, which he redefined as *Peedit*, *Dukhi*, and *Apmanit* [oppressed, distressed, and humiliated]. He raised concerns over the vandalisation of Ambedkar statues across the State, promising to ensure their legal protection if voted to power.

He also pledged a special welfare package for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

The party is expected to release its election manifesto on November 26.

BJP slams Rahul's absence from tribute programme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and other dignitaries at the Parliament House complex on Sunday. ANI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday criticised the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for not attending an event commemorating the 151st birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda, held at the Parliament complex here, while having attended what the party termed an "anti-Bharat summit" in Hyderabad.

President Droupadi Murmu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid floral tributes to Birsa Munda in the Parliament complex on the occasion of the freedom fighter's 151st birth anniversary, celebrated as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'.

The BJP's national convener Ashish Usha Agarwal posted a picture from the event on social media platform X and questioned Mr. Gandhi's absence. "Rahul Gandhi and the Congress never miss an opportunity to claim that they are the voice of Adivasis and champions of tribal rights. But where were they today? On Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, the birth anniversary of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition, and the Congress were conspicuous by their absence from the parliamentary tribute programme," Mr. Agarwal said in his post.

'Anti-Bharat Summit'

"Instead, Rahul Gandhi was busy attending the anti-Bharat Summit in Hyderabad, an event whose proceedings have raised serious questions about its political agenda and discourse on India's democracy," Mr. Agarwal added.

He was referring to the 'Bharat Summit', a Congress initiative backed by the Telangana government. The BJP has alleged that the invitees included individuals with links to George Soros-backed networks, who were known to make anti-India statements. The BJP's Scheduled Tribe Morcha chief Mannalal Rawat also criticised Mr. Gandhi's absence from the function at the Parliament complex, stating that it exposed the Congress's hypocrisy.

India will get preferential market access in U.S.: Goyal

Press Trust of India
CAIRO

India and the U.S. have already agreed that Indian goods in the American market will receive preferential market access compared to competitor nations, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday.

India and the U.S. finalised the framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement in February. The deal was to be signed earlier, but changes in the U.S. tariff landscape have led to further negotiations on the agreement.

"This was already agreed between the leaders – President (Donald) Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi – when they announced that we have both come to a broad framework agreement a few months ago and it has been acknowledged that India will get preferential trade access in the U.S. with lower duties than our competitor countries," Mr. Goyal told reporters here.

He is on a two-day visit to discuss ways to boost trade and investment between India and Egypt.

India and Egypt to work on terms of reference for potential trade pact: Goyal

Press Trust of India
CAIRO


Union Minister Piyush Goyal with Egyptian Minister Mohamed Farid Saleh in Egypt on Sunday. PTI

India and Egypt on Sunday announced that officials from both countries will work toward finalising the terms of reference (ToR) for a potential bilateral trade agreement.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said promoting trade in local currencies would help boost economic ties and reduce the cost of doing business.

"I welcome the announcement....We will have teams led by Petal Dhillon (Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry) to work with the Egyptian team in a time-bound manner on the terms of reference, that would potentially elevate our economic ties to the next level, both in terms of trade, investments and a much more comprehensive partnership, spanning many other areas like education," Mr. Goyal said here at the Joint Trade Committee meeting.

The Egyptian side was represented by Mohamed Farid Saleh, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Egypt.

Terms of reference are broad contours for formally negotiating a trade agreement. A working group will be set up to decide on the ToR.

Mr. Goyal also said the two countries can increase cooperation in areas such as pharmaceuticals and healthcare; engineering and the automotive industry; agriculture; digitisation and fintech; and museums.

Mr. Goyal said the current bilateral trade is $6.5 billion, but "we need to be much more ambitious".

Elaborating on increased cooperation in the fintech sector, Mr. Goyal said Indian and Egyptian central banks are working to promote local currency trade. He suggested linking India's digital public infrastructure, such as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), with Egyptian payment systems.

Egypt is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and world-famous museums. To preserve and present this heritage, the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum is being developed as a landmark national cultural institution at the historic North and South Block Complex in New Delhi.

CRPF withdraws anti-Naxal battalion from Chhattisgarh; deploys it for Manipur duties

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has withdrawn a battalion of more than 1,000 personnel from the anti-Naxal operations theatre in Chhattisgarh and sent it to Manipur for deployment.

The development marks the first such de-induction of any Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) unit following the Union government's declaration that Naxalism in India ended in March 2026.

Companies (parts of a battalion) have been withdrawn temporarily for various internal security duties. Officials said the battalion was based in the former Maoist hotbed of Sukma in the southern Bastar region.

'Restrictions on Wangchuk show administrative high-handedness'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) co-chairman Sajjad Kargili on Sunday said arbitrary restrictions on the freedom of movement of activist Sonam Wangchuk reflected "a deeply troubling pattern of administrative high-handedness".

Speaking after a failed attempt to meet Mr. Wangchuk at the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh, (HIAL) on Saturday, the Ladakh civil society body leader said, "When we sought clarification on whether Mr. Wangchuk had been arrested, the police categorically stated that he was not under arrest but was merely facing restrictions on movement."


Sonam Wangchuk

"This immediately raised a fundamental question: If he is not under arrest, on what grounds are others being prevented from meeting him? Unfortunately, the authorities had no convincing answer," Mr. Kargili said.

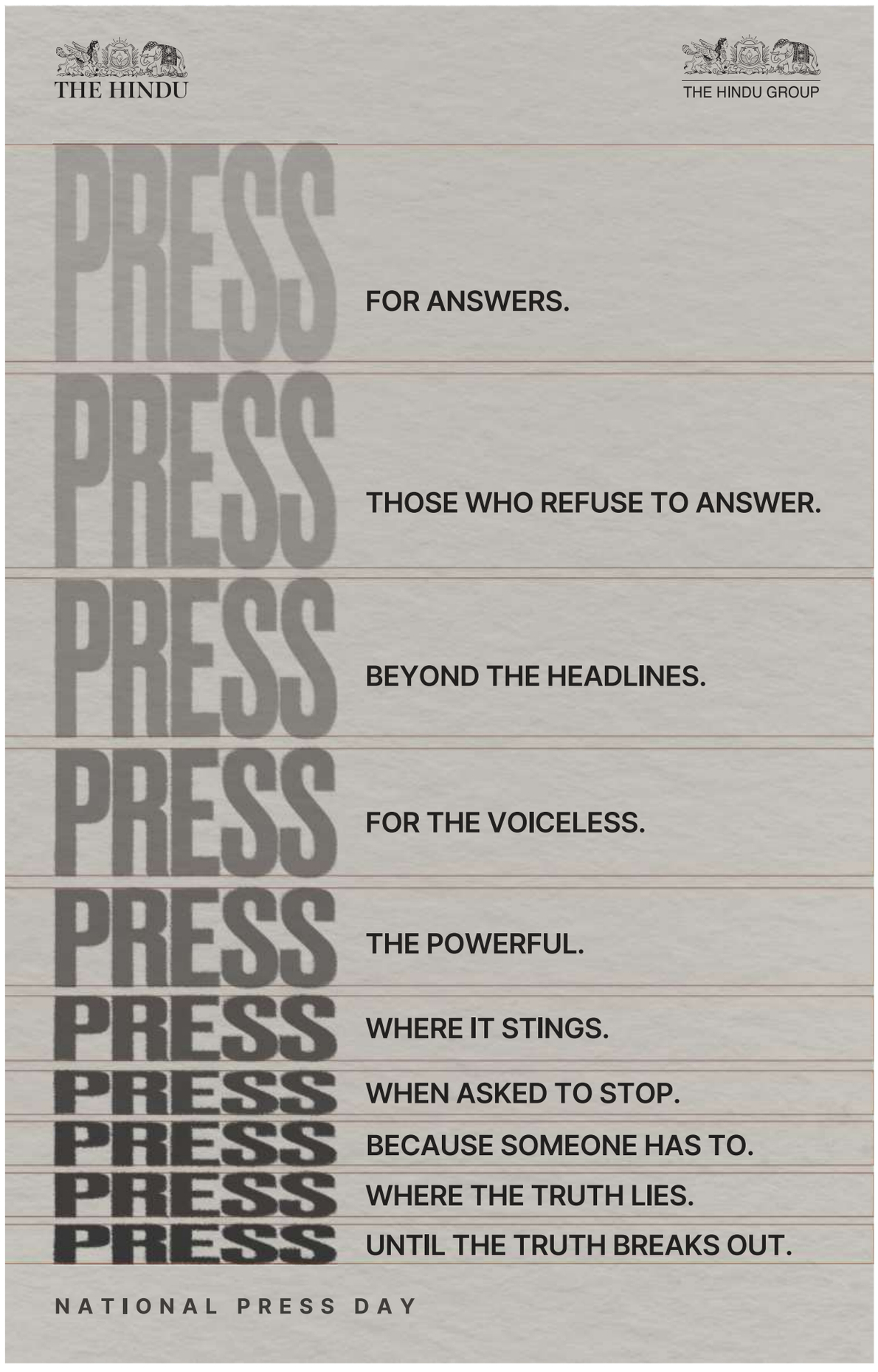
Mr. Wangchuk was shifted from the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Memorial Park, a protest site in Leh, to HIAL on November 11.

Mr. Wanchuk's removal came as the Leh Apex Body (LAB), another civil society group, called for an indefinite sit-in over their six demands, which included the resumption of dialogue by the Centre with civil society groups and the postponement of hill council elections to next year instead of the planned December 4 polls.

"On November 14, I, along with two other members of the KDA, attempted to meet climate activist Mr. Wangchuk at HIAL, Leh. However, we were stopped by the police and prevented from proceeding further," said Mr. Kargili.

"The arbitrary restrictions on freedom of movement, the denial of the right to meet, and the absence of any reasonable explanation reflect a deeply troubling pattern of administrative high-handedness," said the KDA leader, who is also a member of the Ladakh group holding talks with the Centre.

The Ladakh administration has imposed restrictions on Mr. Wangchuk for 60 days under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, and cited concerns over public order and the smooth conduct of upcoming elections for panchayat, municipalities and hill councils.



INBRIEF



Mahanagar Gas hikes CNG price in Mumbai by ₹1.50 a kg

Mahanagar Gas Ltd. (MGL) hiked CNG prices by ₹1.50 a kg at its retail outlets. Effective November 15, CNG in Mumbai will be priced at ₹91.5 a kg. Cumulatively, prices of the vehicular gas have increased ₹9.5 a kg across six tranches since May 14. The uncertainty in West Asia and the loss of supplies from Qatar, which is the world's largest LNG producer and among the most reliable suppliers, have obligated purchasers to further alternate scouting of the natural gas and increasingly buy at spot. Previously, Adani Total Gas too had hiked CNG prices at its outlets cumulatively by ₹6.75 a kg across two tranches since October 23.

Empty Vande Bharat travels 463 km with faulty brakes

An empty Vande Bharat train with an allegedly inefficient braking system was allowed to travel 463 km between Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh in October, prompting the South Eastern Railway zone to initiate a probe into the incident which posed a potential threat to other passenger trains. The incident took place on October 24. "Running a train without adequate brake power is a serious safety concern that may lead to accident, endangering the lives of staff and passengers," South Eastern Railway said. The empty chair car rake was to be moved by a freight locomotive from Hatia in Jharkhand to Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh. PTI

Army chief to visit Czech Republic to boost defence ties

Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth will undertake an official visit to the Czech Republic from November 16 to 19 to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, enhance military-to-military engagement, and explore opportunities for collaboration in defence technology and industry. During the visit, General Seth will hold discussions with senior military leadership of the Czech Armed Forces, including Lieutenant-General Petr Čepelka, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff and Deputy Chief of Defence, at the General Staff Headquarters in Prague. The discussions are expected to cover a range of issues, including military cooperation, training, and emerging security challenges.

FPIs pump ₹84,290 crore into equities in November

Foreign investors made a strong comeback to Indian equities in the first fortnight of November, pumping in ₹84,290 crore after two consecutive months of net outflows, amid a global AI sell-off, falling crude prices and attractive large-cap valuations. The latest inflows follow net withdrawals of ₹34,843 crore in October and ₹35,861 crore in September, according to data from the depositories. According to the data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) made a net investment of ₹84,290 crore in Indian equities during November 2-13, covering nine trading sessions. PTI

India votes against UN resolution on death penalty

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India has voted against a draft UN General Assembly resolution calling upon nations to establish a moratorium on the death penalty.

The 193-member UNGA adopted, by recorded vote, the resolution on Friday introduced by Mexico on "Moratorium on the use of the death penalty", with 133 countries voting in favour of the resolution, 33 against, and 16 absenting.

The resolution expressed deep concern about the continued application of the death penalty, and reaffirmed the right of all countries to develop their own legal systems, including determining appropriate legal penalties in accordance with international law.

It called upon all states to establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

The resolution expressed deep concern that despite the global trend towards limiting the application of the death penalty, there was a significant surge in reported executions in 2025.

Lalit Modi gets British citizenship amid ongoing legal cases in India

The loss of Indian citizenship complicates process of extraditing IPL founder, who faces several cases and investigations in India; in 2017, the ED requested the U.K. authorities to transfer him to India to face justice in relation to non-bailable warrant

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Indian Premier League (IPL) founder Lalit Modi, who has had a number of cases and investigations against him in India, announced over the weekend that he had become a British citizen.

The loss of Indian citizenship – which is automatic when one accepts the citizenship of another country – further complicates the process of extraditing Mr. Lalit Modi to India.

Mr. Lalit Modi announced on X that he had naturalised as a British citizen on September 20.

New Delhi has repeatedly pressed the U.K. for the return of Mr. Lalit Modi, along with others such as diamond jeweller Nirav Modi and entrepreneur Vijay Mallya to India to face legal proceedings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made requests to his (then) British counterpart Keir Starmer for the return of "economic offenders and fugitives" in July 2025, when he visited the U.K., according to a government readout of their meeting.


Former IPL chairman Lalit Modi at the Oxford Union, where he announced that he had acquired British citizenship. PTI

Mr. Lalit Modi announced his new citizenship status in person at the Oxford Union on Saturday, noting that November 14 was also the birthday of King Charles III.

"Thank you to my family, friends and everyone who has been part of this journey, and to the Oxford Union for providing such a memorable occasion to share this news," he said. "The United Kingdom has been my home for many years," he said.

Announcing his new citizenship status, Mr. Lalit noted that Nov. 14 was also King Charles III's birthday

Mr. Lalit Modi departed India in 2010. He was accused in India of financial irregularities and money laundering as well as violating the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) stemming from his time as the Vice-President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) during the 2009-2010 period. A case was filed against Mr. Lalit Modi under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, based on an FIR filed by the Tamil Nadu Police on October 13, 2010. A non-bailable warrant was issued against Mr. Lalit Modi in 2015 after he failed to respond to multiple summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

On February 6, 2017, the ED requested the U.K. authorities to transfer Mr. Lalit Modi to India to face justice in relation to the non-bailable warrant. It used the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) process for this.

In 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs said it would continue to pursue the case against Mr. Lalit Modi as per the law, reacting to the news that he had surrendered his Indian passport to the Indian High Commission in London following his acquisition of citizenship of Vanuatu. The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Jothan Napat, subsequently ordered the cancellation of Mr. Lalit Modi's passport and a probe into his citizenship. Mr. Lalit Modi was also involved in a case relating to the shifting of the IPL tournament from India to South Africa in 2009. This happened due to security concerns around the general election, and necessitated the transfer of funds from the BCCI to Cricket South Africa. This process, the ED alleged, had involved violations of the FEMA.

Consequently the ED imposed penalties on Mr. Lalit Modi in 2018. In July 2026, Mr. Lalit Modi had a legal victory with an appellate tribunal overturning the findings against him.

"My life's journey has been shaped by different cultures and experiences, and I look forward to continuing to contribute positively to the country I proudly call home," Mr. Lalit Modi said on X.

Mr. Lalit Modi has repeatedly argued that he is not a "fugitive" because he has not been convicted in any case in India.

Nagaland seeks travel permit exemption for foreign nationals

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has requested the Centre to allow foreign nationals to visit the State without a Protected Area Permit (PAP). The PAP is a special travel document required to enter sensitive border and tribal regions in India.

In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on November 13, he said the existing 10-day PAP relaxation for the Hornbill Festival was insufficient to support tourism, trade, and investment in the State.

Mr. Rio welcomed the Union Home Ministry's decision to relax the PAP requirement from December 1 to 10 for the festival every year.

"However, the limited window does not address the State's wider tourism and economic needs," he said.


Neiphiu Rio

The Chief Minister sought PAP exemption from November 15 to December 15 for the Hornbill Festival, pointing out that foreign tourists often arrived before the event and stayed beyond its conclusion to explore Nagaland.

Mr. Rio urged the Ministry to extend PAP exemptions to foreign investors, corporate representatives, and their accompanying families, foreign athletes, coaches, technical officials, and team management participating in sporting events.

BJP MP writes to USCIRF, says Sharjeel in jail not for faith but role in Delhi riots

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Sujeet Kumar has sent a letter to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) rejecting its characterisation of Sharjeel Imam as being detained for his religious views. Mr. Kumar chairs the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice, Personnel and Public Grievances.

In the letter addressed to USCIRF director Asif Mahmood, Mr. Kumar stated that Mr. Imam was arrested for his alleged involvement in the 2020 Delhi riots, rather than his faith.

"Imam is NOT in jail for his faith, or for his religious advocacy. He is held in the alleged conspiracy behind the February 2020 riots in north-east Delhi, in which 53 people died, a case the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has held to concern not his opinions but 'a proposed method of paralysing civic life and choking essential supplies'. In January 2026 the same Hon'ble Bench heard the bail pleas of seven accused in this case, all of them Muslim, and granted bail to five while refusing it to Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid, finding that the evidence gave them a 'central and formative role'. Faced with seven Muslim accused, the Hon'ble Court weighed the evidence against each of them on its own merits; while your Commission shamelessly picked one of the seven and saw nothing but his religion, a textbook case of the very discrimination your Commission exists to report, so next year's annual report should include a chapter on the Commission itself," wrote Mr Kumar.


Sujeet Kumar

"Was the 'advocacy' the speeches that the Sessions Court in Delhi found, prima facie, to have a tendency to incite violence, and challenging 'the territorial integrity of India?' If that is religious freedom advocacy, the Commission has invented a new religion, and India is not converting," his letter read.

The USCIRF designated India as a "Country of Particular Concern (CPC)" on the issue of religious freedom in its 2026 report and posted about Mr. Imam on its website and X handle.

Guwahati flight returns to Pune due to glitch; all safe

Press Trust of India
PUNE

A Guwahati-bound IndiGo flight with 192 people on board returned to Pune airport on Sunday morning after its landing gear failed to retract shortly after take-off, airport officials said.

Airport authorities and the Indian Air Force (IAF) declared a "full emergency", mobilising fire and medical teams after the pilot of flight 6E 623 (VT-IZE) reported the snag. The aircraft touched down safely at 9.04 a.m. following a low pass over the runway, officials said.

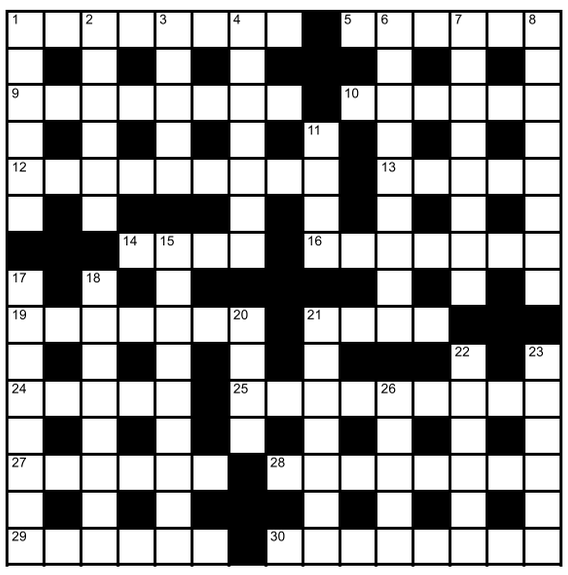
The pilot informed the Air Traffic Control (ATC) that the aircraft's landing gear (undercarriage) failed to retract and remained in the extended position, the Pune airport authorities said in a statement. "All 192 persons on board were safe and no injuries were reported," it said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14949

(set by KrisKross)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 "Hell!" said girl, shocked (8)
5 Made money from pit filled with treasure — basically diamonds (6)
9 Flying drone to end of annex in the adjacent building (4,4)
10 Disdainfully rejects spies (6)
12 So rushed to wrap present with note (9)
13 Sway around, crossing grand river (5)
14 Quick shower clearing brain essentially (4)
16 Knowledge about India captured in moving scene (7)
19 It makes people break up, crying (4,3)
21 Extras agreed following hint of bonus (4)
24 Removing tumour — ultimately rather minor (5)
25 More vulgar ruffians initially ruin each complex (9)
27 Common name (Mike) seen in test (6)
28 One impression — with it, finally convey who you are (8)
29 Marks soprano's hits (6)
30 Order to cut international military supplies (8)

Down

1 Fellow had gift (6)
2 Cracked test about former group of musicians (6)
3 Confuse leader ousted from position of control (5)
4 Study of environment, say, apprehending cool new technology at last (7)
6 Not guilty? No, no — KrisKross has motive! (9)
7 Model, reluctant to take off top, moving slowly (8)
8 Abandoned rest, vigorously getting into action (8)
11 Announced barricade for marshy areas (4)
15 Spooner says something important: "Group, give a ride to a child!" (9)
17 Somewhat useless tip: "End shift allowances" (8)
18 Sensible to drink true-blue Bordeaux wine (8)
20 Certain soups use raw eggs primarily (4)
21 Old rogue kangaroo maybe? (7)
22 Short, trim individual — a favoured employee (6)
23 Some severely grating, repulsive pattern in sock (6)
26 Criminal frames a minister (5)

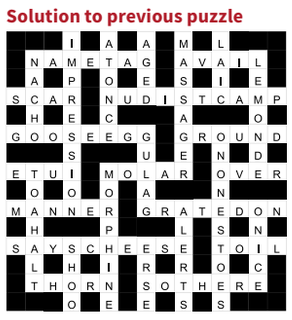
SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Vaali's last words

Vaali, who is in the throes of death, argues with Rama about the propriety of shooting him (Vaali) from behind. Rama points out that He was perfectly justified in punishing Vaali. Vaali then acknowledges his sins, and seeks Rama's forgiveness, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. Vaali says he had questioned Rama because of his ignorance, and seeks Rama's forgiveness. He realises that he not only deserves the punishment, but has, in fact, been saved from worse punishment in Naraka loka. But he is worried about his son Angada. Vaali has doted on Angada, who will be lost with no one to guide him. Vaali requests Rama to guide his son and to treat both Angada and Sugreeva with equal compassion. He hopes Rama will have the same affection for Sugreeva and Angada, which He has for Bharata and Lakshmana.

Vaali adds that his wife Tara had no role in his (Vaali's) aggression against Sugreeva, and that, therefore, Sugreeva must not nurture any grievance against her. When Rama supports someone, that person can rule not only the earth but heaven too, says Vaali. He confesses that Tara had tried to dissuade him from fighting Sugreeva, but he had paid no heed to her. Rama consoles Vaali. He says Vaali should stop thinking about the past. He has been punished for his sin, and there ends the matter. Because Vaali has been punished, he is now free from sin. Tara and Angada arrive, and when Tara begins to wail, Sugreeva is filled with remorse, at having been the cause of Vaali's death. Tara is devastated and is inconsolable when she finds Vaali dying because of Rama's arrow. She says to Vaali, "You are a king. Rise. How can a king lie on ground?"

Top-up: the policy that 'excess' inspired

COVERNOTE

K. Nitya Kalyani

Policy 'excess'. That unkind little slice of an insurance claim that you have to bear. After the previous two instalments of Cover Note on policy excess, readers have expressed their disappointment that such a cost sharing arrangement is demanded of them at all. After all there are so many non-admissibles, non-payables and exclusions in a policy that rarely does anyone get back the full amount they incurred.

But something good comes out of everything and one such is the top-up policy, and its fraternal twin, the super top-up.

We will come to the differences between these two in a moment, but what these policies do is to take the concept of excess, twirl it around and stand it on its head. What results is a top-up/ super top-up policy whose coverage starts only after the stated excess amount has been breached. In the top-up cinematic universe, the deductible is also called the threshold. It is sometimes called the trigger because crossing the threshold triggers the policy's coverage.

The coverage here is significantly cheaper than in your typical basic policy. We aren't usually interested in reasons behind why we have to pay less, but here it is anyway. Likelihood of loss is one factor in a premium calculation. In this case, hospitalisation expenses. To put it simply, probability statistics show that low- to moderate-value hospitalisation claims are more frequent than very expensive hospital stays.

Extrapolating that into a premium amount means coverage for up to, say, ₹5 or ₹10 lakh would be more likely to result in a claim. Higher value claims occur more rarely and anyway a top-up pays only over and above the excess.

Now comes a detail. Let us say the SI of your base policy is ₹10 lakh. That amount is generally the cumulative limit of all claims for a policy year. You could have bonus SI accrued as a reward for no-claims.

You can smartly fashion your basic policy's SI as the 'excess' or 'deductible' of the top-up policy.

This means that a claim under the top-up or super top-up can be admitted only when eligible expenses cross the ₹10 lakh threshold. The expenses up to that threshold may be covered by your basic policy, paid from your pocket, or met through a combination of both.

At this next step top-up and super top-up policies work differently in the way the deductible is calculated. In the top-up policy, the deductible is applied on each hospitalisation claim. So, each individual hospital bill should cross the deductible amount for you to make a claim.

The super top-up is kinder to you. The deductible is applied to the aggregate of eligible hospital expenses across the policy year.

Let us say you have a top-up policy with a deductible of ₹10 lakh and two hospitalisation bills of ₹5 lakh and ₹7 lakh in the same policy year. The policy would pay nothing because neither bill individually crosses the deductible. A super top-up, however, would add up both bills to ₹12 lakh and pay a ₹2 lakh claim, assuming the expenses are admissible under the policy and sufficient SI is available.

So, the top-up is valuable in the case of a single, very expensive claim, like a major accident, major surgery or treatment of a critical illness.

The super top-up comes into the picture when bills from multiple hospitalisations, including smaller ones for recurring treatment or chronic ailments, add up to reach the threshold. Of course, a super top-up also covers a single large bill exceeding the deductible.

So, a super top-up does double duty and it generally costs more because it is more flexible.

As I said, something good comes out of everything. The excess, which is a burden in one policy, becomes a mechanism for affordability in another. And I should stop with three pieces on 'excess'. A fourth one would truly be an excess!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)



Clickbait caution: A borrower seeking an instant loan to meet an emergency should not end up surrendering control over money or personal details. SAINATH B

Need a quick loan? Beware of digital lending traps

From hidden charges and misuse of personal data to coercive recovery tactics, digital borrowing demands more than a cursory glance as borrowers need to know what the loan really costs

BLINDSPOT ALERT

Sincy Wilson
Vaishali R Venkat

The devil of digital lending can be a click away. Just a few taps on a smartphone can instantly credit a borrower's account with a few thousand rupees or even lakhs.

But beneath the speed of disbursal, lurk risks that could leave unsuspecting borrowers hoodwinked: hidden charges, misuse of personal data, and recovery agents who overstep their bounds.

Instant loans might seem like a boon for cash-strapped borrowers, but it might potentially turn into an exploitative experience for borrowers. Before signing up, borrowers need to know who is lending, what the loan really costs.

A Digital Lending App (DLA) may not always be the direct lender. Under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) regulatory framework, lending must be done by Regulated Entities (REs) such as banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) authorised to carry on lending activities. These entities approve the loan, lend capital and hold legal responsibility for lending process.

A Lending Service Provider (LSP) is an agent of a regulated lender who undertakes functions including customer acquisition, loan servicing and recovery on behalf of a regulated entity. The RBI's Credit Facilities Directions, 2025 require regulated lenders to conduct enhanced due diligence on LSPs and remain fully responsible for their acts and omissions.

> The RBI's Credit Facilities Directions, 2025 require regulated lenders to conduct enhanced due diligence on Lending Service Providers

Before you tap 'Apply'

Knowing who is behind the digital lending app is only half the battle. Is the loan as affordable as it appears? A loan advertised at 2% interest may sound inexpensive. However, the cost of 2% a month, a week/day can vary drastically.

Therefore, borrowers should look beyond the headline rate and compare the Annual Percentage Rate (APR), which captures the annualised cost of credit, including interest and other applicable charges.

The lender must provide a Key Facts Statement (KFS) before the loan agreement is executed. The KFS encapsulates crucial conditions of the loan including APR, processing fees, repayment schedule, amortisation details, and other penal charges.

A borrower seeking an instant loan to meet an emergency should not end up surrendering control over money or personal information. The app may facilitate the loan, but it cannot handle the flow of funds between the borrower and the lender. The lender must transfer the loan amount directly to the borrower's bank account, and repayments must reach the lender without passing through the app operator's account.

> Borrowers must be provided with a cooling-off period of at least one day to reconsider their decision and exit by repaying the principal or part of APR

Further, borrowers must be provided with a cooling-off period of at least one day to reconsider their decision and exit by repaying the principal and proportionate APR without penalty. The lender may retain a reasonable one-time processing fee if disclosed upfront in the KFS. Borrowing money does not give a DLA the right to rummage through your phone's contact list, call logs, files or photos. Access to such personal information is restricted and any data collected must be necessary for the lending process and supported by the borrower's explicit consent. If required, borrowers can withdraw their consent and ask the bank or LSP to delete or forget that data. Several cases reported to the police have revealed instances wherein borrowers were threatened with morphed photographs, harassed through calls to people in their contact lists and blackmailed using personal information obtained from their phones. Such incidents show how a search for emergency credit can expose cash-crunch borrowers to intimidation.

The LSP cannot separately charge borrowers for its services; the lender must bear that cost. If recovery is outsourced, the lender must inform the borrower by SMS or email of the recovery agent's details. Borrowers can also approach the lender's grievance officer. If the complaint is rejected and the borrower is dissatisfied with the response, or no reply is received within 30 days, the matter can be escalated to the RBI's Complaint Management System (https://cms.rbi.org.in) portal under the RBI - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021. An instant loan need not become a lasting burden. A little awareness can help consumers access credit without surrendering control over their finances or privacy.

(Dr. Sincy Wilson is Assistant Professor, School of Law, Vels University (VISTAS). Dr. Vaishali R. Venkat is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Axis Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	2,069 onwards	Up to 2%
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-30.50	10,624-16,177	2,125-3,235	Up to 4.13%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.05	10,722-12,710	2,144-2,542	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Bank of India	11.10-16.15	10,896-12,199	2,179-2,440	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-15.25	10,264-11,961	2,125-2,392	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,122-2,432	0.25% (Rs. 500 - Rs. 2,500)
Central Bank of India	11.50 onwards	10,996 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 1%
Federal Bank	11.75 - 18.99	11,059 - 12,968	2,212 - 2,594	Up to 3%
HDFC Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to Rs 6,500
HSBC Bank	9.80 onwards	10,574 onwards	2,115 onwards	Up to 1%
ICICI Bank	10.25 onwards	10,685 onwards	2,137 onwards	Up to 2%
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 0.75%
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.5% (2% for instant personal loans for limited period)
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 50% off
Poonawalla Fincorp	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to 4%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.90-14.05	10,599-11,764	2,120-2,353	0.50%-1%
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1%
State Bank of India	10.00-15.00	10,624-11,895	2,125-2,379	NIL
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5%
UCO Bank	10.20 - 13.45	10,673-11,492	2,135-2,298	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
Union Bank of India	9.15 - 12.90	10,416-11,351	2,083-2,270	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)

*Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance.

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Bank of Baroda	7.85 - 11.55	10,102 - 11.009	Up to Rs. 2,000
Bank of India	7.85-12.55	10,102 - 11,262	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-12.00	10,067 - 11,122	Nil
Canara Bank**	7.70-11.70	10,067 - 11,047	0.25% (Rs 1,000 - Rs 5,000)
Central Bank of India	7.75-9.55	10,078 - 10,513	NIL (Till 31.12.2026)
HDFC Bank	8.25 onwards	10,198 onwards	Up to 0.5% (Rs. 3,500 - Rs. 8,000)
ICICI Bank	8.40 onwards	10,234 onwards	Up to Rs. 8,500
IDFC FIRST Bank	8.99 onwards	10,377 onwards	Up to 5%
Indian Bank	7.75 onwards	10,031 - 11,034	Nil
Indian Overseas Bank	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	NIL
Karnataka Bank	8.35-11.85	10,222 - 11,084	Up to 0.60% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 11,000)
Punjab and Sind Bank***	7.55-14.30	10,031 - 11,712	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Punjab National Bank	7.85-10.95	10,102 - 10,859	NIL (Till 31.12.2026)
State Bank of India	8.45 - 9.50	10,246 - 10,501	Rs. 500 - Rs. 2,000
UCO Bank	7.70-10.25	10,067 - 10,685	0.5% (Max. Rs 5,000)
Union Bank of India	7.75-10.25	10,078 - 10,685	Up to Rs 1,000

*0.25% concession for home loan borrowers/other customers with 6 month banking relationship
**100% waiver on processing fee till December 31
***Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam
Rates and charges as on November 11

Source: Paisabazaar.com

Equity vs bonds

THINKINVESTOR

Concentrated bets in equity market could generate high returns if your bet turns right; On the other hand, diversification pays off for bond investments

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Diversification may have its virtues but so does concentrated investments. Sector funds are examples of concentrated bets. In this article, we draw a distinction between concentrated bets in the equity and the bond markets and show why the former is meaningful and the latter, somewhat risky.

Upside potential

In theory, equity has unlimited upside potential. That means stock prices can rise to any level. In the real world, stock prices have high, not unlimited, upside potential given our finite investment horizon. Yet, concentrated bets can be meaningful. If you expect the banking sector to do well in the coming year, buying units of a banking sector ETF or a sector fund could be optimal. But the downside can be high if your bet turns wrong.

Unlike equity, bonds are obligations. Bond prices are the present value of all future interest cash flows (obligations) expected over the life of a bond. Bond prices go up when interest rate comes down and decline when interest rate goes up. But the level that interest rate can decline is much less than the level it can go up, as interest rates are primarily driven by the inflation levels in the economy. So, the downside risk in bonds is greater than its upside potential.

Importantly, bonds do not carry a high upside potential like equity. Even if a company does well in any year, you will only receive the obligatory interest payment. Given this, why invest in sector bond funds? What if one company in that sector fails to make its interest payment on time? That company's bond price will decline. But the failure by this company to pay interest on time can spook the bond market. The upshot is that bonds issued by other companies in the same sector could also see fall in prices. This could happen if the market becomes nervous about the sector and demands a higher credit risk premium from all companies in that sector.

Conclusion

Concentrated bets in the equity market could generate high returns, if your bet turns right. But that cannot be said of the bond market. So, diversification pays off for bond investments. Investing in different sectors may help to manage credit risk. Likewise, diversification across bond maturities could help when interest rate goes up. Note that this argument about diversification applies for direct investments in bonds and for bond funds. Your investment in bank deposits is another argument left for a later discussion.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

BEIJING

Drone ownership ban comes into force in Beijing over security risks



Beijing's ban on possessing drones came into force on Sunday, a measure authorities said will help ensure the security of China's capital city. The ban, which Beijing announced in September, outlaws owning and storing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to "safeguard the security of the capital". AFP

STARBASE

SpaceX 'catches' spaceship in a first, raising hopes of reusability



AP

Elon Musk's SpaceX on Saturday pulled off the first-ever "catch" of the Starship, a technical feat showing the feasibility of fully reusable rockets that would bring affordable spaceflight one step closer to reality. Up until now, spaceships have been discarded or destroyed after missions, making each launch an expensive venture. AFP

MADRID

Nearly 2,200 migrants reached Canary Islands in 2 days, says Spain



REUTERS

Nearly 2,200 migrants have arrived by boat in Spain's Canary Islands over the past two days, Spain's maritime rescue service said on Sunday. The Spanish archipelago off northwest Africa is one of the main entry points for migrants into the country, as people mainly from West Africa attempt the Atlantic crossing in boats. AP

KANDAHAR

Taliban authorities restrict airing cricket content on Kandahar radio



AFP

The Taliban authorities have banned radio stations in southern Kandahar from airing content related to cricket, a rapidly growing sport in Afghanistan, two broadcasters and a provincial source said on Sunday. "Both commentary and news coverage, or even reporting about their winning result, is also banned." AFP

Starshield restrictions threaten Ukraine's defences, says Zelenskyy

The country's interceptor drones continue to lose contact with their operators when flying faster than 161 kmph along the frontline and over Russian-occupied territory, leaving them unable to catch the Shahed drones, says Ukrainian President

Associated Press
KYIV



Municipal workers stand in front of a damaged building at a site of a drone strike in the city of Chornomorsk in Ukraine on Sunday. AFP

Restrictions on Ukraine's Starshield satellite communications system are hindering its ability to intercept Russian drones, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday.

He warned that limitations on the system, operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX, could weaken defences around Ukraine's energy infrastructure ahead of the winter months, when Moscow has repeatedly targeted the power grid.

Ukraine's interceptor drones continue to lose contact with their operators when flying faster than 161 kmph along the frontline and over Russian-occupied territory, leaving them unable to catch Russian Shahed drones, Mr. Zelenskyy said.

"We are counting on these restrictions to be lifted," he wrote on social media. "The protection of lives and Ukrainian energy infrastructure before winter depends on this. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, and the President's Office have been instructed to work closely with the American side and SpaceX. It is important to be on the right side of history. We need to help Ukraine."

Mr. Zelenskyy questioned on Saturday whether the problem was technical, saying the restrictions appeared to have been imposed by SpaceX despite earlier assurances from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio that Starshield was more under U.S. government control.

Meanwhile, a Russian strike on Chornomorsk, a port city in Ukraine's Odesa region, injured six people and damaged energy infrastructure, regional head Oleh Kiper said on Sunday on Telegram.

The blast and falling debris also damaged a gas pipeline and nearby residential buildings.

The strike hit a facility operated by DTEK Odesa Electric Networks, temporarily leaving about 41,000 customers without power, Mr. Kiper said.

Overnight Russian air strikes on the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia injured another six people, including a 2-year-old boy.

ASEAN denounces attacks on civilians in Myanmar

Associated Press
MANILA



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. speaks during the ASEAN Leaders' Interface in Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines. AP

Southeast Asian leaders said on Sunday that Myanmar has failed to comply with a 2021 peace plan and that its military and other armed groups continue to attack civilians, prompting them to extend a ban on Myanmar's leader attending the bloc's annual summits.

The stern rebuke by leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, who opened their annual summit meetings in the Philippine capital on Sunday, came during a review of the progress on the five-point peace plan by the country's military-backed government. Myanmar is a member of the 11-nation regional bloc.

ASEAN leaders proposed the plan in April 2021 to try to ease the violence that erupted after the Army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The Army's takeover triggered widespread pro-democracy protests that were brutally quashed, leading to armed resistance and a civil war that has spread over much of the country.

The leaders reiterated "deep concern" over insufficient progress in implementing the peace plan. They urged all parties and stakeholders in Myanmar, "in particular the armed forces, and armed groups to de-escalate violence and stop targeted attacks against civilians".

Respiratory illnesses increase in Gaza with worst to come: WHO

Reuters
GENEVA

The World Health Organization warned on Friday of surging respiratory illnesses in Gaza, with worse expected after heavy rain flooded tens of thousands of tents housing displaced Palestinians.

Poor living conditions and severe overcrowding are driving up infections as Gaza's population is squeezed into an ever-smaller area, WHO said. The crunch has worsened as the Israeli military expands its control by advancing the "Yellow Line" – a demarcation established under October's U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

"Acute respiratory infections are 33,000 cases higher than at the same time last year," WHO representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory told reporters in Geneva.

"That means people are living in more crowded conditions, where of course the spread between humans of a virus is much more prone to spread," the representative added.

William, Kate to visit Mumbai for Earthshot Prize ceremony

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Catherine (Kate), are due to arrive in Mumbai for a three-day visit, with public engagements kicking off mid-morning on Monday.

The visit is focused around the Prince's annual Earthshot Prize, which will be given out on Tuesday evening at a ceremony in the city.

The couple, who were originally scheduled to spend their entire visit in Mumbai, will now conclude it with a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday. Their schedule was changed on Sunday after Mr. Modi's travel plans were confirmed, the *Sunday Times* reported. Mr. Modi is due to return from the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit in the Philippines on Tuesday.

The visit will include an event focused on gully cricket and an engagement with the film industry. Prince William played a round of cricket with cricketers Sourav Ganguly, Brian Lara and England captain Joe Root outside Buckingham Palace last month to promote his environmental prize.

Prince William, 44, is the heir to the British throne and shares a passion for the environment like his father, King Charles III. The Earthshot Prize was instituted by the Prince in 2020 and offers each of five finalists £1 million (approximately ₹12.5 crore) for solutions to pressing environmental problems.



Prince William and Kate Middleton interact with children from different NGOs at Oval Maidan in Mumbai in 2016. PRASHANT NAKWE

India has produced more finalists for the prize than any other country, Kensington Palace said.

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, actors Alia Bhatt and Rami Malek (the American actor who played one-time Mumbai resident Freddie Mercury in the 2018 film, *Bohemian Rhapsody*), are among those expected to attend the awards ceremony, hosted by celebrity talk show host Karan Johar. British pop group Take That will perform at Tuesday's event.

'Personal connections'

When in Mumbai, the Prince and Princess will also attend the inaugural Children's Earthshot Awards Ceremony – the culmination of a contest among 15,000 schools across 24 States.

"The future of the U.K.-India partnership will not be shaped by our governments alone, it will be shaped by our people and this visit is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate those deep personal connections between our countries," said Ben Mellor, Acting British High Commissioner to India, according to PTI.

This is Prince William and Princess Kate's second official visit to India and the Princess's first major overseas trip since she was treated for cancer in 2024 and had to step back from official duties.

Sport

Andreeva to take on Svitolina for top prize

WTA FINALS

Agence France-Presse
INDIAN WELLS



Andreeva. AFP

French Open winner Mirra Andreeva beat Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday to book a WTA Finals title showdown with former champion Elina Svitolina.

Ukraine's Svitolina, who won the WTA Finals in 2018, powered past Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova 6-2, 6-1 to give herself a shot at another triumph.

"It's really magical to be back in the finals," Svitolina said. "Just very special for me to have this opportunity, to have another battle another challenge."

The 32-year-old, back in the top-10 this year for the first time since before her daughter, Skai, was born in 2022, will face the 19-year-old Andreeva.

The debutant is the youngest player to make the final since a 17-year-old Maria Sharapova in 2004, joining Serena Williams and Chris Evert as the only players to win their first four matches in the event in straight sets.

N R I High Power for Bloomer Plate

HYDERABAD: N R I High Power, who ran third in her last start, should make amends in the Bloomer Plate, the main event of Monday's (Nov. 16) races.

1 CABARET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 12.55 p.m.: 1. Atreya (4) D.S. Deora 62, 2. Bold Indian (2) Sohan K 62, 3. Aloy (7) Mohit S 61.5, 4. Screenshot (8) G. Naresh 61.5, 5. The Purpose (6) A.A. Vikrant 61, 6. Quality Warrior (3) Bhawani S 60, 7. Char Ek Char (5) Kuldeep Sr. 56.5, 8. Iconic Star (1) Rafique Sk. 51.5 and 9. Niloufer The Great (9) Ajay K 50.

1. BOLD INDIAN, 2. CHAR EK CHAR, 3. ATREYA.

2 BLOOMER PLATE (1,200m) (Terms), 3-y-o and upward, rated 50 and above (Cat. II), 1.25: 1. Prince Of Wales (5) Mukesh K 62, 2. Reigning Beauty (6) Santosh Raj 60.5, 3. Brilliant Lad (4) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 4. N R I High Power (1) Akshay K 58.5, 5. Ragnarök (2) Afroz K 58 and 6. Knight Crusader (3) B.R. Kumar 55.

1. N R I HIGH POWER, 2. BRILLIANT LAD

3 CABARET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1.55: 1. Barbarossa (6) Swarup S 62, 2. Shubhrak (8) Deepak S 62, 3. Dhanadeepa (2) D.S. Deora 61.5, 4. Timeless Elegance (4) Bhawani S 61.5, 5. Meadow (5) Sohan K 60.5, 6. Amboseli (1) Surya Prakash 60, 7. Fortune Art (7) Mukesh K 59 and 8. Hopewell Island (3) G. Naresh 51.

1. TIMELESS ELEGANCE, 2. SHUBHRAK, 3. AMBOSELI

4 BHONGIR PLATE (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.30: 1. Shadow Of The Moon (2) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Bholi Punjaban (6) Surya Prakash 57.5, 3. Pristine Glory (1) Mukesh K 56.5, 4. Special Star (7) P. Sai K 56.5, 5. Ashwa Jaffna (8) Gaurav 54.5, 6. La Fleuriere (5) Trevor 54, 7. Onslaught (3) Arjun S 54, 8. You Tuber (4) Akshay K 54 and 9. French Lieutenant (9) P. Ajeeth K 53.

1. PRISTINE GLORY, 2. LA FLEURIERE, 3. SPECIAL STAR

5 KRISHNA TROPHY (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.05: 1. Dino (5) Mukesh K 62, 2. Miss Marvellous (7) H.M. Akshay 60.5, 3. Rani Ruckus (1) G. Naresh 60.5, 4. Hoping High (10) Mohit S 59.5, 5. Una Paloma Blanca (8) Surya Prakash 58.5, 6. Winning Attitude (2) Md. Ekram 58.5, 7. Aos Si (6) Antony Raj 58, 8. Aashritha Pet (4) Santosh Raj 57, 9. Nkalanzinzi (9) A.A. Vikrant 54.5 and 10. Secret Option (3) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5.

1. AOS SI, 2. DINO, 3. RANI RUCKUS

6 KINNERASANI PLATE (1,100m), Maiden 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.40: 1. Goddess Of Light (4) Akshay K 60, 2. My Touch (12) Mukesh K 60, 3. Aarav's Pet (1) D.S. Deora 59, 4. Agasthyeshwara (11) Neeraj 58.5, 5. Night Whisper (2) H.M. Akshay 58.5, 6. Varttamaan (9) Afroz K 58.5, 7. Veera's Lakshmi (3) Sonu K 58.5, 8. Anemara (7) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 9. Speedy Queen (8) P. Ajeeth K 57.5, 10. N R I South Power (6) Shivam 57, 11. Victory Run (5) Kuldeep Jr. 57 and 12. Khamagani (10) Gaurav 56.5.

1. GODDESS OF LIGHT, 2. MY TOUCH, 3. AARAV'S PET

7 HYDERABAD TROPHY (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 64 (Cat. II), 4.15: 1. Clefairy (9) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Detective (3) Gaurav S 59, 3. Shoolin (4) D.S. Deora 59, 4. Vital Sign (6) Deepak S 59, 5. Shadow Fax (10) Afroz K 57.5, 6. Golden Gazelle (7) H.M. Akshay 56, 7. Arion One (12) B.R. Kumar 54, 8. Basilica (5) Mukesh K 54, 9. Bold Beauty (11) Neeraj 54, 10. Lifes Journey (8) Ajay K 52, 11. Zendaya (2) Rafique Sk. 50.5 and 12. Linda (1) P. Ajeeth K 50.

1. BASILICA, 2. BOLD BEAUTY, 3. CLEFAIRY

8 SRISAILAM PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.50: 1. Advait (6) Trevor 60, 2. Varada (9) D.S. Deora 59.5, 3. My Honey (3) Shivam 58, 4. Materiality (10) P. Ajeeth K 56.5, 5. N R I Royal Power (2) Afroz K 56.5, 6. Aquatone (8) Rafique Sk. 55, 7. Ilene (4) B.R. Kumar 55, 8. Victoria Dhora (1) G. Naresh 54, 9. Echo Of Arjuna (11) Abhay S 53.5, 10. Windsor (7) Kuldeep Jr. 53 and 11. Miri (5) Arjun 51.5.

1. ADVAIT, 2. MATERIALITY, 3. N R I ROYAL POWER

Day's Best: **N R I HIGH POWER**

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

Espionage obliges in the feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward Espionage, ridden by Mukesh Kumar, won the Ghulam Ahmed Memorial Trophy, the chief event of Sunday's (Nov. 15) races. The winner is owned by M/s. Prakash Babu, P. Ranga Raju, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Mukesh Kumar rode two more winners on the day.

1. DONEGAL PLATE (1,600M): CLASSY TOUCH (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Lion's Pride (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Rajendra (H.M. Akshay) 3 and American Affair (V.S. Shekhawat) 4. Not run: Ruby Tuesday. 5-3/4, 2 and 2. 1m, 38.10s. ₹12 (w), 10, 18 and 13 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 32, FP: 65, Q: 72, Tanala: 189. Favourite: Classy Touch.

Owners: M/s. Narendra V. Shah, N. Shyam Sunder, Mr. Anil V. Poduval, Meher K. Sunderji & Suyash U. Dalvi. Trainer: Neelesh Rawal.

2. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): EK (Swarup Singh) 1, Power Of The Sea (Mukesh K) 2, Diligence (Gaurav S) 3 and Surrealist (P. Sai K) 4. 3/4, 1-1/4 and 2. 1m, 11.19s. ₹27 (w), 16, 14 and 24 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 52, FP: 73, Q: 45, Tanala: 531. Favourite: Ek.

Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: Magan Singh.

3. GHULAM AHMED MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200M): ESPIONAGE (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Lashka (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Uchchaihshravas (Santosh Raj) 3 and Black Onyx (D.S. Deora) 4. 2-1/2, 3/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 10.12s. ₹13 (w), 10, 47 and 15 (p). SHP: 143, THP: 35, FP: 214, Q: 168, Tanala: 788. Favourite: Espionage. Owners: M/s. Prakash Babu, P. Ranga Raju, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. TELANGANA TROPHY (DIV. II) (1,400M): SECRET SAINT (R.N. Darshan) 1, Annhilator (Mukesh K) 2, Silver Act (D.S. Deora) 3 and Born Brave (Afroz K) 4. Short Head, Neck and 2. 1m, 25.40s. ₹41 (w), 13, 11 and 26 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 48, FP: 124, Q: 53, Tanala: 579. Favourite: Annhilator. Owners: Mrs. Anasuya Gupta rep. A.G. Bloodstock LLP, Ms. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Shantanu Sharma & Mr. Abhiroop Gupta. Trainer: Bharat Singh.

5. TELANGANA TROPHY (DIV. I) (1,400M): BASHIR (R.N. Darshan) 1, Decoy (Mukesh K) 2, Sugar (Md. Ekram) 3 and Vivaldo (Ashad Asbar) 4. 1/2, Head and 1. 1m, 24.42s. ₹120 (w), 24, 16 and 24 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 34, FP: 753, Q: 158, Tanala: 2,029. Favourite: Noble Heart. Owners: Mrs. Anasuya Gupta & Mr. Abhiroop Gupta rep. A.G. Bloodstock LLP. Trainer: Bharath Singh.

6. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): STARS ENVIED (G. Naresh) 1, Dashing Charm (Kuldeep Jr.) 2, Mystical Dawn (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Mix The Magic (Mukesh K) 4. Not run: Armstrong. 3-1/4, 1-1/2 and 4-1/2. 1m, 10.83s. ₹18 (w), 10, 18 and 22 (p). SHP: 103, THP: 21, FP: 151, Q: 134, Tanala: 761. Favourite: Stars Envied. Owners: M/s. Muthiah Ramaswamy & Ramaswamy Muthiah rep. GMMSR Advisory Services LLP. Trainer: Robin R. Kondakalla.

7. SRISAILAM PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): HER LADYSHIP (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Modin (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Queen Eternal (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Farsiris (Sonu K) 4. 4-1/4, 2-3/4 and 3. 1m 11. 52s. ₹136 (w), 29, 13 and 14 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 34, FP: 2,460, Q: 553, Tanala: 1,191. Favourite: Knotty Circuit. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

Jackpot: 70%: 33,828 (8 tkts.) & 30%: 702 (165 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 670 (106 tkts.), (ii) 17,958 (2 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 506 (31 tkts.), (ii) 4,007 (9 tkts.).

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: JioHotstar, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12.30 p.m., 1.30 & 4.30 p.m.

Afghanistan vs. Zimbabwe: Second Test, Day 4, FanCode, 11.30 a.m.

South Africa vs. Bangladesh: First Test, Day 2, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

Football: Nations League, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 8.30 p.m. 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

SMART PLOY

'Siraj and I wanted to ensure we crossed the 200-run mark'



CREIMAS/BCCI

I love batting at No. 11 although some of my teammates say that I am scared of the ball! (Mohammed) Siraj, *in pic.*, and I thought of getting quick runs and ensuring we cross 200 so that we have something to bowl with. We were disciplined even when we weren't getting wickets — Arshdeep Singh after India's ODI series win.

GRACIOUS IN DEFEAT

Santner praises India's bowling effort and Shreyas' captaincy



AFP

I think they bowled really well. Shreyas (Iyer) did a great job rotating them around. He obviously held Axar (Patel) back because the seamers were going really well. He also brought Arshdeep (Singh) and (Mohammed) Siraj back at the right time. It was a great bowling performance — New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner.

THUMPING WIN

Banton, Atkinson power England to a series-levelling victory



AP

Tom Banton smashed a century while Gus Atkinson scalped four as England thrashed Australia by 135 runs in the second ODI in Adelaide to level the series. **The scores:** England 355/6 in 50 overs (Banton 121, Root 62, Cox 67, Jacks 54 n.o.) bt Australia 220 in 44.3 overs (Renshaw 63, Green 64, Atkinson 4/28). **PoM:** Banton.

FIGHTING BACK

Hridoy and Litton lift Bangladesh to 327 for six on the opening day



AP

Towhid Hridoy, *in pic.*, hit 137 and added 206 with Litton Das (92 batting) for the sixth wicket as Bangladesh reached 327 for six at stumps on day one of the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg. **The scores:** Bangladesh 327/6 in 84 overs (Tanzid 67, Hridoy 137, Litton 92 batting, Rabada 5/51) vs. South Africa.

India ends Kiwis' unbeaten home run

Arshdeep scalps three while the rest of the pace bowlers, too, rise to the occasion as the Men in Blue defend 209; Axar proves his all-round value



Sweet success: India prevailed in a low-scoring thriller and clinched a bilateral ODI series in New Zealand for the third time. AFP

INDIA IN NZ

Agencies
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Pacer Arshdeep Singh took three wickets as India won a tense fifth and final One-Day International (ODI) against New Zealand by 22 runs on Sunday to clinch the series 3-1.

New Zealand lost wickets at key junctures in its chase of 210 to level the series, and was dismissed for 187 in the penultimate over for its first home ODI series loss in seven years.

India's seamers led by Arshdeep impressed in helpful conditions. The 27-year-old took three for 30 off 10 overs and finished with eight wickets in a low-scoring series.

Mohammed Siraj claimed two wickets while Auqib Nabi and debutant Yash Thakur scalped one each.

Axar Patel kept up the pressure with a couple of vital blows while Naman Dhir removed skipper Mitchell Santner.

Arshdeep sent back last game's centurion Will Young for 22 and Nick Kelly for 24 to put the home side on the back foot.

Falling short

He returned to dismiss all-rounder Kristian Clarke for 16 as the Black Caps' late push fell short, Dean Foxcroft top-scoring with 31 in a stuttering chase.

Earlier, Jacob Duffy and Santner claimed three wickets apiece as the tourist was dismissed for 209 in 42.1 overs.

Axar and Ishan Kishan both scored 46 to help lead a recovery from 34 for three after Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli fell cheaply.

Captain Shreyas Iyer and Axar added 52 runs for the fourth wicket as India staged a mini recovery. But Blair Tickner snapped the partnership as Shreyas (22) perished to the short ball yet again.

Michael Bracewell ended the resistance of Axar soon as the left-hander pulled the off-spinner straight into the hands of Young inside the circle.

Kishan, who slammed Duffy for two sixes in an over, and Dhir (22) tried to revive the innings with a 39-run association for the sixth wicket but Santner took out Dhir.

Kishan fell to Duffy in his effort to accelerate the scoring. Some meaty blows by Arshdeep and Siraj took India past the 200-run mark which proved crucial in the end.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Rohit Sharma c Foxcroft b Fisher 7 *(13b, 1x4)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Seifert b Duffy 18 *(27b, 3x4)*, Virat Kohli c Seifert b Fisher 5 *(7b)*, Shreyas Iyer c Fisher b Tickner 22 *(26b, 3x4)*, Axar Patel c Young b Bracewell 46 *(55b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Fisher b Duffy 46 *(58b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Naman Dhir c Kelly b Santner 22 *(31b, 2x4)*, Auqib Nabi c Allen b Santner 5 *(9b, 1x4)*, Yash Thakur c Seifert b Santner 0 *(4b)*, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 14 *(20b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Arshdeep Singh b Duffy 14 *(4b, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-7): 10; Total (in 42.1 overs): 209.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-23 (Rohit, 5.3 overs), 2-33 (Kohli, 7.3), 3-34 (Ruturaj, 8.1), 4-86 (Shreyas, 17.2), 5-121 (Axar, 24.6), 6-160 (Dhir, 33.2), 7-166 (Nabi, 35.2), 8-166 (Yash Thakur, 35.6), 9-183 (Kishan, 40.3).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Duffy 8.1-1-60-3, Fisher 7-1-28-2, Clarke 2-0-13-0, Tickner 5-1-24-1, Santner 10-1-47-3, Bracewell 10-0-35-1.

NEW ZEALAND
Will Young c Ruturaj b Arshdeep 22 *(42b, 3x4)*, Tim Seifert c Yash Thakur b Siraj 14 *(21b, 2x4)*, Nick Kelly b Arshdeep 24 *(45b, 2x4)*, Dean Foxcroft b Yash Thakur 31 *(42b, 5x4)*, Finn Allen b Siraj 1 *(5b)*, Michael Bracewell c Dhir b Nabi 19 *(33b, 2x4)*, Mitchell Santner c Arshdeep b Dhir 24 *(31b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Kristian Clarke c Kishan b Arshdeep 16 *(35b, 1x4)*, Blair Tickner st. Kishan b Axar 14 *(20b, 1x4)*, Jacob Duffy c Kohli b Axar 9 *(12b, 1x4)*, Matthew Fisher (not out) 3 *(6b)*; Extras (nb-3, w-7): 10; Total (in 48.1 overs): 187.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-26 (Seifert, 5.3), 2-64 (Young, 16.3), 3-82 (Kelly, 20.4), 4-83 (Allen, 21.3), 5-119 (Bracewell, 30.6), 6-119 (Foxcroft, 31.1), 7-158 (Santner, 40.4), 8-161 (Clarke, 42.4), 9-181 (Duffy, 46.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Arshdeep 10-2-30-3, Siraj 10-1-50-2, Nabi 10-1-37-1, Yash Thakur 10-0-38-1, Axar 6.1-0-28-2, Dhir 2-0-4-1.

Toss: New Zealand.
India won by 22 runs to clinch the five-game series 3-1.
PoM: Arshdeep; **PoS:** Gurnoor.
Next match: First Test: November 19 to 23, Wellington, 3.30 a.m. IST.



Much-needed triumph: Lakshya is on the verge of qualifying for the World Tour Finals. BADMINTON PHOTO

Lakshya bags second title on the bounce

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
KUMAMOTO

A tenacious Lakshya Sen extended his recent remarkable run on the BWF Tour, clinching his second consecutive title with a thrilling victory over home favourite Koki Watanabe in the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 on Sunday.

World No. 13 Lakshya outsmarted Watanabe, ranked two places below him, 13-21, 21-18, 21-14 in a summit clash that lasted 64 minutes. The Indian had won the Hylo Open crown, and the triumph in Japan has propelled him into a qualifying position for the BWF World Tour Finals in Hangzhou. "It feels very good to win a title here: last year, I had played the semi-finals. I am happy that I could better my results.

"It is my second title on the bounce, so I would love to continue this form," the 25-year-old said.

Lakshya was 12th in the Race to the Finals standings with 64,980 points before this event and needed to break into the top eight.

The title earned him 9,200 points, which will lift him to sixth place in the standings with 74,180 points when they are updated on Tuesday.

However, the race to Hangzhou is not over yet as the Hong Kong Open is the last qualifying event.

Aaryavir begins to carve own identity

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

When the India u-19 squad for the one-day series against Australia u-19 was announced in August, two names triggered instant excitement: Aaryavir Sehwag and Anvay Dravid. The surnames were bound to pique curiosity about their ability to carry forward the legacies of Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid.

In a short span, Aaryavir has made strides towards forging his own identity.

At the u-19 Asia Cup in Oman, which ended with India beating Pakistan in a nail-biting final on Saturday, the 19-year-old topped the charts (361, five matches) and won the Player-of-the-Tournament award.

Split-screen clips of Aaryavir and his father at the crease make for fascinating viewing. There is a striking resemblance in the flourish of their strokes particularly through the off-side, but there are key differences too.

While the former India opener, blessed with exceptional hand-eye coordination, had no perceptible trigger movement, the youngster shuffles across his stumps before bringing his bat down to make contact with the ball.

Former Delhi wicket-keeper Davendra Sharma, who helms coaching duties at the Sonnet club after the demise of Tarak Sinha, says Aaryavir's mindset is similar to his father's.



Aaryavir. X@VIRENDERSEHWAG

"Like Viru, Aaryavir likes to take on the bowlers. Obviously, there are certain things you inherit from your father," Davendra told *The Hindu*.

Aaryavir is quick to absorb instructions, according to Delhi's u-19 coach Rajeev Nayyar. "In the first three games of the Vinoo Mankad Trophy, he had not converted his starts. I told him to be more watchful at the start. He responded with a 173 against Chandigarh," said Nayyar.

Having turned 19 last month, Aaryavir won't be eligible to play the 2028 u-19 World Cup. Judging by what we have seen so far, he can harbour bigger ambitions.

Zverev eases past Jodar in the opener

ATP FINALS

Agencies
TURIN

Alexander Zverev eased past debutant Rafael Jodar in straight sets on Sunday to score an opening win in the ATP Finals John McEnroe group here.

World No. 1 Zverev, a two-time champion at the season-ending tournament, bagged a break in each set to clinch a 6-4, 6-4 victory over the 20-year-old Jodar, who has played a sensational first season on Tour and has risen from the mid-100s to the top 10 in less than 12 months. The Spaniard, however, could do little to tame the German's booming serve.

"It was not the perfect match, but I am happy. It is a great start to the tournament for me," Zverev said.



Zverev. REUTERS



In the zone: Arjun posted a win and a draw. FLICKR/FIDE

Arjun snaps MVL's winning streak

TOTAL CHESS

Jayantho Sengupta
BUDAPEST

Arjun Erigaisi caught Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (MVL) at the top of Group D on Saturday by handing the Frenchman his first Fast Classic defeat in the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot.

Magnus Carlsen's challenge ended with two draws against Shakhriyar Mamedyarov. The World No. 1 is winless after eight games and can no longer finish first in Group C.

Only the four group winners advance to the championship bracket. Arjun began the day three points behind Vachier-Lagrave. He drew their first game with black, then won the return with white. Hans Niemann beat Bibisara Assaubayeva before the Kazakh held him to a 96-move draw, leaving all three leaders on 13 points.

The opening blitz decides ties, and both Vachier-Lagrave and Niemann finished ahead of Arjun. Vachier-Lagrave faces Assaubayeva, while Niemann plays Wesley So.

The American was the only player to win both games, beating Vaishali twice to reach 10 points. Vaishali remained on four.

Carlsen, on seven points, faces Ian Nepomniachtchi in his final two games. Anish Giri took the Group C lead with a win and a draw against Abhimanyu Mishra.

Carlsen's lead over Fabiano Caruana in the live classical ratings also narrowed, from 7.2 points at the start of play to 5.4. Caruana drew twice with his closest Group B rival, Liem Le, to remain unbeaten on 16 points, four clear of the Vietnamese. R. Praggnanandhaa lost with black to Richard Rapport before drawing the return game to reach five points.

(The writer is in Budapest at the invitation of Total Chess).

Kumkum, Chikitha in line for gold medals

ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi
SHILLONG

Asian Games gold medallists Kumkum Mohod and Chikitha Taniparthi proved their mettle to reach the recurve and compound women's individual title clashes respectively in the National archery championships at the Parade Ground here on Sunday.

Both Kumkum and Chikitha have now secured their maiden National individual medals. Kumkum toppled strong opponents, including Ridhi Phor, Simranjeet Kaur and Sharvari Shende, to enter the final. She will meet her Asiad women's team gold-winning teammate Ankita Bhakat, who beat her Jharkhand pal Komalika Bari.

Chikitha shot consistently good scores and held her nerve in a tense semifinal match against Madhura Dhamangaonkar. She had issues with her footing and trailed 28-30 in the first end before a cheeky remark from Madhura spurred her on.

Chikitha bounced back to shoot four perfect consecutive rounds and record a 148-147 victory.

Important results: Individual: Recurve: Men: Semifinals: B. Dhiraj (SSCB) bt Keshav Rajoria (Pun) 6-0, Dhruv Bagga (Del) bt Mrinal Chauhan (RSPB) 6-4. **Bronze medal match:** Mrinal bt Keshav 6-4. **Women: Semifinals:** Kumkum Mohod (Mah) bt Sharvari Shende (Mah) 6-2, Ankita Bhakat (Jha) bt Komalika Bari (Jha) 6-2; **Bronze match:** Sharvari bt Komalika 6-4. **Compound: Men: Semifinals:** Priyansh (Del) bt Pallapu Charan Srikar (AP) 149-146, Rajat Chauhan (AIP) bt Kushal Dalal (Har) 149-146; **Bronze match:** Charan Srikar bt Kushal (Har) 147-146. **Women: Semifinals:** Madhuravarshini Muruganantham (TN) bt Sakshi Chaudhary (UP) 145-143, Taniparthi Chikitha (TS) bt Madhura Dhamangaonkar (Mah) 148-147; **Bronze match:** Madhura bt Sakshi 148-143.



All concentration: Chikitha held her nerve in a tense semifinal to get the better of Madhura. RITU RAJ KONWAR

SNAPSHOTS

2031 ODI WC to be held in India in Oct.-Nov.
BALI: The International Cricket Council Board on Sunday approved the windows for major men's events until 2035, with India hosting the 2029 Champions Trophy from October 9 to 28 and co-hosting the 2031 ODI World Cup from October 9 to November 23 with Bangladesh. India will be hosting the Champions Trophy for the first time since 2006 while the return of the ODI World Cup to the country in 2031 was also confirmed.

All Whites beat Blue Tigers again
CHRISTCHURCH: India suffered a 0-3 defeat against New Zealand in a football friendly here on Sunday, conceding all three goals in the first half. **The result:** New Zealand 3 (Surman 22, McGarry 40, Wood 44) bt India 0.

Haria progresses
INDORE: Dhvajj Haria, the reigning National 6-red snooker champion, made it to the second stage of the IBSF World snooker championships here. As many as 12 Indians have advanced. **Important results (Stage 1, second event): Round 3:** Rayaan Razmi bt Kanishk Jhanjaria 4-0; Uzair Khan bt Michael Mengorio (Phi) 4-3; Paras Gupta bt Sami Al Hamrashdi (Omn) 4-1; Dhvajj Haria bt Vijay Nichani 4-0; Dhruv Patel bt Omar Alajlani (KSA) 4-3; **Third event: Round 3:** Laxman Rawat bt Hrithik Jain 4-2.

Shahrukh sheds light on Karthik's influence

The TN batter said the former India player always brought out the best in him; he added that the veteran taught a lot to the State's IPL generation

SMAT

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
INDORE

Shahrukh Khan (46 n.o., 30b, 5x4, 2x6) – who was dropped from the Tamil Nadu squad midway through the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy last season – helped his team manage a mid-innings wobble and score a competitive 172 for seven against Railways in its season opener this time.

Tamil Nadu eventually pipped Railways by six runs at the Daly College ground here on Saturday.

Coming in at 83 for three, Shahrukh revealed that Dinesh Karthik's advice had influenced his approach. Karthik had interacted with the players during a practice session ahead of the tournament.

"Dinesh told me that I could hit at any time and take on the bowlers whenever I wanted. But the most important thing was to take the team through a tough situation. When I came in, it wasn't easy because we had lost two quick wickets. In terms of mindset, he has really helped me with the way he spoke to me during practice. His thoughts and words have always had a big influence on me. I think I've produced my best for Tamil Nadu under his captaincy."

He credited Karthik with laying the foundation for Tamil Nadu's IPL generation. "Five or six years ago, we had 10-12 players from Tamil Nadu playing in the IPL. The credit goes to him because we came in as youngsters and he really taught us how to play T20 cricket, how to go about things as a team, and how to win."



Looking back, moving ahead: Shahrukh, after a disappointing last season, has started out on a positive note. R.V. MOORTHY

Shahrukh acknowledged coach Yo Mahesh's role in helping him understand his responsibility.

"Yomi has also been having conversations with me over the last 20 days. Even during the Ranji Trophy, he spoke to me about how things were going and what he expected from me".

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY — MONDAY'S MATCHES

Elite: Group A:
At Mumbai: Rajasthan vs. Jharkhand, Karnataka vs. Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram vs. Baroda, Bengal vs. Chandigarh.
B: Indore: Railways vs. Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir vs. Tamil Nadu, Saurashtra vs. Haryana, Delhi vs. Punjab.
C: Mohali & New Chandigarh: Himachal Pradesh vs. Andhra, Madhya Pradesh vs. Assam, Tripura vs. Pondicherry, Kerala vs. Maharashtra.
D: Kolkata: Vidarbha vs. Odisha, Uttarakhand vs. Goa, Gujarat vs. Mumbai, Chhattisgarh vs. Hyderabad.
Plate: Sovima: Sikkim vs. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland vs. Manipur, Services vs. Meghalaya.

The 'spring' in Mayank's step

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
INDORE

There is a new pair of shoes in Mayank Yadav's cricket kit. They are not conventional cricket spikes. They are running joggers, modified with spikes, and the tearaway quick believes they are helping him find a little more spring in his approach to the crease.

"They are very light, and the bounce is better in the run-up. So, that is helping me a lot," said the 24-year-old after taking five for 14 in a three-over spell against Jammu & Kashmir in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Holkar Stadium on Saturday.

The experiment is typical of a bowler who has been finding ways to add to his game. During his rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence, following back surgery, he also worked on getting the ball to swing at high speed.

"I knew that in international cricket you need to swing the ball a little because T20 cricket, especially, is very batting-friendly. You have to keep adding more and more skills to your game."

Furthermore, he worked on his death-bowling with Ishant Sharma before the tournament.

"I worked on yorkers and slower balls. Ishant *bhaiya* helped me a lot. That (death-bowling) was one area I really wanted to work more on."

Having played at the venue in the T20I against West Indies in October, he knew the ball would "skid off the black-soil surface" and tried to "keep attacking the wickets and hit the hard length."

He sent Shubham Khajuria's off-stump cartwheeling like a spinning firework and later dismissed Brijesh Sharma with a searing yorker.

Mayank said express-pace bowlers had to pay particular attention to recovery.

"The intensity is something you cannot compare with that of other bowlers. There are very few bowlers who operate at that pace, and it is a difficult challenge for those working with them to understand their requirements. So, you have to focus more on your off-field routines," he said.



On the fast lane: Mayank is reaping the rewards of his hard work. R.V. MOORTHY

Everyone in the side knew: former Australia player Sayers

SANDPAPERGATE

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Former Australia Test bowler Chadd Sayers backed Usman Khawaja over his Sandpapergate claims on Sunday, contradicting Pat Cummins' denials that he knew nothing about the ball-tampering plot.

Sayers was on the tour of South Africa but did not play in the third Test at Cape Town, where sandpaper was used to help make the ball swing.

But Khawaja alleged in his autobiography last week that the whole team was aware, a claim strongly backed by Warner and now Sayers.

"I believe that everyone in that side knew what was going on and what was being used," the retired Sayers, who played in the fourth Test at Johannesburg, told *SEN* radio.

Khawaja also alleged sandpaper was used in the second Test at Port Elizabeth, with Sayers saying he was the one who took it from the field.

"It (sandpaper) was given to me to take off, so that wasn't planned or anything.

I was just the player who took the drinks out at the time," he said.

"It was used in two Test matches and there was discussions in the change rooms of how we were going to get the ball to reverse and what was going to be used".





Denmark's hero: Hojlund starred with a brace. AP

Life after Ronaldo starts with a big loss for Portugal

NATIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
BRAGA

Portugal was hammered 4-1 by Denmark on Saturday, an embarrassing Nations League defeat in its first match without Cristiano Ronaldo following the superstar forward's retirement from international football.

Rasmus Hojlund starred with a superb brace as Denmark moved into second place in Group A4 and closed in on a spot in the quarterfinals.

The Danes are on nine points from five fixtures, three behind Portugal which was already sure of qualification for the last eight having won all four of its previous group fixtures.

A draw against third-placed Norway on Tuesday, 3-1 winner over Wales earlier, will see Denmark through while Portugal hopes that Saturday's disaster isn't a sign of things to come.

"There are no nights to forget; it was a night of learning, of seeing the mistakes we made," said Portugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes.

"Denmark were also very clinical – they scored from the chances they had and it was a match where things ultimately went wrong for us."

Ahead of kick-off, Portugal paid tribute to Ronaldo, with the team and mascots walking out wearing Ronaldo's No. 7 and his name on their jerseys.

Fans held up a huge banner which read "Thank you captain" as the teams entered the field, while applause rolled around the stadium once the match clock hit seven.

Denmark was the better team from the first minute and it was no surprise when the away team went in at the break thanks to Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg's spot-kick in the 43rd minute.

Hojlund lashed home a brilliant volley four minutes after the restart and seven minutes later left the home crowd shell-shocked with a strike of which Ronaldo would have been proud, the Napoli striker skipping past Ruben Dias before crashing home a powerful shot from the edge of the area.

Boos and whistles began to ring out at the Estadio Municipal when Joachim Andersen headed in the fourth, and Bernardo Silva's late consolation effort barely dampened the discontent.

"Every single Denmark player put in their best performance I've seen in a long time. Even the substitutes, which made for a fantastic overall display," said Morten Hjulmand.

"We scored some great goals and we deserved to win."

The results: Group A4: Portugal 1 (Silva 90+3) lost to Denmark 4 (Hojbjerg 43-pen, Hojlund 50, 57, Andersen 75); Norway 3 (Nusa 59, Schjelderup 68, Haaland 88-pen) bt Wales 1 (Brooks 79).
B2: Georgia 0 lost to Hungary 2 (Dvali 73-og, Varga 85); Northern Ireland 1 (Devlin 68) bt Ukraine 0.
B3: Austria 1 (Kalajdzic 79) bt Ireland 0; Kosovo 0 drew with Israel 0.
B4: Romania 2 (Cicaldau 68, Man 72) bt Poland 1 (Regula 82); Sweden 3 (Svensson 5, Gyokeres 11-pen, 45+2-pen) bt Bosnia-Herzegovina 2 (Gigovic 47, Kolasinac 62).



Homage: Portugal paid a rich tribute to Ronaldo, arguably its greatest player. AFP

Revanth's debut swings from heartbreak to record-breaking show

M.R. Praveen Chandran
NEW CHANDIGARH

Few debuts swing from disappointment to a record-breaking show quite like Revanth Reddy's T20 bow against Tripura at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Stadium on Saturday.

Having failed to make a mark with the bat earlier, the Andhra debutant delivered a masterclass behind the stumps in the second half of the contest. Revanth was involved in more than half of Tripura's wickets as he pouched four catches and pulled off two quick stumpings to equal Aditya Tare's record for most dismissals in a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy game.

The 22-year-old made his debut in white-ball cricket after breaking into the Ranji Trophy team two years ago, and it turned out to be a match he will "remember" for the rest of his career.

Special

"It is special because it has come in a win, and I am happy that I could play my part even though it was with my glovework," Revanth said.

"I was disappointed when I failed with the bat in the morning. I must credit our bowlers for the catches I took: they were superb. I wasn't aware of the record and I came to know about it when I saw it on the big screen. I particularly enjoyed the one-handed catch I took to dismiss Abhijit Sarkar off C.V. Stephen and the two stumpings as well," he said.

Revanth had struck a purple patch with the bat for Bhimavaram Bulls in the Andhra Premier League. He finished APL as the second highest scorer with 459 runs at a strike rate of 190.46, including one century and two fifties. "I have been doing well in the APL for the last two seasons. The 2026 season was a blockbuster one for me and I was expecting a call up to the SMAT squad. I also did well in the Ranji Trophy, playing a crucial knock against Karnataka. I hope to continue the good form".



Revanth.
M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN

> I was disappointed when I failed with the bat in the morning. I must credit our bowlers for the catches I took: they were superb. I wasn't aware of the record and I came to know about it when I saw it on the big screen

Usha cleared for IOA elections, objections rejected

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Besides Usha, eight members of the current EC are in the electoral list with vice-president Gagan Narang being spoken of as a front-runner

The way for incumbent P.T. Usha to re-contest for Indian Olympic Association (IOA) presidency has been cleared with her name included in the final electoral roll published on Sunday evening.

Electoral/Returning Officer Sanjay Kumar Srivastava rejected objections to the various names nominated by the eligible National sports federations, confirming the draft electoral roll as the final one. The decision makes Usha, who has been entered as the female representative of the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI), eligible to contest the IOA elections on December 5.

A faction of the IHAI, former IOA president Narinder Batra and advocate Atul Kumar had separately filed objections challenging Usha's eligibility and her credentials to represent the IHAI. Objections had also been raised against IHAI secretary-general Harjinder Singh and Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh of Ski and Snowboarding India and there were questions around the legitimacy of Hockey India secretary-general Bholanath Singh, all of which have been rejected.

The notification published by Srivastava categorically states that only those named in the 71-member final list – including eight Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit elected earlier, two representatives of the Athletes Committee and International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Nita Ambani –can contest and vote in the elections and propose and second nominations.

Srivastava had sought clarification from the IOA on whether ordinary membership of one NSF barred a member from representing any other NSF, which the IOA denied. That cleared Usha's entry as an office-bearer of the Kerala unit of the IHAI since 2023.

However, including her name doesn't automatically guarantee her a shot at returning as the IOA president – she will have to not only file a formal application but also ensure a proposer and a seconder, which doesn't seem impossible given the way permutations and combinations have been changing every day. Besides Usha, eight members of the current EC are in the electoral list with vice-president Gagan Narang being spoken of as a front-runner. But former AFI president Adille Sumariwalla is also a strong contender with senior vice-president and NRAI representative Ajay Patel being a possible surprise candidate. November 24 is the last date for filing nominations.

Elections to the posts of president, senior vice-president, treasurer (one each), vice-presidents, joint secretaries (two each) and six EC members, including two from the SOM already elected, will be held on Dec. 5.



Champion stuff: McIlroy came out on top after a dramatic final round battle against Chacarra. AFP

McIlroy clinches a record-equalling eighth Race to Dubai title

GOLF

Agence France-Presse
DUBAI

Rory McIlroy won his eighth Race to Dubai title to tie the record of Scotland's Colin Montgomerie after a dramatic final round of the season-ending $10 million DP World Tour Championship on Sunday. The tournament itself was a runaway win for England's Tyrrell Hatton (66) but all eyes were on the fascinating battle between McIlroy and Spain's Eugenio Chacarra, playing a group behind.

It all came down to the 18th hole, where McIlroy made a disappointing par to finish on 10-under par, but that was good enough for a solo second place.

That took his ranking points to 5,044.86.

Chacarra also could not get a birdie on the final hole and closed with a 69 for a tied third place at eight-under alongside Finland's Oliver Lindell (65).

The European No. 1 crown was secured with a bogey-free round of five-under par 67, but it all came down to the par-4 16th hole, where he hit a magnificent second shot to a foot for the decisive birdie.

McIlroy started with a birdie, but the momentum seemed to have been halted over the next four holes, when he burnt the edge on three but could not get a second birdie.

He then picked up three shots over the next four holes, but Chacarra kept him in sight with four birdies in his first eight holes.

When McIlroy could not make a birdie on the par-5 14th hole, Chacarra was leading the projected ranking by a mere 0.1 point.

Hatton finally finished with seven birdies against a solitary mistake on the third hole on a day when he again dazzled with brilliant short iron and wedge play.

Bonanza

The victory was worth $3 million and he also climbed to third in the Race to Dubai behind McIlroy and Chacarra, his career best finish.

The new season of the DP World Tour starts in two weeks in Australia with the BMW Australian PGA Championship.

Batting a worry even as rookie pacers script a rare triumph

The lack of conviction from the Indian batters almost takes the sheen away from the ODI series win ahead of the Tests





THE GIST

- The victories in the first three T20Is were largely fashioned by India's batting might
- Unlike the batting beauties laid out for the shortest format, the three pitches (the last two games were played on the same track in Mount Maunganui) for the ODIs were loaded heavily in favour of the bowlers
- For the Men in Blue, the batting was a massive letdown. However, the succour was provided by the faster bowlers, most of whom were extremely inexperienced

R. Kaushik
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

India would have aspired for a white-ball sweep in New Zealand, but when they arrived on these shores nearly four weeks back, they would have known the enormity of the task that lay ahead of them. New Zealand in New Zealand are hard nuts to crack, whatever be the format, and while India fancied their chances, nothing was going to come easy. Or at least, that was the surmise.

That theory was exploded within the first week when the visitors charged to a winning 3-0 lead in the five-match Twenty20 International series. Those three victories were largely fashioned by the batting group, which should have come as no surprise to anyone because even in New Zealand, bowler-friendly New Zealand, the onus is decidedly on batter-loving surfaces in the shortest international version.

The Kiwis could storm back to win the last two matches on the back of the strength of their own batting, but Shreyas Iyer would have gladly settled for the 3-2 scoreline and his first bilateral overseas victory against a top side following an unexpected 0-2 reversal in Ireland in his first outing as skipper and a 0-4 rout in England subsequently.

The consensus was that while India were a thrill-a-minute T20 force driven by the presence of Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Kishan and Tilak Varma, they would be a more dangerous 50-over outfit because of the great infusion of quality and experience in the form of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Both just one-format internationals now after retiring from T20Is in June 2024 and from Tests in May 2025, their sights are firmly trained on the 50-over World Cup in the Africas next October-November.

The only 50-plus score by an Indian in the ODI series came from the punishing blade of Kohli, who raised hopes of a bountiful series with a sparkling 74 at Eden Park

Conditions in New Zealand probably best mirror those that can be expected early in the season, especially in South Africa, in 11 months' time. Unlike the batting beauties laid out for the T20Is, the three pitches (the last two games were played on the same track in Mount Maunganui) for the ODIs were loaded heavily in favour of the bowlers. There was seam, there was bounce and while swing might have been at a premium, batting was anything but straightforward.

In the event, while India's batting did struggle all the way through - Rohit was no exception and Kohli had only one knock of substance - they somehow managed to close out a 3-1 victory in the ODIs, with the middle game of the series at Hamilton's Seddon Park washed out without a ball being bowled. That India achieved their first ODI series triumph since early 2019 with just one half-century to show in four completed matches is credit to their pace attack, marshalled expertly by Arshdeep Singh, who was complemented superbly at various stages by Anshul Kamboj, Player-of-the-Series Gurnoor Brar, Auqib Nabi, Mohammed Siraj and Yash Thakur.

Ending a streak

New Zealand had strung together a sequence of 11 successive bilateral ODI series wins at home since losing to Rohit's India (Kohli was rested) in 2019. This defeat must be a bitter pill to swallow, especially considering that they were far from outplayed. They probably batted better collectively and had the only centurion, Will Young, in their ranks, but still ended up on the wrong side of a convincing scoreline though it can be said without hesitation that the scoreline was flattering to the Indians, led in the first three games by Shubman Gill and in the last two by Shreyas after the designated captain left for Wellington to prepare for the Test series starting on Thursday.

The only 50-plus score by an Indian came from the punishing blade in Auckland of Kohli, who raised hopes of a bountiful series with a sparkling 74 at Eden Park. Playing competitively for the first time in over a month, the former captain showed no signs of rust as he took on the quicks when they tested out the bounce in the surface, playing the pull shot repeatedly and with authority to make India's revised target of 143 in 32 overs appear straightforward. Kohli and Gill put on 113 after Rohit's first-over dismissal, but the first signs of cracks in the Indian batting appeared immediately after the second-wicket pair was separated.

India lost four for 22, mainly to the short ball, but by then, Kohli and Gill had done enough to ensure there were no late dramatics. Those were saved by the rain in the next game in Wellington. Kamboj had been the bowling hero in Auckland; at the Hnry Stadium, it was the turn of Gurnoor to step up. With a brilliant four for 30, he sent the Kiwis crashing to 134 all out, but India huffed and puffed in their quest for a 2-0 advantage.

The tall Jacob Duffy and the taller Kyle Jamieson made life miserable for the Indian batters, who limped and stumbled to 113 for seven when the rain came to their rescue. India were marginally ahead, by four runs, on the DLS Method and survived by the skin of their teeth, opening up a 2-0 lead when it could so easily have been 1-1.

Ill-equipped

By now, it was apparent that India's batters were ill-equipped to counter the high-class Kiwi attack on pitches that didn't offer diabolical help, but assisted the faster bowlers just that bit to reveal their quality. India's darkest hour came at the Bay Oval on Friday. After the washout in Hamilton, they were punished for dropped catches by Young, who breezed to three-figures on the back of a bouquet of pulls and numerous sweeps, conventional and reverse, against Kuldeep Yadav.

New Zealand's 333 was a huge total; India's response was tame, timid, limp and uninspiring. Matt Henry, playing his first game of the series after being sidelined on medical advice following a collision with Devon Conway before the first ODI, ripped the heart out of the Indian batting in the very first over with the scalps of Rohit, Kohli and Shreyas, all for ducks. India were blown away, collapsing to 89 all out to succumb by 244 runs, their second heaviest ODI defeat by runs. It was a chastening, humbling experience, a reality check if ever there was one, as they faded away without a fight under the bright lights of the Oval in Mount Maunganui.

Worryingly for India, their two stalwarts, Rohit and Kohli, hadn't hit their straps. After the Eden Park 74, Kohli's scores were 7 and 0; Rohit's numbers were even more damaging - 0, 23 and 0. They both had one final opportunity to remind their fans in this part of the world of their undisputed ability on Sunday but once again, neither quite measured up to scratch.

Between them, they only managed 12 runs, both gobbled up by Matthew Fisher, to round off a less than satisfactory series. Rohit's meagre returns of 30 runs from four innings are certain to reignite a seemingly cold debate on his place in the ODI scheme of things, though it may not have the same sting of the past in the immediate future. But as much as Rohit and Kohli, India will be seized by the lack of runs from other quarters, not least Shreyas, who didn't so much as threaten to add to his sole half-century of this calendar year.

Thrice in four innings, Shreyas was found out by the short ball. Apart from once when he was a sitting duck against a brute from Jamieson in Wellington, there were no excuses for the other two dismissals. He must return to the drawing board and reassess his options against deliveries banged into the surface because teams have been seeking to exploit that Achilles' heel for a long time now, and his latest misadventures are only certain to cement opposition beliefs that the short ball is a genuine wicket-taking weapon against the Indian vice-captain.

While India's batting was a massive letdown, the succour was provided by the faster bowlers, most of whom are extremely inexperienced. Gurnoor was the standout, of course, but Arshdeep showed that he is equally at home in the longer limited-overs version as he is in the shorter one - he is India's leading wicket-taker in T20Is - while Kamboj and Nabi reminded anyone who needing reminding that they are immensely skilled and well equipped to ruthlessly exploit any assistance. Thakur impressed in his lone appearance in the final outing while Siraj was his usual industrious self on Sunday, bowling his heart out, egging his colleagues on and giving no indication of the angst, if any, that he must be carrying at repeatedly being made to warm the bench.

In normal course, the most experienced of the quicks would have justifiably expected to spearhead the bowling attack but Siraj was studiously ignored in a continuation of a trend that has been in vogue since July 2024. In the last 28 months, he has figured in only 11 of India's 34 ODIs even though by then, he had picked up 68 wickets in his first 41 matches. Whether the think-tank believes he doesn't need game time to prove his credentials or they believe they can make do without him is unclear. India are clearly a better, livelier and more charged-up side with Siraj in the XI. But whether head coach Gautam Gambhir and skipper Gill see it that way remains to be seen.

Talking point

While the shoddy treatment of Siraj was an obvious talking point, less heated was the debate surrounding Kuldeep Yadav. The left-arm wrist-spinner began this long tour as the only player to be named for all the three formats, but his tour has ended prematurely, with just one token appearance when his lack of self-confidence, if not self-belief, was all too evident. Overlooked during the T20s and only played in the first of two matches at the Bay Oval on Friday, Kuldeep has been withdrawn from the Test squad - Gurnoor has replaced him - and asked to fly back home to play for Uttar Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Even though he will soon complete a decade at the highest level, Kuldeep is the kind of individual who needs dollops of confidence and a strong show of faith from the think-tank. India's leadership group has made it all too clear that for now, they don't have a lot of time for his unique craft. That, as much as the constant overlooking of Siraj and the lack of conviction from the batting group, almost takes the sheen away from the commendable ODI series triumph and two trophies ahead of the two-Test showdown starting on Thursday.

Alarmingly for India, their two stalwarts, Rohit and Kohli, didn't hit their straps. After the Eden Park 74, Kohli's scores were 7, 0 and 5; Rohit's numbers were even more damaging - 0, 23, 0 and 7.





Keralam's orchids endure from highway trees to salt-sprayed shores

A rescue-and-relocation project has saved over 27,000 native orchids from roadside trees felled in Keralam, and more than 71% were still alive, 5,224 had flowered, and 1,934 had produced capsules after one to two years, offering a low-cost model for conservation

Nikhil Sreekandan

With their dazzling colours and ambrosial aromas, orchids are one of earth's most distinctive flowering plant families.

They are found on every continent except Antarctica and count over 29,500 native species worldwide.

According to *Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide* (2019), published by the Botanical Survey of India, Keralam accounts for more than a third of the 307 endemic orchids reported from India.

The State's native orchid density is comparable to South American countries like Costa Rica, Viswambharan Sarasan, a research leader at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the U.K., said.

But habitat loss and fragmentation are increasingly threatening the State's orchid diversity.

"As a child, I saw these orchids on coconut palms in our backyard [in Keralam]," he said. "But now they are disappearing from everywhere."

However, according to Dr. Sarasan, relocating orchids from development sites or disturbed areas can reduce these losses.



Orchids from Wayanad planted at Sarovarom Biopark (L-R): Aerides crispa, Dendrobium ovatum, and Vanda thwaitesii.; DIVERSITY 2025, 17(3), 184/PLANTS OF THE WORLD ONLINE, RBG KEW

Rescue and relocation

Over the last three years, under Dr. Sarasan's leadership, a research team at the KSCSTE-Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences in Calicut has rescued more than 27,000 native orchids growing on trees from being destroyed in road-widening activities in the State. "I went to Keralam six, seven years ago, pitching this idea of growing orchids in large hubs where people congregate, such as the Napier Museum or the Kanakakunnu Palace in Thiruvananthapuram," Dr. Sarasan, who hails from the capital city of Keralam, said.

With funding from the Royal Society International Exchanges programme, the project aimed to collect orchids from Keralam's forests and rural areas. "However, we quickly realised there isn't much diversity in the south," he said.

Under the guidance of N.S. Pradeep, the scientist-in-charge at the Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences, the project shifted its focus to the northern districts of Wayanad and Kozhikode and targeted plants at risk of eradication. Dr. Pradeep cited national and State highway projects, such as NH66 and SH59, as examples where the government felled old trees across Keralam.

"Orchids that inhabited these trees for maybe 25-50 years were left unattended for months until the wood was picked up for furniture or firewood," he said.

Rescue sites also included the Calicut Corporation area and coffee plantations in Wayanad, where trees were either cut down or regularly cleared of tree-growing orchids.

According to a paper in *Plants*, the project rescued 27,324 mature native orchids representing 21 species, 12 of which were endemic to the region.

The orchids were initially planted at the Malabar Botanical Garden and Sarovaram Biopark, an urban wetland under the District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC), Calicut, that receives more than 5 lakh paying visitors every year.

A year into their partnership with DTPC Calicut, the council wanted to plant some of the rescued orchids at Kappad Beach, which, unlike the other two sites, was exposed to significant winds and salt spray.

Quelling doubts

"This is maybe the first time somebody has adventurously put these kinds of orchids on a beach," Dr. Sarasan said. "A bit extreme, but the point was to test the resilience of these plants."

After 12 to 24 months, 19,511 (or 71.4%) of the 27,324 orchids were still alive, 5,224 had flowered, and 1,934 had produced capsules, per the paper.

Sarovaram showed the strongest establishment rates (87%), followed by Malabar Botanical Garden (47%) and Kappad (28%), according to the paper. When they started the project, there were doubts about whether endemic orchid species could survive outside the Western Ghats, Dr. Sarasan said. But across the three sites, 3,368 of the 6,126 regional endemic orchids survived, 510 had flowered, and 207 produced capsules. The subset associated with high-altitude, hill, and mist forests also showed measurable recovery, with 1,671 of 3,146 planted individuals surviving.

The paper revealed that 11 of the 12 regional endemic orchids lack a global IUCN Red List assessment, making it almost impossible to evaluate extinction risk and prioritise conservation action for these species.

According to Jeewan Singh Jalal, a scientist at the Botanical Survey of India, a countrywide assessment of endemic orchid species is currently under way. "We have recently published IUCN Red List assessments for 30 endemic orchid species of the Western Ghats, some of which are also distributed in India and Sri Lanka," he said.

Dr. Jalal said a lack of funding and adequate resources are the reasons for the knowledge gap.

Replicable model

According to Dr. Sarasan, the project in Keralam offers a valuable model for any country or region facing biodiversity decline.

"We rescued what would otherwise have been eradicated and placed them in front of people, thereby supporting public engagement and biodiversity awareness," he said.

Dr. Sarasan, who has worked with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for the last 27 years, also said he has never worked on a project with a greater cost-to-benefit ratio. "If you were to audit a conservation project saving nearly 30,000 orchids, including monitoring, that would easily cost ₹25-50 lakh," he said.

But the team spent only ₹2.5-3 lakh, he added, with the principal input being the time they invested in the project.

Dr. Jalal also commended the study for its scientific expertise and post-relocation care and said relocating orchids can be an effective conservation approach.

While the project showed what is possible, it also revealed a lack of coherent policy, Dr. Sarasan said: "Ideally, the State Biodiversity Board must work with the various stakeholders to ensure biodiversity assessment for all infrastructure development projects."

"There should be a mitigation plan in place well before these projects begin," he added. "It allows people like Pradeep and other stakeholders to step in and be a part of the solution."

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THE GIST

- According to *Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide (2019)*, published by the Botanical Survey of India, Keralam accounts for more than a third of the 307 endemic orchids reported from India
- The project cost ₹2.5-3 lakh, against an estimated ₹25-50 lakh for a comparable conservation effort, according to lead researcher Viswambharan Sarasan
- A paper revealed that 11 of the 12 regional endemic orchids lack a global IUCN Red List assessment, making it almost impossible to evaluate extinction risk and prioritise conservation action for these species

BIG SHOT



Smog patrol: While Delhi overtook Lahore as the city with the foulest air during Deepavali, Pakistani authorities widened a crackdown on illegal stubble burning they said was fuelling the country's pollution crisis; anti-smog gun — whose usefulness has been doubted in India — is seen roving the streets of Lahore on November 9. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Nāpōwawā'enakaulua

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the Hawaiian language, Nāpōwawā'enakaulua means "two celestial bodies of fathomless powerful darkness in the brilliance of heat reincarnating energy into the universe". It is a nickname astronomers have given to a strange new discovery: an unusual pair of quasars that are also closer to each other than thought possible.

A quasar is the extremely bright centre of a galaxy, where a black hole is drawing in and heating up gases, causing them to emit radiation. The pair is unusual because it existed when the universe was only 900 million years old.

The official designation of Nāpōwawā'enakaulua is J1602+4228AB. Astronomers first spotted the brighter of the pair in 2004, and later the James Webb Space Telescope discovered the second one nearby. Finally, scientists used the Gemini North telescope in Hawaii to study both quasars together.

The quasars are separated by only 18,100 lightyears, which is extremely tight for powerful objects of this nature.

Today, astronomers around the world are struggling to explain how black holes could have grown so large within the first billion years of the universe. The black in one of the quasars weighs a whopping 1.5 billion solar masses. One hypothesis is that young galaxies merged and funnelled copious amounts of gases towards their central black holes, feeding their growth.

Another is that the gravity of a galaxy lying between the earth and a quasar could bend the quasar's light, making one object appear as two. This possibility remains to be eliminated — or confirmed — as astronomers continue studying Nāpōwawā'enakaulua.

An artist's impression of Nāpōwawā'enakaulua NOIRLAB

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