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IN BRIEF



Indo-ASEAN ties at heart of India's Act East Policy: PM

NEW DELHI
India's relationship with the ASEAN region is at the "heart of India's Act East Policy", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, before leaving for Manila, where he is set to participate in the 49th ASEAN Summit. He will also participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India summit and the 21st East Asia Summit on Tuesday. » Page 10

Krishna temple will be key poll issue: U.P. Dy. CM

LUCKNOW
U.P. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Monday said the construction of a grand temple at the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura would be a major issue in the upcoming poll. A temple for Lord Krishna would be constructed as was done in Ayodhya, he added. » Page 4

287 'other' religions briefly listed on the Census portal

The drop-down menu was taken down later; official says the list was meant to be 'predictive text entries' for the 'Other' religions category to help enumerators fill forms without 'spelling mistakes'

Vijaita Singh
Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI



Taking a count: Enumerators during a door-to-door survey for Census 2027 in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

Going by the government's initial classification of "other" religions in the self-enumeration portal for the population enumeration phase of Census 2027, 'ISKCON', 'Ramakrishna Paramahans', 'Sanatan', 'Shri Ram', 'Shri Krishna', 'Balmiki', 'Ramdev', 'Bishnoi', 'Sarna', 'Tantric', 'Yogi', 'Shia', 'Sunni', 'Methodist', and 'Pentecostal' are among the religions practised in the country.

While these were among 287 options given under the 'Others' category for the question pertaining to the respondent's religion in the self-enumeration portal that went live on Monday for four poll-bound States, the drop-down menu with these options was removed later in the day after *The Hindu* raised a query with the Union Home Ministry regarding the classification.

Along the same lines as the previous Census exercises, there are seven main categories in the religion column: Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Others. In a first, the 'Others' category had been expanded into at least 287 further options, many of which have previously been classified by the Indian government as sects within the six major religions or as respondents' entries in the "other religions and persuasions" category in the 2001 and 2011 Censuses.

The drop-down menu also had several options that had not been recorded before, such as 'Tirupati Balaji', 'Gorak Nath', 'Basaveshwara', and 'Dev Samaj', among others.

After the removal of the drop-down menu, a representative of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India said that, apart from the six major religions, there is the 'Others' category in which the "respondent is free to write any other religion as in previous censuses." The official also said that it was "incorrect to say the mentioned terms have been shown as other religions".

However, a government official told *The Hindu* that the list of options had been prepared as "predictive text entries" for the 'Other' religions category to help enumerators fill in the forms without "spelling variations and mistakes" when a respondent mentions any faith other than the six major ones. Giving an example, the official explained that if a respondent said they were a follower of ISKCON, the predictive text list would complete the entry.

How these appeared as options in a drop-down box is being inquired into, the official said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Gunfight breaks out during anti-terror operation in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR



Search on: Security forces at the site of the encounter in Kulgam district of J&K on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A group of terrorists, believed to be responsible for the November 11 terror attack, was encircled by security forces at Kulgam in South Kashmir on Monday, following six days of anti-terror operations in parts of the district.

A gunfight broke out between the hiding terrorists and security forces in the Laroo Bypass area, about 16 km from the site of last week's attack, in which terrorists opened fire on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) checkpost, injuring three personnel.

Searches were on till late on Monday evening to trace the bodies of terrorists believed to have been killed in the gunfight, and to track any injured terrorists in the area, which has both houses and orchards.

"A combing operation is on," the officials said.

"The whole area has been cordoned off. The J&K Police and the security forces are on the job," a police spokesperson said.

J&K Director-General of Police Nalin Prabhat and Inspector-General of Police Sujit Kumar were leading the operation, along with the CRPF and the Army.

No details

Unconfirmed reports suggested one terrorist carrying a rifle was spotted dead at the site. However, the police were tight-lipped about the details of the operation and have not officially confirmed retrieving any bodies.

Initial reports suggested that Lashkar-e-Taiba-affiliated local terrorist Mohammad Lateef Bhat, 22, and his two accomplices, who were behind the November 11 attack, could be trapped at the encounter site.

The J&K Police have been tracking Bhat's movements since his alleged involvement in the twin attacks in Anantnag and Kulgam in July, which left a policeman and two migrant workers dead.

Earlier in the day, CRPF Special Director-General Sandeep Khirwar said the security forces would "continue operations".

"The situation is under control. We made some headway; we have got some leads which we are hopeful we will be able to see through to the culmination, to the logical end," said Mr. Khirwar.

Beijing hails significance of Trump, Xi, Putin meeting

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING



Mao Ning

Thursday's summit meeting between the leaders of the U.S., China, and Russia will be "of groundbreaking significance", Beijing said on Monday, hailing the symbolism of a meeting of the three leaders taking place in China.

China's Foreign Ministry said President Xi Jinping will host the summit with U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen on November 19, on the sidelines of the APEC summit.

"The upcoming China-Russia-U.S. summit in Shenzhen will mark the first-ever face-to-face meeting among the heads of state of the three countries. The three leaders will exchange views in depth on safeguarding world peace and promoting strategic stability in major-country relations, and the meeting will be of groundbreaking significance," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, adding that "strengthening communication, managing differences and stabilising relations among China, Russia and the U.S. serve the interests of all three countries".

The meeting is likely to be more symbolic than substantial. U.S. officials have indicated that the agenda is the war in Ukraine, the situation in West Asia, including stabilising global energy supplies, and nuclear arms control. Whether there will be any concrete outcomes on any of those issues remains to be seen.

That has not, however, dampened enthusiasm in China, where state media has hailed the significance of the meeting.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Clean hit



Royal visit: Britain's Princess Catherine, who is in India for the Earthshot Prize event, playing 'gully cricket' with schoolchildren at Ballard Estate in Mumbai on Monday. She was joined by Prince Williams and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar. EMMANUAL YOGINI (REPORT: PAGE 12)

Aadhaar access issues: SC warns of contempt

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court warned of initiating contempt action if the Union government and authorities do not give a detailed response to a petition pointing out that many visually challenged and low-vision persons are still unable to independently complete their Aadhaar face authentication.

The court issued notice based on the plea, which pointed out that the inability to complete face authentication was affecting e-KYC.

FULL STORY » PAGE 10

No proof to show SIR was a 'unanimous' decision: Rahul to SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) failed to produce any proof to establish its claim that the special intensive revision (SIR) was a "unanimous" decision, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told the Supreme Court on Monday.

"No minutes of the meeting, file notings, recorded approvals, agenda, deliberations or other primary material evidencing the participation and approval of all three members have been produced with the ECI counter-affidavit of October 26," he said in his rejoinder.

Mr. Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders have separately filed an application containing a set of "interrogatories" directed at the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and others involved in the SIR.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

SC suspends life term given to 2 convicts in Bilkis Bano case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Bengaluru residents expressing solidarity with 2002 Gujarat riots survivor Bilkis Bano. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court has granted bail to two convicts undergoing life imprisonment for the gang rape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of her family, including a two-month-old infant, during the 2002 riots.

Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale suspended the life sentences of Bipinchand Kanaiyalal Joshi and Pradip Ramanlal Modhiya on October 28.

The short order, published recently on the court website, reasoned that the two men had already been imprisoned for more than 17 years and one of them suffers a severe handicap. Besides, the court said there were "issues to be decided in the appeal, both on fact and law", thereby granting bail to the appellants "on conditions as may be imposed by the trial court".

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, for the appellants, argued that Modhiya had not been named in the FIR, and was only implicated after a period of nearly three years. Joshi, who underwent leg surgery, was described as handicapped.

Additional Solicitor-General Raja Thakre and counsel for Gujarat and Maharashtra, Swati Ghildayal and Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, objected to the plea for bail. They argued that the offence was very serious, and their conviction was confirmed in the High Court.

Gruesome violence

"Having heard the parties, it suffices to state that the appellants have been under incarceration for a period of more than 17 years, and also the fact remains that one of the appellants has a severe handicap. Certainly, there are issues to be decided in the appeal, both on fact and law. In view of the above and considering the issues involved in this appeal, we suspend the sentence and grant bail to the appellants on such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the trial court," the Bench ordered. A CBI Special Judge in Greater Mumbai had convicted the 11 men and sentenced them to life imprisonment in January 2008. In 2024, the top court quashed the order of *en masse* remission granted by the State of Gujarat in August 2022.

The case was transferred by the Supreme Court in August 2004 from Gujarat to Maharashtra after noting that Ms. Bano had been "coerced to live the life of a nomad and an orphan... the gruesome and horrific acts of violence have left an indelible imprint on her mind".

INBRIEF



CM offers prayers on final day of Chhath Puja at Hathi Ghat

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday offered prayers at the Hathi Ghat near ITO on the final day of Chhath Puja, where she joined hundreds of devotees. AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj, meanwhile, continued to hit out at the BJP government over alleged pollution in the Yamuna. He also alleged poor lighting and sanitation arrangements at the ghats. The BJP acknowledged toxic foam near Kalindi Kunj but claimed the river was clean at ITO.

Govt. to instal 400 additional tents to shelter the homeless

The Delhi government will instal around 400 waterproof and fire-resistant tents to accommodate an additional 4,000 homeless people in the Capital this winter, taking the total capacity of such shelters to more than 11,000, according to the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board's (DUSIB) Winter Action Plan 2026-27. DUSIB currently operates around 197 shelter homes across Delhi, with a combined capacity of 7,092. PTI

Education Ministry invites applications for JNU V-C post

The Ministry of Education on Monday invited applications for the post of the next Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), as per an official notification. The move comes ahead of the end of the tenure of incumbent V-C Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit in February next year. According to the notification, applicants should be distinguished academicians "with at least 10 years of experience in a reputed research or academic administrative organisation with evidence of academic leadership". PTI

63% drop in sexual harassment cases in Delhi in 10 yrs.: data

Cases of molestation fell 59% from 2016-2025 while POCSO cases saw 25% drop over same period; over 6,000 CCTVs installed in public parks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



All 503 large parks in the city have been covered by gates and regular police patrolling, as per official data. FILE PHOTO

Cases of sexual harassment in Delhi declined by 63% from 2016 to 2025, while cases of outraging the modesty of women fell by 59% and those of sexual offences against children by 25% during the same period, according to official data.

Crimes against children

As per data, cases of outraging the modesty of a woman declined from 4,165 to 1,708, while those registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, fell from 2,155 to 1,608. Sexual harassment cases also dropped from 918 to 337.

Between January and October 31 this year, more than 1,000 cases were registered under POCSO, with chargesheets filed in 81% of them, the sources said. In cases involving unidentified accused, the average time taken to file a chargesheet from the date of registration of the FIR was 59 days.

Compliance with the target of filing chargesheets within the first two months of registration stands at 94%, data show. At present, 25 special courts are operating in the city to handle these cases, and 37 more are being established.

As part of measures to enhance women's safety, over 6,000 CCTV cameras have been installed in public parks, while 19,822 dark spots have been identified and are being brought under CCTV surveillance, according to the data.

An audit of 1,635 public parks has been completed, and issues relating to boundary walls, fencing and lighting systems are being addressed.

In 503 large parks, gates and regular patrolling have achieved 100% coverage, data show.

Tech-driven efforts

"The emergency response time under the 112 Emergency Response Support System has been reduced from 11 minutes and 53 seconds to 8 minutes and 2 seconds. Around 178 pink scooters are actively patrolling, with an average deployment time of 7.4 hours per scooter. In addition, 35 all-women PCR vans have been deployed," an official said, requesting anonymity.

Patrolling intensified

The police have also intensified patrolling and community outreach to curb these crimes.

The Delhi government, meanwhile, has taken measures such as installing street lights and CCTV cameras in and around parks and constructing boundary walls.

Women currently make up 17.3% of the Delhi police force. Their representation is expected to increase to 25% by 2030. There are 125 pink booths across the city, which together handle 308 walk-in complaints daily.

Anti-Human Trafficking Units and 24x7 help desks are also functioning in all relevant police stations, the official said.

Police book contractor and owner of Paharganj hotel for negligence

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI



Property owner Raman (left) and contractor Anwar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delhi Police apprehended the owner and contractor of the under-construction hotel in Paharganj on Monday, a day after a portion of the building collapsed injuring eight workers, the police said. The two were later bound down.

They will now have to furnish a bond or undertaking to appear before the police or court when required and cooperate with the investigation.

"The property owner, Raman, and the contractor, Anwar, were apprehended and bound down. They have been booked under Sections 290, 125(a), 223(a) and 3(5) of the BNS," DCP (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh said. These sections pertain to the offences of negligence, disobeying public servant's order and common intention.

The incident occurred amid an ongoing restriction on dust-generating outdoor activities imposed by the government to curb air pollution.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) clarified that no construction work was under way at the time of the incident.

"They [injured workers] were removing the shuttering at the time of the incident," said MCD Deputy Commissioner Vinod Atri.

As per an MCD inspection report, which was accessed by *The Hindu*, the building was being constructed under a sanctioned building plan issued on June 4, 2024. According to the report, a portion of a newly constructed lintel on the ground floor gave way while workers were removing its shuttering.

It recorded five minor injuries against eight persons who were taken to a hospital for medico-legal examination.

The civic agency's report did not establish the exact reason behind the structure caving in. The incident happened 10 days after a similar incident in old Delhi's Chawri Bazar claimed seven lives.

Safeguards missing

"Basic safety equipment, including industrial shoes, gloves, uniforms and good-quality helmets, is not provided by contractors. They simply ask us to come to work with whatever we have," said Raja, a construction worker from Mandawali. He claimed that buildings of up to five storeys are being constructed in under a month.

Professor Siddheshwar P. Shukla, a member of the Delhi Construction Workers' Board, said contractors are conducting construction activities in basements and other hazardous spaces to circumvent the ban on outdoor construction.

Authentication of Aadhaar to be optional for govt. services

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aadhaar authentication will be voluntary for residents accessing citizen services in Delhi and on the Unified Citizen Data Platform, and no service will be denied to anyone who refuses or is unable to undergo the authentication, the Delhi government's Information Technology Department stated in a notification on November 12.

It stated: "Aadhaar authentication is on a voluntary basis. The said Department shall inform to the Aadhaar number holder of alternate and viable means of identification and shall not deny any service to the Aadhaar number holder for refusing to, or being unable to, undergo Aadhaar authentication."

The notification specifies alternative identity documents, which include the voter identity card, driving licence, passport and any other photo identity card issued by the Central or State governments.

Consent now mandatory

It added that the IT Department will be required to obtain the consent of the Aadhaar holders before carrying out the authentication.

Aadhaar authentication is performed for specified purposes, including the use of digital platforms to ensure good governance, to promote ease of living and better access to services, and to prevent misuse of social welfare benefits, among others, said the government.

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STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION
'A' Block 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002
No. FA-29/18/ B-1/ Dated 13/11/2026
In the matter of:
SAMSUNG INDIA ELECTRONICS PVT. LTD.
Vs.
ROHIT JAIN
1. ROHIT JAIN R/O: SECTOR C-6, FLAT NO. 6221, VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI-
Whereas an appeal/complaint against you has been made to this Commission for adjudication. In compliance of the order dated **27/07/2026**, the Appellant/ Complainant are hereby directed to effect Substituted service of Summons upon the Respondent/ Opposite party by way of publication in the newspaper **"Jansatta"** in Hindi Language as well as **"Hindu"** in English Language to appear in this Commission in person or by a pleader or an authorized agent duly instructed and able to answer all the material question in relation to the appeal/complaint on **19/11/2026** at 10:30 a.m. sharp.
The Appellant/Complainant is further directed to file an Affidavit stating that the service has been affected on the Respondent/Opposite Party by way of publication before the next date of hearing.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Commission on this **13/11/2026.**
REGISTRAR STATE COMMISSION
(Seal) 'A' Block, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to the general public and all concerned that Mr. Alok Narang S/o. Late Shri Ravinder Nath Narang R/o. B-7/10, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi -110029 and the company M/s. ALPS INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED having PAN No. AAACA9584E and office at D1 Green Park, New Delhi - 110 016 have voluntarily retired as partners from the partnership firm ALPS INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES having its prinicipal place of business at Ashirwad Complex, D-1 Green Park, New Delhi - 110 016 w.e.f 06-NOVEMBER-2026. It is hereby further notified that the respective accounts and capital account balance of both the retiring partners has been fully settled, cleared and paid. Accordingly, with effect from 06th November 2026, both the aforesaid PARTNERS stand retired from the FIRM, voluntarily and by mutual consent of all the partners, and thus they cease to have any rights, title, interest, claim or concern in the business, assets, properties, profits, goodwill and affairs of the FIRM. The Firm shall continue its business under the same name and style, through its continuing partners along with the newly admitted incoming partners. This notice is issued for the information of the general public and all concerned.
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1)E-TCN NO.-CPC-83/2026-27: Procurement of 6 nos. of 200MVA, 220/132/33kV Auto Transformer. The estimated cost of the tender is **Rs. 1,13,99,69,202/-** .The last date & time of Submission of Bid Dt. 11.12.2026 up to 11:00 Hrs.
2)E-TCN NO.-CPC-106/2026-27: Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of work towards Construction of 2x500MVA, 400/220kV ICTS, 2x100MVA, 220/33kV Power Transformers, 02 Nos. 80MVAR Line Reactors & 01 No. of 125MVAR Bus Reactor at 400/220/33kV AIS, Titlagarh with SAS along with 400kV DC Transmission Line (Twin Moose on Quad Moose Tower) from Titlagarh GSS to Kolabira GSS (Line Length- 262KM Approx.) in the State of Odisha, on EPC contract basis in e-tendering mode only. The estimated cost of the tender is **Rs. 9,80,93,78,011/-**.The last date & time of Submission of Bid Dt. 17.12.2026 up to 12:45 P.M.
3)E-TCN NO.-CPC-110/2026-27: Design, Engineering, Supply with Supervision of Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 20000KVAR, 15000KVAR, 10000KVAR, 5000KVAR 33kV, 3-Ph, 50Hz Capacitor Bank in Double star Configuration along with associated 33kV Control Relay Panel, erection structure, reactors, neutral CT & other accessories as required for the Capacitor Bank as per Technical Specification in 21 Nos. of Grid Substations in OPTCL in e-tendering mode only. The estimated cost of the tender is **Rs. 21,65,28,230/-** .The last date & time of Submission of Bid Dt. 07.12.2026 up to 12:30 Hrs.
For details, visit OPTCL's official website **http://www.optcl.co.in and www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL.** HIPR-80/2026-27
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1.	Nature of work	:	Stone Work
2.	Total no. of work	:	01 No.
3.	Tender Amount	:	Rs.714.30 Lakh (Approx.)
4.	Tender paper cost	:	Rs.10,000/- (Non refundable)
5.	EMD required	:	Rs.7,14,300.00
6.	Class of contractor	:	'A' & 'Special'
7.	Period of completion	:	10 (Ten) Calendar Months
8.	Online for bidding	:	19.11.2026 at 10.00 hrs. to 03.12.2026 up to 17.30 hrs.
9.	Date & time of opening of Tender (Technical bid)	:	04.12.2026 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
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Online bids on item rate basis are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division, Jawali on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in Electronic Tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned works from the Eligible Contractors/ Firms enlisted with Himachal Pradesh, Jal Shakti Vibhag:-

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1.	Remodeling of LIS Jangal Tehsil Jawali Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Providing and Installation of centrifugal pumping machinery along with allied accessories)	34,80,000/-	69600/-	45 Days	2000/-
2.	Construction of 15 Nos 9 Nos Tube Wells in Jawali area Tehsil Jawali Distt Kangra HP SH Civil Work Laying Jointing and testing of Rising Main HDPE pipe in distribution system Providing and Installation of Submersible Pumping Machinery along with allied accessories Tube well Kardial Near Kalu di Hatti	30,15,282/-	60306/-	Six Months	2000/-
3.	Construction of 15 Nos (9 Nos) Tube Wells in Jawali area Tehsil Jawali Distt Kangra (H.P.)SH :- Civil Work, Laying, Jointing and testing of Rising Main, HDPE pipe in distribution system & Providing and Installation of Submersible Pumping Machinery along with allied accessories T/Well Kala Naal)	20,87,930/-	41759/-	Six Months	500/-
4.	Construction of 15 Nos (9 Nos) Tube Wells in Jawali area Tehsil Jawali Distt Kangra (H.P.)SH :- Civil Work, Laying, Jointing and testing of Rising Main, HDPE pipe in distribution system & Providing and Installation of Submersible Pumping Machinery along with allied accessories T/Well Maira Lohar Behi)	17,84,402/-	35688/-	Six Month	500/-
5.	Construction of 15 Nos (9 Nos) Tube Wells in Jawali area Tehsil Jawali Distt Kangra (H.P.)SH :- Civil Work, Laying, Jointing and testing of Rising Main, HDPE pipe in distribution system & Providing and Installation of Submersible Pumping Machinery along with allied accessories T/Well Samlana)	13,73,667/-	27473/-	One Month	500/-

The tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal ***https://hptenders.gov.in*** on the website by the firms/individual registered contractors.
Key Dates:-

I	Date of online publication	**13.11.2026 at 6.00 PM**
II	Uploading of e-tender Documents	**13.11.2026 at 6.00 PM**
III	Last date of submission of e-tenders (Online)	**21.11.2026 at 11.00 AM**
IV	Date of opening of Eligibility Information(**Cover-I**)	**21.11.2026 at 11.30 AM**
V	Date of opening of online Financial Bids(**Cover-2**)	The Financial Bids of the successful Contractors/Firms shall be opened after the approval of Eligibility Criteria/Technical Bids by the competent authority of the department

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Bereaved family members at a hospital in Kanpur on Monday. ANI

Two killed in Kanpur building blaze; many escape using saris

Press Trust of India
KANPUR

Two persons, including a 15-year-old boy, were killed and several others injured after a massive fire engulfed a five-storey residential building in the densely populated Patkapur area on Monday, with trapped residents using saris, dhotis and bedsheets as ropes to escape the fire.

Dozens of residents were trapped inside the building as thick smoke filled the building and blocked its narrow staircase. The fire broke out around 4.30 a.m. at Radhika Apartment in Ramnarayan Bazaar, according to Commissioner of Police Raghubir Lal.

He added that in a desperate bid to escape, some residents jumped from balconies, while others used saris, dhotis and bedsheets as ropes to climb down to an adjoining building.

The deceased were identified as Rakhi Sahu, 48, and Pranjul Batham, 15. While Pranjul was burnt alive, Rakhi died after jumping from the third floor and landing on Vaibhav Gupta, who was standing below, an official said.

Mr. Gupta sustained serious spinal injuries and was referred to the Neurology Department of Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital.

Short circuit suspected

According to doctors at Ursala Hospital, four persons were brought there following the incident, two of them dead. Pranjul's mother, Neeta, suffered around 40% burns and was stated to be critical. Police suspect a short circuit may have triggered the fire.

Odisha govt. orders early evacuation as cyclone threat looms

State likely to face third cyclone in three weeks, says Ganjam Collector; officials asked to identify landslide-prone locations and low-lying areas

Press Trust of India
BHUBANESWAR


Efforts on to rescue villagers caught in floodwaters near Asika town in Odisha's Ganjam after Cyclone Arnab made landfall. FILE PHOTO

The Odisha government on Monday directed district administrations in the southern region to begin early evacuation of vulnerable areas as a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified, officials said.

The weather system is likely to develop into a very severe cyclonic storm before reaching the Andhra Pradesh coast around November 19 night, they said.

The district administrations have been asked to identify vulnerable locations and move people to safer places ahead of the expected heavy rainfall, they added.

Ganjam Collector Keerthi Vasan. V said the district administration had identified landslide-prone locations and low-lying areas that could be inundated during the cyclone.

"There are hilly areas and low-lying places across Ganjam district. Men and machinery are ready to begin shifting people well before the rains," Mr. Vasan told reporters.

The Collector said Ganjam had already faced two cyclones – Arnab and Murasu – and the latest system would be the third in three weeks. This time, the administration's focus was on preventing casualties in landslides, he added.

At least 11 people were killed, and six others remained missing in Odisha during cyclone Arnab, with 10 of the deaths reported in landslides in Ganjam and Kandhamal districts.

Alert from Nov. 17

According to the India Meteorological Department, the State is likely to receive rainfall from the evening of November 17 under the influence of the system. "Odisha is likely to receive light to moderate rainfall at many places, with heavy rain at isolated locations on November 18. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is forecast at isolated places from November 19 to 21," it said.

Assam govt. orders probe into Kaziranga accident, draws up road safety plan

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

The Assam government on Monday ordered an inquiry into the Kaziranga road accident, which claimed 26 lives, and suspended the District Transport Officer of Golaghat, officials said.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO), in a social media post, said the probe report will be submitted within two weeks, fixing responsibility for the deadly accident.

Twenty-six people died, including women and minors, and 20 others were injured in a head-on collision between a minibus and a container truck near Kaziranga National Park on November 13.

"A fact-finding inquiry has been initiated, to be conducted by K.C. Samria, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, who will submit his report within two weeks, fixing responsibility for lapses and negligence," the CMO said.

It also said that Golaghat DTO Rajib Pegu has been placed under suspension "in view of the apparent lack of effective administrative supervision and enforcement".

On the same day, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that his government has drawn up a 12-point action plan on road safety, including activating district-level task forces as directed by the Supreme Court.

"In a meeting with senior officials late last night, we have drawn up a 12-point action plan on road safety which will be strictly enforced to ensure our roads and people are safe, and there is zero-leniency for those who flout the norms," Mr. Sarma said in a post on X on Monday.

The action plan includes "stepping up checks between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. against speeding, rash and drunk driving, mandating speed limiting devices in all commercial vehicles and taking strict action against tampering". The plan also proposes strengthening driving licence tests to ensure proper assessment of driving skills and road safety awareness. The licences of habitual traffic offenders will be suspended as per applicable provisions, he said.

Six policemen suspended after man dies in custody

Press Trust of India
KARNAL

Six police personnel have been suspended, and a case has been registered against them in connection with the death of a man in police custody here, officials said on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as 32-year-old Jitender alias Jackie, a resident of Bijna village.

The family performed the last rites of the deceased on Monday after senior police officers assured them that the forensic examination of the viscera will be conducted in a laboratory outside Haryana.

On Sunday, a case was registered against the six police personnel, including a CIA-2 Inspector and a head constable, under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), officials said.

Jitender's family has alleged that he was picked up by some personnel of CIA-2 (Crime Investigation Agency) on November 11, and he later died in police custody. Six police personnel have been placed under suspension, and a departmental inquiry has been initiated against them, Assandh Deputy Superintendent of Police Gorakhpal said.

Panel to probe 'scams' under Jairam Thakur govt.: Sukhu

Press Trust of India
SHIMLA

A high-level committee comprising four Ministers has been constituted to investigate alleged scams and financial irregularities that took place during the previous Jairam Thakur government, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Monday.

Mr. Sukhu highlighted the need to investigate the alleged allotment of land at throwaway prices under a "customised package" in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh region.

Following a meeting of the Congress Legislative Party at Tapovan held after his arrival in Dharamshala for the Winter Session, the CM said during an informal interaction with mediapersons that the committee would examine "controversial decisions" and alleged irregularities of the previous BJP government and present "facts before the public".

Ajit death: Rohit questions Fadnavis over 'links' with aviation company

Yohaan Ashish Varghese
MUMBAI

NCP (SP) legislator Rohit Pawar on Monday alleged that influential political figures were protecting VSR Ventures, the aviation company whose aircraft crashed in Baramati on January 28, killing former Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Addressing a press conference in Mumbai, Mr. Rohit questioned Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's alleged links with individuals associated with the company and accused State and Central authorities of failing to properly investigate the crash.

The BJP dismissed the allegations as politically motivated and accused Mr. Rohit of "exploiting the tragedy for publicity". Mr. Rohit displayed photographs purportedly showing Mr. Fadnavis at the November 2024 wedding of Rohit Singh, whom he identified as being associated with VSR Ventures, in Jaipur.

He also questioned the CM's relationship with other individuals associated with the company.

Responding to the allegations, State BJP vice-president Keshav Upadhye accused Mr. Rohit of using Ajit Pawar's death as a political weapon and attempting to malign Mr. Fadnavis by showing photographs from a social event.

Red Fort car blast: Supreme Court allows NIA petition to transfer cases to Delhi for joint trial

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed a plea by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for transfer of two criminal cases linked to the November 2025 car explosion near the Red Fort Metro station from Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana to a special court in the national capital.

A Bench headed by Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra also directed that three FIRs registered in the matter across Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana be clubbed together for a joint trial in Delhi.

'Not feasible'

A powerful explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort Metro station on November 10, 2025, killing 12 people and injuring several others.

The apex court pointed to the overlapping of accused persons, witnesses and evidence, making separate trials in different States unfeasible. The court also took into consideration the security of the trial, with several accused persons still absconding.

The NIA said the cases were linked through an interweaving of facts, like the proliferation of provocative and inflammatory posters associated with the proscribed terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad in Srinagar, ahead of the blast. All three cases were intricately connected and formed part of one conspiracy, requiring a joint trial in one place.

Following the car explosion, several arrests were made, including that of four doctors. The alleged car bomber, Umar Nabi, was reported to be a doctor himself.

Timings
DELHI

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
THURSDAY, NOV. 19			
RISE	06:47	SET	17:26
RISE	13:48	SET	01:06

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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THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

MOLE DAY CELEBRATED



Bal Bharati Public School, Rohini, New Delhi, celebrated Mole Day 2026 with a assembly and an inter-school online chemistry celebration themed "Think, React, Create." Resource person Prof. Sudhir Warkar, Professor of Chemical Engineering and Science and Dean of Student Welfare, Delhi Technological University, shared insights with students. A poem, a skit and a song marked the occasion. Students of Stds VIII to XII took part in four online events, judged on scientific accuracy, creativity, originality and presentation. Principal Ms. Geeta Gangwani said such activities nurture creativity, environmental awareness and innovation.

ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATED



Presentation Convent Senior Secondary School, Delhi, celebrated their Primary School Annual Day with Ms. Praneet Minhas, an alumna, as Guest of Honour. Sr. Hema Barretto, Vice Principal, led the ceremonial lamp lighting. Inspired by Disney's Encanto, the musical, titled We Are the Miracle, paid tribute to 250 years of the Presentation Congregation and the values of founder Venerable Nano Nagle. Students showcased their talents through dance, music, theatre and narrative presentations. The Guest of Honour appreciated the efforts of students and teachers. The school thanked the management, parents and students.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATED



The Modern School, Greater Faridabad, celebrated their 10th Founder's Day under the theme Karmachakra – The Endless Saga of Our Roots, commemorating a decade of achievements, values and growth. Dr. Shri Rajendra Singh, the "Waterman of India," was Chairperson of the Occasion, and Shri Samar Singh Jodha, photographer, filmmaker and installation artist, Chief Guest. Chairman Mr. K. K. Agrawal attended. Principal Dr. Umesh Chhikara highlighted the school's journey. The bust of Founder Shri Ashok Pratap Singh Ji was unveiled, the magazine DAWN – Unfolding Inner Brilliance released, and the play Karmachakra staged.

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INBRIEF



BJP supporters beating up own party members: Thakur

Amid reports of growing factionalism within the BJP in West Bengal, Union Minister of State and Bongaon MP Shantanu Thakur has publicly acknowledged divisions within the party and alleged that BJP supporters are being attacked by fellow party members. "BJP workers are being beaten up by BJP members. The police are not functioning impartially," Mr. Thakur, a prominent Matua community leader, said. Meanwhile, the BJP on Monday constituted a fact-finding panel to probe the circumstances surrounding the death of Arup Saha, a BJP worker who was allegedly assaulted by party workers while protesting against an attack on a businessman in Panihati.

M.P. man held, parts of house demolished over alleged rape

A man accused of raping a nine-year-old girl has been arrested and portions of his house demolished in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha, officials said on Monday. The action came amid protests by locals, right-wing outfits, and BJP leaders. The incident took place on Saturday morning. The accused was detained on Sunday and arrested on Monday. An SIT led by an officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police is probing the case. In another incident, Vidisha Police arrested a 22-year-man for allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl amid allegations that filing of the FIR was delayed. Union Minister and Vidisha MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan intervened in the matter.

Krishna Janmabhoomi temple will be a key poll issue in U.P., says Dy. CM

A 'grand temple' for Lord Krishna will be built in Mathura through judicial process or dialogue, as in Ayodhya, says Keshav Prasad Maurya at BJP's 2-day organisational meet ahead of Assembly poll

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Monday said the construction of a grand temple at the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura would be a major issue in the 2027 Assembly election.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a two-day Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organisational meeting in Mathura, Mr. Maurya said a "grand temple" for Lord Krishna would be constructed at the deity's birthplace either through a judicial process or mutual dialogue, as in Ayodhya.

"If [Samajwadi Party chief] Akhilesh Yadav wants to join us in *kar seva*, we will take him along as well to build a grand temple for Lord Krishna," said the Deputy CM, stressing that the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi issue would be the biggest poll plank ahead of the poll for the 403-member Assembly.



(From left) BJP's State in-charge Vinod Tawde, CM Yogi Adityanath, State unit chief Pankaj Chaudhary, national gen. secy. B.L. Santhosh and Dy. CM Keshav Prasad Maurya in Mathura. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CM Yogi Adityanath, BJP's State in-charge Vinod Tawde, national general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh, national general secretary Smriti Irani and State party president Pankaj Chaudhary were among those who participated in Monday's deliberations at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Cow Research Institute.

Subjects such as organisational programmes, booth-level events and ensuring that public welfare schemes reach all households are likely to be taken up over the two days.

In a post on X, Mr. Tawde wrote: "Attended the meeting organised by the Uttar Pradesh BJP unit in Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna." He added that discussions were held with the CM, Deputy CMs Mr. Maurya and Brajesh Pathak and State government officials regarding the upcoming election.

Senior party leader Dinesh Dubey, who is based in Lucknow, said, "The BJP holds meetings regularly to discuss organisational matters, booth empowerment and other issues. Reaching out to various sections of society is also part of our work."

Recalibrating outreach

Asad Rizvi, a political analyst based in Lucknow, said the ruling party is likely to use the opportunity to recalibrate its outreach programmes in the light of community-specific events being organised by the Opposition SP and Congress to make inroads among Dalits, Other Backward Classes and Brahmins, among other sections.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yadav took potshots at the BJP, urging its leaders to take a dip in the Yamuna and sip its water before flagging off the event. "I request them to take a dip in the Yamuna and sip its water before starting the event. It will be auspicious. If they fall ill, call a good doctor," he wrote on X.

Row erupts in J&K over remarks on killing of two SPOs

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Several religious organisations in Chenab Valley denied the role of mosques in the latest attack

Two separate remarks by J&K Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra and BJP legislator Shagun Parihar in the aftermath of the killing of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) in Kishtwar sparked protests from different quarters on Monday.

Responding to Mr. Karra's remarks that the "SPOs were killed by the Army in a mistaken identity case on November 11", BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma said, "The Congress is spreading misleading information to shift the blame from terrorists to our security forces. The SPOs were on duty and travelling to an Army post at Dharna-Marwah to relieve the jawans posted there. Calling two martyrs 'hunters' is an insult to their sacrifice and their grieving families."

He demanded that Mr. Karra "immediately withdraw the remarks and apologise to the martyrs' families, the J&K Police, and the Indian Army".

Scores of members of the BJP and BJP-affiliated organisations held street protests against Mr. Karra and the Congress in Jammu. Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha members set fire to an effigy of Mr. Karra.

Meanwhile, several religious organisations in the Chenab Valley condemned the statement of Ms. Parihar and denied any role of mosques in the latest attack. The BJP leader had allegedly claimed that "announcements were made from the mosques in Kishtwar's Dachhan area to identify the targets" ahead of the killings.

'Irresponsible claims'

Ruling National Conference legislator Tanvir Sadiq said the BJP must be "held accountable for its MLA's deeply irresponsible and inflammatory allegations against a mosque in Jammu". "The BJP leadership cannot hide behind silence or pretend this is an isolated matter. It must unequivocally condemn these remarks and issue an unconditional public apology. Stop playing with the communal harmony of J&K," he said.

Ahead of Christmas, Christians seek Bengal CM's intervention over 'targeted attacks' in State

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

Ahead of the upcoming Christmas festivities, representatives of Christian communities in West Bengal on Monday expressed concern over rising attacks on churches across several districts in the State and sought the intervention of CM Suvendu Adhikari.

Addressing a press conference organised by the Bengal Christian Council, Bishop of Calcutta Reverend Paritosh Canning said the concerns of members of the community were not without reason.

"West Bengal has traditionally been a land of communal harmony, where people belonging to different faiths and communities have coexisted in peace, mutual respect and brotherhood. With Christmas approaching, the apprehensions of the Christian community have become particularly serious. However, the prevailing atmosphere of insecurity has raised genuine concerns about whether Christians will be able to observe their religious services and celebrate festival without fear or disruption," the Bishop said.



Christian groups taking out a protest march in Kolkata on November 5. SENJUTI SENGUPTA

Attacks have been reported across districts in south Bengal, on both banks of the Hooghly, including South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur, among others.

'Casts suspicion'

Meanwhile, the Bangiya Christiya Pariseba criticised State BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya's recent remarks alleging religious conversions across the State. The group said while it opposed illegal or forced conversions, broad allegations without evidence "unfairly cast suspicion" on the community and its educational institutions.

Punjab CM appeals to Modi to reopen Kartarpur Corridor

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, which has remained shut since last year, on the occasion of the 557th 'Prakash Purb', birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, on November 24.

Mr. Mann expressed hope that the Prime Minister would respect the religious sentiments of the Sikh community and announce the reopening of the corridor soon.

The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district. The corridor has been shut since May 7 last year, when Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor and carried out precision air strikes on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Paying tribute

During the day, Mr. Mann also paid tribute to Kartar Singh Sarabha on his 111th martyrdom anniversary at his native village Sarabha in Ludhiana district. He said the greatest tribute to the revolutionary and freedom fighter is to fulfil his dream of a Punjab free from drugs, unemployment and injustice.

(With inputs from PTI)

Autopsy points to injuries on body of truck driver found dead in police custody in T.N.

S. Sundar
MADURAI

"Multiple superficial" and "deep incisions made all over body" of truck driver R. Balakrishnan, as revealed in the post-mortem report issued by the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, have strengthened his family members' charge that he was beaten in police custody before he died at the Chekkanoorani station on November 13. He was being questioned in connection with a container truck fire.

According to the report, the injuries were bluish black contusions on the superficial layer of the muscle plane on the back of the right side of the chest and 3 cm inner to upper medial border of the right scapula. Similar contusions were found on the back of the lower chest on the right side and the back of the trunk in the midline, below the C7 vertebra.



Relatives of R. Balakrishnan being picked up after they staged a stir in Madurai on Monday to highlight their demands. G. MOORTHY

However, a Madurai district police officer said these were old injuries that could not take the life of a man. "We have CCTV camera footage showing the entire incident that happened at the police station to prove that the driver was not tortured by the police," he added.

Meanwhile, the CB-CID's Madurai Rural District unit has registered a fresh case in connection with the death of Balakrishnan in police custody.

Caste, old rivalries and Uttarakhand's shadow on U.P. Assembly poll

NEWS ANALYSIS

Anuj Kumar
GHAZIABAD

The recent exchange of barbs between Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav has brought into sharp relief caste and political equations linking U.P. and Uttarakhand ahead of the Assembly elections in the two States.

Carved out in 2000 under Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rule, Uttarakhand is set to vote with U.P. in the February-March 2027 election cycle.

On October 24, while accusing the BJP of presenting fabricated data on illegal immigration, the SP chief called Mr. Adityanath an "ideological infiltrator". He added that the U.P. CM, who was born in Pauri Garhwal (now in Uttarakhand), should be sent back to his home State.

Last week, Mr. Adityanath responded by accusing the Opposition leader of harbouring a "narrow and divisive mindset".

Alluding to the former U.P. CM's wife, Mainpuri MP Dimple Yadav, who hails from an Uttarakhand-based Rawat (Rajput) family, Mr. Adityanath said that without a "daughter of Uttarakhand" in his life, Mr. Yadav would still be "grazing buffaloes in Saifai [Mr. Yadav's native village in Etawah]".

The Rajput connection

By invoking the Rajput connection, Mr. Adityanath has inadvertently brought alive memories of a past when it suited the interests of the two parties to keep the Congress out.

The history of this complex relationship stretches back to 1999, when SP founder the late Mulayam Singh refused to support Sonia Gandhi after the fall of the 13-month Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government



U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath with Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya (third from right) and Brajesh Pathak (second from left). FILE PHOTO

despite pressure from the Left parties.

Vajpayee returned the favour in 2003 when the SP was called to form the government in U.P. after it parted ways with the Bahujan Samaj Party, despite being roughly 60 seats short of a majority in the 403-member Assembly.

Political observers say that during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, besides helping soften the SP's patriarchal image, Ms. Yadav's presence also helped channel Rajput discontent against the BJP, inadvertently strengthening Mr. Adityanath's position within his own party.

Apni Janata Party's Swami Prasad Maurya, who seems to be drifting towards the BJP after Mr. Yadav ruled out an alliance with him, has accused the SP president of taking "*parivarvad* (family rule)" a step further. "For Akhilesh, the 'D' in PDA stands for Dimple," he remarked.

Meanwhile, positioning itself as a third front in U.P.'s electoral battle, Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, which has formed an alliance with Chandrashekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram), is busy framing the war of words between the CM and Mr. Yadav as a "friendly fight" between the Yadav family and the BJP and linking it to the plight of senior SP leader Azam Khan, who is currently in judicial custody.

U.P.'s Brahmin lobby is quick to portray the exchange as banter between brothers-in-law.

Notably, the creation of Uttarakhand reduced the Brahminical hold on power in the two States, strengthened the hand of Other Backward Classes and Rajputs and dealt the biggest blow to the Congress.

The last Brahmin CM in Uttarakhand was the grand old party's Vijay Bahuguna in 2014 while in U.P. it was Narayan Dutt Tiwari.

At present, both States are led by politicians who are Rajput by birth.

BJP's calculations

In this scenario, the BJP faces its own set of problems ahead of the elections with the current row over the Ankita Bhandari murder case following Dushyant Gautam's appointment as Governor of Sikkim.

The parents of Bhandari, who was murdered by the son of a BJP leader and his two aides, and the Opposition have opposed the appointment.

With Ardh Kumbh set to draw a large number of devotees to Haridwar in January, the party, a section of which saw the appointment as an attempt to make inroads among Dalit voters, will look to consolidate Hindu support before the polls in both States.

70% turnout in most districts as panchayat polls end in Rajasthan

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

The four-phase panchayat election process in Rajasthan concluded on Monday with polling held for 3,747 sarpanch and 33,885 ward panch posts across 25 districts. Voting exceeded 70% in most of the districts that went to the polls.

There were stray incidents of violence at some places. Villagers in Jalore district's Gundau and Bharatpur district's Shakarpur staged protests and created a ruckus raising allegations of bogus voting.

11 detained

In Dholpur's Baroli village, polling started in late afternoon amid tension over a shooting incident on Sunday that resulted in the death of one person following a clash over election-related rivalry. Police have detained the main accused and 10 others in connection with the incident.

Voting was conducted through ballot papers. More than 1.05 crore voters were eligible to exercise their franchise at 11,905 polling stations. Results are expected to be declared by late night. The declaration of results will bring the election of representatives in all 14,403 panchayats in the State to a close.

The sarpanch and ward panch polls are not contested on political party symbols and parties do not officially allot tickets for these posts, unlike the zila parishad and panchayat samiti polls. Polling for zila parishad and panchayat samiti members across all four phases has been completed. Votes will be counted on November 20.

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People staging a protest following the second death in 48 hours from an elephant attack at Nagenahalli village of Belur taluk on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two elephant attack deaths in 48 hours spark fresh protests

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Less than 48 hours after a woman was killed in an elephant attack at Chowdanahalli in Belur taluk, Hassan district, Karnataka, another person died in a similar incident at Nagenahalli in the taluk on Monday.

Hafees-Ur-Rahman, 60, was on his way to the coffee estate where he worked when he encountered an elephant, which trampled him to death. The incident has triggered another round of protests by residents, who were already up in arms after the first death.

Following the death of Jayamma, 65, at Chowdahalli on November 14 evening, people of Belur taluk staged a protest on Sunday with the body. They blamed the Forest Department's negligence for the series of deaths due to human-elephant conflict in the region.

The protest was called off only after the Forest Department assured them that action would be taken to drive away the wild elephants roaming in the area. However, within hours of the protest ending, another person died under similar circumstances, leading to intensified protests demanding that Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy ensure a permanent solution to the recurring problem.

Public outrage

On Monday, as the Belur police took the body of Rahman in a vehicle and headed towards the government hospital in Belur, angry protesters stopped the vehicle and blocked traffic.

The protesters blamed the district administration and the Forest Department for the incident. Echoing their sentiment, former Minister and Congress leader B. Shivararamu, who also joined the protest, said the Deputy Commissioner and Minister in charge of the district should take responsibility.

Cyclone Akvan likely to cross A.P. coast on November 20

Weather system over Bay of Bengal likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm today; rainfall may begin in State from November 18, IMD says: CM reviews preparedness, orders precaution

Nellore Sravani
VIJAYAWADA



A farmer ties paddy stalks together in Vijayawada Rural on Monday to minimise damage from the approaching cyclone. G.N Rao

The deep depression over southeast and southwest Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclonic storm on Monday. Cyclone Akvan is moving north-northwestwards towards the Andhra Pradesh coast at 10 kmph.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), at 5.30 p.m., the storm was centred on the central parts of south and westcentral Bay of Bengal, which is about 610 km east of Chennai of Tamil Nadu, 630 km northeast of Trincomalee in Sri Lanka, 660 km southeast of Machilipatnam and 670 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam and 790 km south of Gopalpur in Odisha.

The storm may continue to move north-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm over west-central Bay of Bengal by Tuesday evening and may cross the Andhra Pradesh coast around noon on November 20, as a very severe cyclonic storm, with windspeed gusting to 145 kmph. Rain may begin in the State from November 18, becoming very heavy on November 19 and 20. The IMD said that the probable landfall location could be anywhere between Nellore of SPSR Nellore district and Tuni of Kakinada district.

The districts of Konaseema, Kakinada, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, NTR and Guntur have been put on alert, as very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is expected in these districts on November 19 and 20. Except for Krishna and NTR, the other districts bore the brunt during Cyclone Arnab and Cyclone Murasu too. Most of these districts are known for rich cultivation of paddy. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday reviewed preparations for the deep depression and instructed officials to consider the recommendations made by the Central team.

Deve Gowda writes to PM, seeks review of Cauvery tribunal award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Appealing for the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the inter-State sharing of the Cauvery waters, Karnataka former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has sought a review of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal Award. He has argued that while the tribunal formed 36 years ago considered over 50-year-old data to decide the water yield level, the actual yield now diminished owing to climate change.

In a letter dated November 2, the copies of which were released to the press on Monday, Mr. Gowda said: "As the Tamil Nadu government is understood to have filed a complaint with the Government of India on March 4, 2026, under Section 3 of the ISWD Act seeking constitution of a fresh tribunal for Mekedatu issue, I request that the matter of review of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal Award be also referred to the proposed tribunal." Arguing that the time had come for a review of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal Award, he observed, "The tribunal failed to provide for a review clause in its award unlike other tribunal awards. It is paradoxical to imagine how an award remains unchanged without modifications for an indefinite period. Added to this, there has been global warming and climate changes on account of which the monsoon cycle has changed. Some areas are experiencing heavy rainfall and floods for short spells whereas other regions are experiencing scarcity due to acute scanty rainfall."

Delhi SIR: plea in SC flags 'ghost' Form 7s in Mustafabad area

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The existence of genuine objectors and of genuine grounds for deletion of names in north-east Delhi's Mustafabad are in doubt, Cong. leader Ali Mehdi argued

Congress leader Ali Mehdi approached the Supreme Court on Monday alleging that the Mustafabad Assembly constituency is seeing a "substantial" number of ghost Form 7s seeking deletion of voters' names in the ongoing Delhi special intensive revision (SIR) drive. A crisis of electoral integrity is brewing, he added.

The writ petition filed through advocate Shariq Ahmed and highlighting multiple reports by *The Hindu* stated that voters whose names are listed for deletion on the grounds of death, absence and permanent shifting were found to be alive and residing at their recorded addresses on the existing roll.

'Phantom objectors'

The persons in whose names Form 7s have been filed for deletion deny having filed or signed the applications. The petition alleged that ghost Form 7s appeared to have been filed by "phantom objectors" in the north-east Delhi seat.

"The integrity of an electoral roll is compromised not only when an ineligible name remains upon it. It is equally compromised when an eligible elector is removed from it on a fact which never existed or upon an objection which the supposed objector never made. The present record discloses the latter danger in its stark form," states the petition.

It added that persons declared dead were found alive while persons said to have shifted were found at their registered addresses.

"The existence of a genuine objector and the existence of a genuine ground for deletion – in Mustafabad, both are under serious doubt at the same time," Mr. Ahmed submitted.

Section 22 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 requires the Electoral Registration Officer to be satisfied, after proper verification of the facts, before an entry can be corrected or deleted.

Rule 13(2) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 requires an objection to the proposed inclusion of a name or an application for deletion to be made in Form 7 and to be preferred by a person whose own name is included in the electoral roll.

Form 7 requires identification of the applicant, identification of the elector objected to, the particular ground of deletion and a declaration as to the truth of the particulars stated.

The guidelines accompanying the form place the onus of substantiating the ground upon the applicant.

INBRIEF



Heritage building converted into Shivakumar's residence

The Kumara Krupa Guest House, a 160-year-old heritage building in Bengaluru, has been converted into the official residence of Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. He performed puja at the new house on Monday and said all the legislators and MPs would be invited to the residence on Thursday. Mr. Shivakumar said the guest house – now renamed 'Ganga' – had been slightly renovated without altering its heritage value, denying allegations to the contrary. He said he had chosen to relocate to the guest house as the quarters allotted to him were small.

ECI orders SSR of Karnataka electoral rolls for Jan. 2027

The Election Commission of India has ordered a special summary revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka and Meghalaya, with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date, to facilitate the enrolment of "left out" first-time voters. According to the schedule, the integrated draft electoral rolls will be published on December 1, and people can file claims and objections until December 31. The final electoral rolls will be published on January 20, 2027. The SSR will allow advance applications from those who will turn 18 on April 1, July 1 and October 1, 2027.

Telangana BJP seeks FRRO action against Italian leader

Telangana BJP on Monday urged the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to act against Italian political leader Giacomo Filibeck and the organisers of the Congress-backed Bharat Summit, alleging that remarks made by foreign representatives at the Hyderabad event violated visa norms and amounted to interference in India's internal political affairs. A delegation led by State BJP president N. Ramchander Rao sought a probe into the remarks, claiming they targeted the Centre.

Pilgrim rush



Long wait: People wait at the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala in Keralam, as the shrine opened for the annual pilgrimage on Monday. The Travancore Devaswom Board said nearly 30,000 pilgrims had booked darshan for the day. The first phase of the pilgrimage will run till December 27. The temple will reopen on December 30 for the Makaravilakku festival and the season will end on January 20. PTI

Police in Keralam probe T.N. man's link to synagogue arson

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala Police claimed to have found similarities between the case in which a Tamil Nadu man was arrested recently from Palakkad for alleged links with criminal networks and the Ernakulam synagogue arson case.

Initial investigations have revealed similarities in the *modus operandi* of 27-year-old Gurumurthy, who was arrested from Ottappalam, Palakkad, on November 12, and Ebin P. Paul, 32, who has been remanded in judicial custody since his arrest for allegedly setting fire to a plant nursery located in front of the 800-year-old Kadavumbhagam synagogue in Ernakulam on October 12, the State Police Chief said on Monday.

Though both accused were suspected of links to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, the police found no evidence of a direct connection.

"Initial investigation revealed that Gurumurthy was taking assignments from criminal networks operating mainly through social media. The case bears some similarities to the Ebin Paul case, in which an incendiary device was thrown at the synagogue in Kochi. We are examining whether the handler is connected to that case," State Police Chief said.

Revanth meets Modi, raises water issues

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy with PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here and sought his help in securing clearances and funds for pending irrigation projects and resolving inter-State water issues.

Briefing presspersons later, State Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, who was also present at the meeting, said the previous and present governments in Telangana have together spent about ₹50,000 crore on the Palamuru-Rangareddy, Seethamma Sagar, and Dindi projects, but the work has been slow for years, partly because of a Supreme Court stay.

The State has asked the Prime Minister to expedite clearances for the three projects and take a special initiative for stalled irrigation projects across the country, the Irrigation Minister added.

'Caste-neutral' hair salon set up in Munnar to counter bias faces closure

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI



The inauguration of the shop in 2020. FILE PHOTO

A "caste-free" hair salon that was opened near Munnar in 2020 following alleged caste discrimination at other barber shops in the region is facing closure after the audit wing of the local panchayat body objected to the rent-free allotment of the building it operates from.

In August 2020, the Vattavada panchayat cancelled the licences of two salons at Koviloor after they refused to extend service to members of the Chakkiliyan Scheduled Caste community.

The panchayat subsequently established the community-run, "caste-neutral" salon in its building, providing a commercial space rent-free. It invited Bhagyaraj, a Koviloor native who had been running a salon in Kanthalloor, to manage the facility.

Officials said auditors objected to the rent concession after records of the panchayat committee meeting approving the arrangement could not be found.

The barber is now required to pay ₹5,000 a month as rent, along with accrued rent arrears. "He cannot afford this amount," said Panchayat Assistant Secretary Pratheesh P.J.

Mr Bhagyaraj claimed the salon helped break long-standing social barriers. "Earlier, other barbers had refused to cut the hair of people belonging to certain communities," he said. "When I opened the shop, the situation began to change. If the facility is wound up now, other salons will again refuse service to them."

Clear the path

India should use multilateral fora to advance bilateral cooperation

While maintaining its hard stance on cross-border terrorism, India has an opportunity to recognise that many of its other interests still merit sustained cooperation with Pakistan as the latter's climate minister Musadik Masood Malik prepares to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi. India's official position since the Pahalgam attack and the ensuing confrontations along the border is that terrorism and bilateral talks cannot coexist. A month later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi signalled that India's relations with Pakistan would remain subordinate to its demands on cross-border terrorism by extending the condition to trade and water. South Asia is already one of the least economically integrated regions worldwide, with intra-regional trade at around 5%, and, as Chatham House has inferred, strained ties between India and its neighbours have created diplomatic vacuums that Beijing has taken advantage of through trilateral and regional groupings. Now, by inviting all SCO members to the national capital and participating in meetings ahead of the August 2027 Islamabad Summit, New Delhi has shown some maturity as a convening power. Islamabad is also being pragmatic in keeping channels open during its SCO chairmanship by participating in an initiative championed by Mr. Modi.

The pursuit of regionwide water security remains particularly fluid, with India seemingly overlooking the fact that it is upstream of Pakistan and Bangladesh and downstream of China. After India stopped sharing routine hydrological data of the Indus river and approved the Chenab-Beas link tunnel project, Mr. Malik fanned the flames saying Pakistan would "cut off those hands" seeking to restrict its share of the water. Yet China has now restricted the same data vis-à-vis the Brahmaputra while it builds the Medog mega-dam in Tibet. India has also protested the proposed Padma Barrage in Bangladesh, which has been increasing its alignment with China, echoing India building the Farakka Barrage over East Pakistan's objections in 1961. Climate change is rendering cooperation more essential to manage the integrity of contested geographies, the willingness of border populations to engage, and the potential to generate hydroelectric power. Suspending ties may communicate political resolve but will not diminish terrorists' capabilities in the region or improve India's security. It has already compromised India's ambitions to regional leadership, which require the ability to keep engaging even with difficult neighbours. India should go beyond using multilateral fora to assert its national position and start identifying areas where bilateral cooperation serves its interests, including with Pakistan.

Outlook outage

The dangers of centralising the internet's architecture are now clear

Last week, Microsoft's suite of productivity and email software, which businesses, governments, hospitals and a host of other organisations rely upon round-the-clock, abruptly stopped working globally, affecting tens of millions of people around the world. The company has cited a network upgrade gone awry as the root cause of the incident. Incidents such as the Microsoft 365 outage are a natural consequence of businesses and governments allowing key digital systems to become centralised all over the world. The internet remains, and was pioneered as, a network of networks. If one business's networks went down, the reasoning went, others would not fall like dominos: everyone was, after all, connected to everyone else. But the economics have long been prohibitive, with dedicated servers and web-connected infrastructure infeasible for all but the largest businesses, with even those firms seeking the enticing cost savings from socialised infrastructure. That made sense: the internet made shared infrastructure more economical, allowing hardware and maintenance costs to be spread so far and wide that at a per-user level prices have been negligible. Competition among major cloud providers, the few that remain at Microsoft's scale, have kept prices affordable for enterprise software for all shades of organisations.

Digital services have grown more sophisticated, and more deeply integrated into the economy as this centralisation unfolded. But the downside is that, regardless of the sophistication and professionalism of any company, mistakes happen, and the scale of these mistakes can quickly cascade over to the entire economy. There are societal and organisational lessons to be gleaned from these episodes. There is no such thing as a reliable vendor. Governments must also draw a cyber sovereignty lesson here that does not simply entail swapping a global vendor for a domestic one. It is the subversion of the internet's architecture that is at the root of these incidents. Investing in resilience – and shielding critical operations from destabilising disruptions, no matter how improbable – should inform attitudes to digital systems. As a new generation of AI data centres is poised to supercharge the centralised systems of yesteryear, it is all the more imperative to mitigate even occasional vagaries of large systems.

Taxes, policy uncertainty and lost investor confidence



Shashi Tharoor

Member of Parliament (Congress party) from Thiruvananthauram, and Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 29 books, including *Why I Am a Hindu* and, most recently, *The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru*. His forthcoming book is *The Fight for Indian Liberalism* (January 2027)

The sudden infusion of ₹15,000 crore into India's equity markets after the U.S. midterm election results should not be allowed to obscure a more fundamental policy question: has India's investment policy environment become increasingly difficult for global capital to navigate? And is this hurting our economy?

A recent table doing the rounds on social media shows that, over the last two years, investors in South Korea's KOSPI Index gained 160%, Pakistan's KSE-100 grew 107%, Taiwan's TAIEX gained 105%, Japan's Nikkei-225 increased 70%; even the struggling economies of Europe gave their investors 30% (Germany's DAX) and 26% (UK's FTSE100), but India's Nifty 50 returned minus 14%. This weakness in Indian equities is the cumulative outcome of taxation, regulatory uncertainty, liquidity constraints, the cost of capital, corporate earnings pressures and, yes, the volatile priorities of international investors.

Let's face it: What matters to an investor is not simply how high India's tax rates are, but the predictability, consistency and overall competitiveness of the investment environment. The recent trajectory of India's equity markets raises serious questions about all three.

Take the history of taxation on listed equity shares in India: before October 2004, long-term capital gains (LTCG) on listed shares were generally taxed at 20% with indexation, or 10% without indexation, whichever resulted in a lower tax liability. Short-term capital (STCG) gains did not enjoy a special concessional rate and were added to the investor's taxable income. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) did not exist. In October 2004, the Finance Act introduced a fundamental change. LTCG on listed equity shares became exempt under Section 10(38), while STCG were taxed at a concessional rate of 10% under Section 111A, subject to the prescribed conditions. The exemption on LTCG was introduced alongside STT. The rationale was straightforward: rather than relying entirely on the assessment and collection of LTCG tax, the government could collect a small transaction-based levy immediately through the stock exchanges. The arrangement offered a measure of simplicity, brought in revenue right away, improved compliance and reduced the scope for disputes over capital-gains assessment. It also incentivised participation in the formal equity market.

But in 2018, the exemption on LTCG was withdrawn by the Modi government, which reintroduced LTCG taxation at 10% but still left STT untouched. This raised the obvious question: if STT had originally been introduced in lieu of LTCG, why was the transaction tax retained when capital-gains taxation was restored? Worse still, in July 2024, the government increased the LTCG tax rate on specified listed equity investments from 10% to 12.5% and the STCG tax rate from 15% to 20%. The 2026 Union Budget introduced another increase in STT, this time affecting futures and options transactions. The cumulative message to investors is difficult to ignore. Over the years, the tax burden on equity-market participation has increased, even as the government continues to depend on the capital market to mobilise resources, support investment and encourage household financial savings. The simultaneous imposition of capital-gains taxation and transaction tax therefore raises legitimate concerns about the cumulative burden, particularly during periods of market weakness. A tax regime that seeks to deepen equity participation must consider not only the revenue it generates but also the cost it imposes on participation, liquidity and capital formation.

Even seemingly unrelated policy developments can add to a broader perception of uncertainty. The retrospective tax controversy associated with the 2018 Flipkart-Walmart transaction also raised concerns about the predictability of India's tax regime. The demand for LTCG tax in connection with a transaction that had already taken place created apprehension among foreign investors. They value certainty and consistency highly. They may be willing to accept market risk, but they are less comfortable with the possibility that the rules governing their investments could change unexpectedly. The cumulative effect of taxation, regulatory uncertainty and changing policy signals can influence the perception of India as an investment destination.

For global capital, predictability is often as important as profitability. Frequent changes in regulatory or pricing frameworks generate concerns about the consistency of the policy environment. Some interventions may be necessary to protect consumers or address genuine market failures, but when policy signals appear unpredictable, or when investors are unable to anticipate the direction of future regulation, they won't invest.

As a capital-deficit economy, India faces structural constraints in attracting large amounts of capital at a low cost, compared to mature markets in the U.S. and Europe. Foreign investors may prefer markets where they can obtain better risk-adjusted returns or access industries with stronger growth prospects. Because the competition for global investment is a race between ecosystems, technologies, and policy environments, India cannot rely solely on its population, consumption base, or long-term growth potential. It must also offer a competitive environment in which capital can be deployed efficiently and generate sustainable returns. When investors ask if India's much-touted GDP growth story translates into earnings growth and sustainable wealth creation, the answer is largely negative. Our undoubted potential is not the same as realised investment returns. The government must therefore reconsider whether its taxation and regulatory policies are aligned with the broader objective of deepening capital markets and attracting long-term investment.

Global capital is mobile, and investors compare opportunities worldwide based on expected returns, risk, and policy credibility. No market enjoys an unconditional claim on global capital. Regulatory and taxation changes, transaction costs, liquidity conditions, currency depreciation, the cost of capital, slowing corporate earnings, valuation premiums and the limited presence of Indian enterprises in some of the promising emerging technology industries (including AI) – all influence the relative attractiveness of an investment destination. Confidence is built through stable institutions, transparent decision-making, and predictable rules. To prevent capital from moving away, which would harm business financing and India's economic development, the government must strike a balance between legitimate revenue needs and a competitive framework that ensures stable regulations and sustainable returns.

India cannot afford to assume that global capital will continue to arrive simply because its economy is growing. If investors perceive India as an expensive, uncertain or less competitive market, capital will seek alternatives. The consequences will extend beyond stock prices to the cost of financing businesses and the broader prospects of economic development. While domestic investors may continue investing through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs), persistent market underperformance can affect their confidence and expectations gradually. Domestic inflows cannot indefinitely compensate for weak earnings, expensive valuations or sustained foreign capital outflows.

Ultimately, the most important asset of a financial market is investor confidence. And confidence, once weakened by a series of inconsistent or costly policy decisions, cannot be restored by optimism alone. It requires a sustained commitment to predictability, competitive taxation, credible regulation and the creation of an environment in which investors can reasonably expect the rules of the game to remain stable. It's time for the government to wake up and smell the proverbial coffee.

Investor confidence, once weakened by a series of inconsistent or costly policy decisions, cannot be restored by optimism alone

The road to a disease-free world goes through water



H.E. Abdulla Balalaa

UAE Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability

The global effort to eradicate polio has been one of the greatest success stories of public health. Since 1988, cases of wild poliovirus have fallen by more than 99%. Vaccination, surveillance, and community outreach have reduced the global threat of a disease to the brink of being eradicated.

However, as a marathon runner might know, the last mile is often the hardest, requiring tenacity and unwavering self-belief. This is the type of dedication that we need to sustain as the race to eradicate polio reaches its end game. As we work together to finish the job, we also need to think beyond vaccines, about the systems that may inadvertently enable transmission, and one of those critical systems is water.

Polio can spread through contaminated water, thus making safe water crucial to preventing transmission. To make progress permanent, we must understand that health and water are integral to the equation.

According to WHO and UNICEF, in the year 2024, 2.1 billion people lacked safely managed drinking water and 3.4 billion lacked safely managed sanitation. More alarmingly, no access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene contributed to at least 1.4 million preventable deaths in 2019.

This is where water presents one of the greatest opportunities to bolster global health.

We need to regard water infrastructure as preventive health infrastructure. Clean water can prevent disease. Safe sanitation can break the chain of transmission. Wastewater systems can help us identify pathogen circulation. By studying the presence of pathogens in wastewater, the spread of disease can be more closely tracked. These mechanisms enable states to evolve from responding to outbreaks to anticipating them.

The UAE has seen the power of this approach. For many years, the UAE and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan have worked with The Gates Foundation and global partners to accelerate the eradication of polio and neglected tropical diseases. The Reaching the Last Mile Fund, established by the UAE and the Gates Foundation, works in dozens of countries to accelerate the elimination of diseases that disproportionately affect people living in poverty.

Together, we are focused on reaching the world's most underserved communities, particularly children living in areas where access to healthcare is extraordinarily difficult.

This is also the philosophy behind Reaching the Last Mile: marginalised communities who are at most risk cannot be left behind at the last mile. Though the last mile is where the work is hardest – it is also where investment can change most lives. That same thinking should equally be applied to water. What if wastewater networks could detect a pathogen before a patient appears before a doctor will illness? What if AI can identify a developing public health risk, giving communities the chance to act early? Much work in this direction is already in process. Wastewater surveillance has become an important tool in the fight against polio, because the virus can be detected in wastewater even when no case of paralysis is reported.

In Abu Dhabi, AI-enabled wastewater surveillance serves as an early detection system, able to identify potential public health risks and inform early intervention. In 2025, the European Commission unveiled the European Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard, a tool designed to track movements of diseases through wastewater monitoring and analysis.

This is the future we should be building towards: water systems that do more than moving water; water systems that help us predict and prevent diseases. The infrastructure that protects communities from poliovirus can help address other diseases too. The wastewater systems that detect one pathogen can help detect others too. The investments in sanitation that improve public health can support sustainable development and improve quality of life.

This is why water must be seen as an opportunity to save lives, strengthen resilience and build healthier communities. However, more must be done to bridge the gap between health and water policy. We need greater collaboration, more integrated investment and a shared understanding that progress in one area often depends on progress in another.

This is the ethos underpinning the upcoming 2026 UN Water Conference. Taking place in Abu Dhabi, the conference will bring the world together to accelerate action on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Together, we will envision a new world of possibilities with water, unlocking the value in the world's water systems through innovation, collaboration and financing in water infrastructure.

To achieve this, governments, development institutions and the private sector must work together to bring solutions to the communities that need them most. Global collaborations on the last mile of polio give us a reason to believe that progress is possible. We have an opportunity now to apply that mindset to water, because the future of water is not only about securing a resource; it is about protecting people.

And if we get this right, the water flowing through a community tomorrow will do more than keeping people healthy.

It will give the next generation something that should never have been out of reach: the chance to grow up healthy, safe and free from preventable disease.

This is the future we should be building towards: water systems that do more than moving water; water systems that help us predict and prevent diseases

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inhuman practice

he prevalence of corporal punishment in Indian schools, despite the existence of a legal framework prohibiting the practice, is nothing short of a blot on the Indian school education system. Although there are myriad non-violent ways to discipline children, ranging from counselling to instilling moral values and ethics through dedicated, periodic moral education classes, teachers often resort to caning and verbal abuse, remaining oblivious to their debilitating repercussions on children's physical, mental and emotional health. Adopting a zero-tolerance policy towards corporal punishment is the need of the hour if this inhuman practice is to be eliminated once and for all.

M. Jeyaram
Sholavandan

Toxic message

It is disgraceful that the full-fledged century-old power struggle between the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the Jacobite Syrian Christian Community is getting even more vitriolic and murky (Patriarch walks into Manarcad amid Orthodox protest, November 16). This internal turmoil has nothing to do with theological differences, but instead, is driven by the lure of administrative control of the church and its wealth. Despite the 2017 order of the Supreme Court in favour of the Orthodox faction ordering that the management of the Malankara churches be handed over to them, there is no end to this imbroglio. The message conveyed by these religious heads to its followers is toxic and contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ, who emphasized on the concepts of love, forgiveness,and choosing kindness over hate.

Biju C. Mathew
Thiruvananthapuram

Minister goes wild

A video shows Tamil Nadu Minister for Social Justice, Adi Dravidar Welfare and Hill Tribes, Vanni Arasu pursuing a tiger in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. What a pity that a man, who is expected to punish those who flout rules, has himself become a law-breaker. The Chief Minister should give Mr. Vanni Arasu a dressing down so as to demonstrate that the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are applicable to a minister too.

P.G. Menon
Chennai

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.

The Sachar report awaits its due



Abdur Rahman

IPS (Special Inspector General of Police under application of VRS) and the author of '*Denial and Deprivation: Indian Muslims after the Sachar Committee and Rangnath Mishra Commission Reports*'

Prime Minister's High-Level Committee, chaired by Justice (Retd.) Rajinder Sachar and popularly known as the Sachar Committee, submitted its report on November 17, 2006, to then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The government made it public by placing it in Parliament on November 30, 2006. The Committee analysed data on population, education, economic status, unemployment, banking facilities, access to basic infrastructure, poverty, etc. It studied Muslims' share in government jobs, identification of deprived groups, and many prevailing perceptions in society, and then submitted a detailed report.

The Sachar Committee Report (SCR) is considered the most detailed and authentic report on Indian Muslims. It observed that the community exhibits deficits and deprivation in practically all dimensions of development and recommended policies focused on 'inclusive development' and 'mainstreaming'.

Exposing the disparity

The Committee showed that Indian Muslims were educationally backward, economically weak, and socially disadvantaged. The community lacked access to banking facilities, civic amenities, and government employment. It concluded that if corrective steps are not taken, Muslims would become the neo-Dalits. The report sent shock waves through the community, political parties, and scholars. The report also shattered the myth of 'Muslim appeasement' and 'pampered treatment' of the community being levelled by the BJP and other Hindutva organisations.

The Sachar Committee Report did not receive the attention it deserved. The government should set aside its prejudice and present the report in Parliament and discuss all its issues

Sensing the alarming situation, Muslim organisations and intellectuals demanded that the government take concrete steps to improve the situation. Parties with an OBC base demanded that the government implement the report in full and give reservation in jobs and politics. However, the BJP, which had opposed the Committee from the beginning, said it would strongly oppose implementation.

When implementation began, efforts were made to adopt community-specific recommendations. However, these had limited reach and were expected to yield only modest results. General recommendations such as the creation of the National Data Bank, Equal Opportunity Commission and Diversity Index, which could benefit Muslims and other deprived groups, were ignored. Two important initiatives – the pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes and the Multi-Sectoral Development Programme – were implemented effectively. The rest of the recommendations remained confined to paper. The government's approach remained 'minimalist' and 'cautious'.

From neglect to exclusion

After the regime change in 2014, many schemes implemented by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) were either stopped by the Narendra Modi government or rendered meaningless. Amid the BJP's majoritarian politics, there is no mention of this report in the public discourse, election campaigns, or the manifestos of so-called secular parties.

Going against the essence of "*Sabka saath, sabka vikas*", the government has made a systematic effort to push Muslims to the margins. Open discrimination, conspiracies to defame, hate speech, and incidents of constant humiliation have increased significantly. Incidents of mob lynching have increased on false accusations of cow protection, carrying beef, love jihad, etc. The brutal attitude of the police and bulldozer actions have created fear in the community. The result of all this is that Muslims are moving away from the mainstream and feeling insecure. In the post-Sachar era, they were being termed as a 'development subject'. Today, they have again become a 'security subject'.

An unfinished task

The Sachar Committee Report did not receive the attention it deserved. Twenty years later, its relevance has only increased. The Committee analysed not just Muslims' conditions but also those of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other minorities, Hindu OBCs and Hindu upper castes. If the condition of all deprived groups is to be studied honestly, it is necessary to revive the Sachar report.

The government should set aside its prejudice and present the report, which is gathering dust on the government shelf, back to Parliament and discuss all its issues. If the general recommendations mentioned in the report with far-reaching consequences are implemented, all deprived groups would get social justice, disparity would be reduced, and all groups would have equal opportunities in the country's development. What is needed today is that this report be revived.

A poverty line that falls short



Saumitra Bhaduri

Professor at the Madras School of Economics

There is no serious doubt that poverty in India has fallen sharply over the past decade. However, researchers and policymakers cannot agree on how many are still poor. Depending on the estimate, the share ranges from about 5% to more than 26%. Take the recent World Bank report. At its international line of $3 a day (2021 PPP), 2.6% of Indians were poor in 2022-23. Raise the line to $4.20, the bank's benchmark for lower middle-income countries, and the figure jumps to around 16.1%. Same country, same year. Only the yardstick changed. A low level of extreme poverty does not necessarily mean poverty is not still a major issue. Where you draw the line decides how much economic insecurity you see.

India's own figures tell a similar story. For example, SBI Research (2025) takes the Tendulkar line of 2009, adjusts it for inflation, and gets poverty of 7.2% in rural India and 4.6% in urban India for 2022-23. Rangarajan and Dev (2014), using an inflation-adjusted version of the Rangarajan Committee line, arrive at 10.8%. Further, Sethu, Surya and Ruthu (2024), who rebuild the Rangarajan method from the latest consumption survey, report 26.4%. Most of that gap boils down to the lines themselves: SBI's Tendulkar-based lines use, after adjusting for inflation, about ₹1,632 a month per person in rural areas and ₹1,944 in urban areas. In contrast, Sethu et al. use much higher thresholds of ₹2,515 and ₹3,639. And the outcomes are obvious: Higher lines, higher poverty. Method matters too. One camp takes an old line and adjusts it for inflation. The other reconstructs the line from spending patterns in the new survey.

Reliable poverty estimates are not just for academic purposes. India has made real progress, but without a credible benchmark, it is hard to say how much, or how much remains to be done

The World Bank does it differently again. Its international lines are set in PPP dollars so countries can be compared, which helps show where India stands globally. However, they are not built on a basket designed to reflect what it costs to meet basic needs in India itself. That is why the $3 figure sits near the low domestic estimates and the $4.20 figure near the high ones.

Poverty line problem

To understand why India is in the position today, we have to go back to how poverty was measured historically. It started with minimum calorie needs. The Alagh Task Force in 1979 set separate calorie norms for rural and urban populations, and later estimates built on them. The Lakdawala Committee refined the approach with State-specific poverty lines and price indices. In 2009, the Tendulkar Committee dropped the direct calorie method for a wider consumption basket that counted spending on health and education, and put poverty at 21.9% in 2011-12. Critics thought its thresholds were too low. The Rangarajan Committee then proposed higher lines, putting the poverty rate at 29.5% for the same year.

The problem was further compounded by the lack of comparable data. The 2017-18 consumption survey was never published, and the next full one did not arrive until 2022-23. For more than a decade, India argued about poverty without an official consumption-based number to anchor the argument. Researchers, as a result, have had to work with assorted poverty lines, price indexes and reconstructed estimates.

Multidimensional poverty has also gained prominence, since consumption alone clearly misses part of the picture. The MPI looks at deprivation across health, education and living standards, including sanitation, drinking water and housing. NITI Aayog says multidimensional poverty fell from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21. Its 11.28% figure for 2022-23 is a projection from earlier trends, not the result of a fresh survey. For comparison, the World Bank puts it at 15.5%, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at 16.4% for 2019-21.

Reliable poverty estimates are not just for academic purposes. India has made real progress, but without a credible benchmark, it is hard to say how much, or how much remains to be done.

A country that wants to be high-income needs to know how many can live decently. Until India sets a new official poverty line, "How poor is India?" will keep getting several answers. The 2022-23 HCES gave researchers fresh data to work with, and hopes to settle on a single answer.

To end, the World Bank's most telling figures are not about the fall in extreme poverty. Two other figures are insightful. First, 80% of Indians lived below the $8.3-a-day upper-middle-income line in 2023, even though per capita income per day is more than three times that threshold. A low extreme-poverty count is masking deep inequality. Second, 30% of Indians still lack access to basic sanitation, a number that should trouble us all.

Traditional destinations see fewer student migrants

International student inflows to OECD countries decline for a second year, with key destinations losing students as European countries gain ground

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

International student migration to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries declined for the second consecutive year in 2025 following the strong post-pandemic recovery in 2023, when inflows peaked at 2.1 million **(Chart 1)**. The majority of this decline has been concentrated in a few countries, particularly Canada, the U.S., and Australia.

The latest International Migration Outlook, released by the OECD group of countries, shows that destinations have been changing. European countries, particularly Germany, Italy, and Austria, have registered huge inflows compared to pre-COVID levels.

Meanwhile, student inflow to Canada and the U.S. fell by more than 30% in just a year **(Chart 2)**. This could be due to the measures introduced to regulate student inflows by major destination countries to alleviate pressure on migration systems, housing markets, and infrastructure capacity. For instance, Canada introduced a temporary cap on new study permits in 2024, and Australia introduced a stricter Genuine Student test in 2024. Data show this has brought fewer students, not just lower than 2023 but even below the pre-COVID period **(Chart 3)**.

A large number of international students came from India and China **(Chart 4)**. While China formed a large share of international students in 2015, India has caught up.

The report showed that STEM and business courses are major attractions for international students **(Chart 5)**. Their share exceeds that of native-born counterparts across most OECD countries except Italy and Norway **(Chart 6)**. However, despite being highly educated, they tend to work in low- to medium-skilled occupations.

Course changes

The data for the charts were sourced from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s 'International Migration Outlook 2026' report released on November 12, 2026

In Chart 5, * Business, administration and law and ^ Social sciences, journalism and information. In Chart 6, STEM fields include natural sciences, mathematics and statistics, ICT, engineering, manufacturing, and construction



Chart 1: International student flows to the OECD countries between 2015-25. Figures in billions

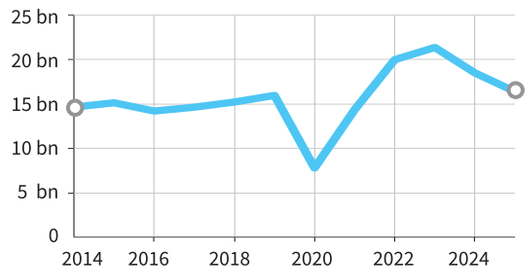


Chart 2: Country-wise international student flows to the OECD countries between 2015-25. Figures in billions

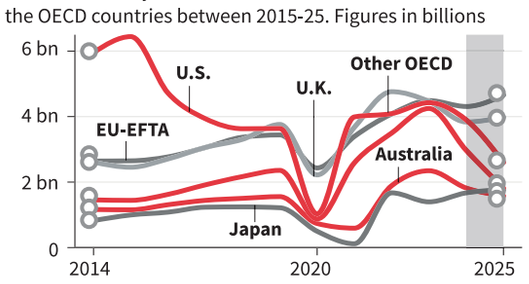


Chart 3: Top 20 nationalities of international tertiary-level students enrolled in OECD countries, 2015 and 2024. Figures in thousands



Chart 4: Change in international students to select countries in 2024 compared to pre-COVID levels and a year-ago period. Figures in %

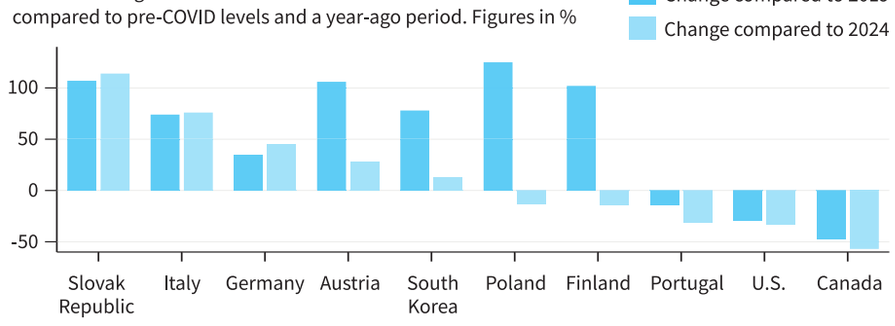


Chart 5: Distribution of national and international tertiary graduates, by field of education (2024). Figures in %

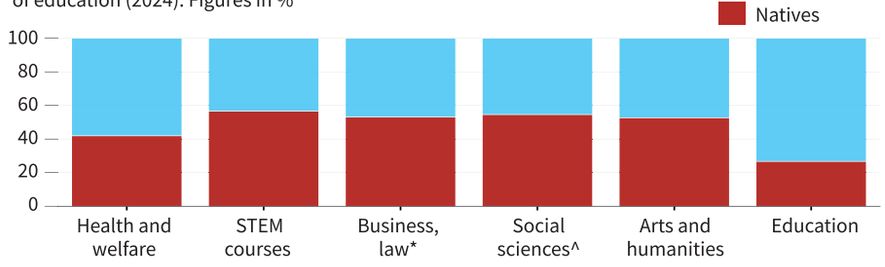
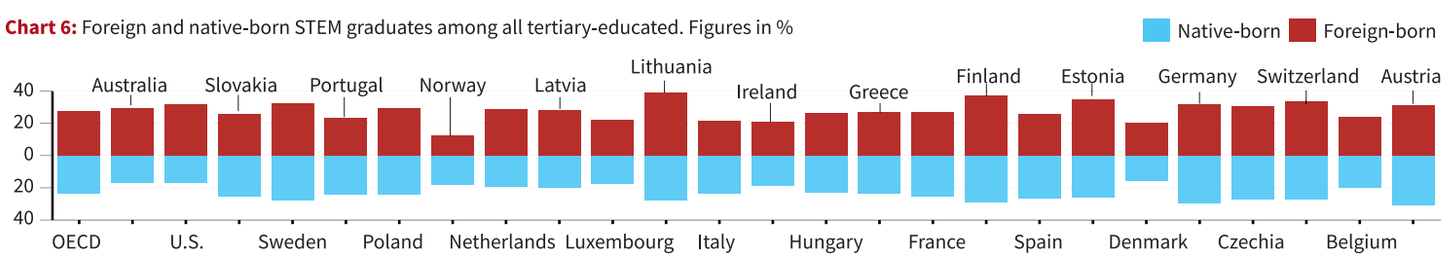


Chart 6: Foreign and native-born STEM graduates among all tertiary-educated. Figures in %



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 17, 1976

Israel condemned at UNESCO meet

Nairobi, Nov. 16: Israel rejected an Afro-Arab condemnation of its policies at the UNESCO general conference here and warned the Arab world such actions would not help prepare the way for peace talks, suggested by Egypt.

The Egyptian President, Mr. Anwar Sadat, said at the weekend he was prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel, and also that the United States had an obligation to supply Egypt with weapons.

Some 30 Arab and African countries tabled the condemnation in the preamble of a draft resolution on Israeli-occupied territories, the West Bank and the Gaza strip – at UNESCO's Programme Commission which deals with politically sensitive matters.

It was rejected by most Western countries except Spain, which has close ties with the Arab world.

The draft still under debate condemned as contrary to human rights all violations by Israel of the rights of the people living in all the occupied Arab territories to national education and cultural life.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 17, 1926

Ban on press articles

London, Nov. 13: At the annual meeting of the Lawn Tennis Association, rules will be submitted prohibiting an amateur from contributing articles or newspaper reports under his or her own name or initials, or a recognisable pseudonym, or permitting a newspaper interview in connection with a tournament in which he or she is participating, and also prohibiting any player from securing pecuniary advantage by advertising his or her name as the author of a book or article of which he or she is not the author. Mr. S. N. Doust, commenting in the "Daily Mail" says: "Many players including Tilden, Wheatley, Lacoste, Gobert, Miss Helen Wills and Mesdames Lambert, Chambers and Godfree have given their views, both in articles and interviews. There is no one better fitted to describe a match and advise than an experienced player. If the rules are passed, many players will be debarred from contributing anything useful for those who are unable to see them play, but are anxious to see their views expressed."

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of additional tents to shelter Delhi's homeless in the winter

400 The Delhi government will install around 400 additional waterproof and fire-resistant tents to accommodate another 4,000 of the capital's destitutes this winter, taking the total capacity of homeless shelters in Delhi to more than 11,000, according to the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board's (DUSIB) Winter Action Plan 2026-27. PTI

Decline in enrolment of Indian students in U.S. universities

6.5 in per cent. The number of Indian students enrolled in U.S. universities declined by 6.5% in 2025-26 compared to the previous year as the Donald Trump administration tightened immigration policies. As per the Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, 3,39,435 Indians enrolled in U.S. universities in 2025-26, compared to 3,63,019 in 2024-25. PTI

'Hotspots' identified in Mizoram to strengthen anti-narcotic measures

129 The Mizoram government has identified 129 "drug hotspots" across the State and stepped up enforcement measures against trafficking of narcotics, officials said on Monday. The Mizoram Police marked 83 "hotspots" and the Excise and Narcotics Department 46, they said at a meeting of the State-Level Anti-Narcotics Task Force in Aizawl. PTI

Fall in earnings of top four airlines in the U.S. after flight disruptions

345 in $ million. The four largest U.S. airlines face an estimated $345 million hit in earnings after a nationwide ground stop disrupted flights through the weekend, as per brokerage Bernstein. More than 18,500 flights flying within, into, or out of the United States were cancelled as of Monday, according to calculations based on FlightAware data. REUTERS

Number of challans issued in last 2 weeks for pollution in Delhi

15,400 More than 15,400 challans were issued for pollution violations and fines of ₹1.62 crore levied across Delhi between November 2 and 16, a report by the Delhi Municipal Corporation revealed on Monday. The report shows no challans were issued on the day of Deepavali. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How does India address service outages?

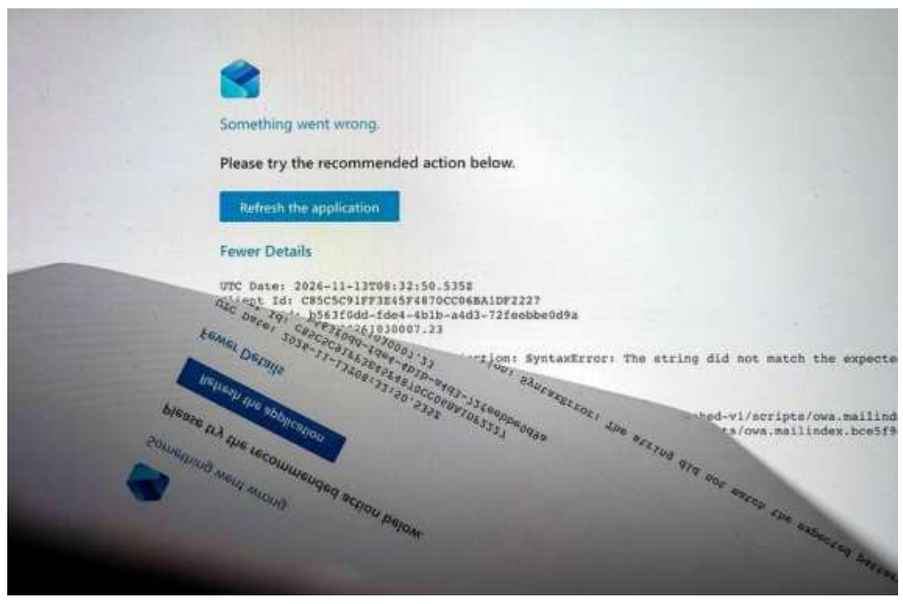
Does Indian law require Microsoft to have reported the recent outage that affected customers' ability to access its productivity suite? What rules apply in such situations and what are their shortcomings in the present form? How are cloud companies accountable in other countries? What are Indian customers' options?

EXPLAINER

N.V. Geetha

The story so far:

From November 12 to 13, an as-yet unspecified problem with Microsoft infrastructure affected customers' ability to access its productivity suite Microsoft 365 worldwide, including its Outlook email service. Microsoft apologised during the outage and attributed the incident to a fault in an upgrade of its network capacity, although more precise details are still expected. In India, among consequences in various sectors, IndiGo and Akasa Air alerted passengers of disruptions to their email support while Air India rerouted its email. The incident raises larger questions about whether companies providing services on which lakhs of people depend are required to account for such failures in India.



Locked out: Microsoft attributed the global outage this week to a fault in an upgrade of its network capacity and apologised, but the incident raises questions on accountability of service providers. AFP

Does Indian law require Microsoft to have reported the outage?

Three sets of rules apply and each one has a gap.

First, the directions issued by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) on April 28, 2022, under the Information Technology Act, 2000, require companies to report cyber incidents within six hours. The directions cover attacks and intrusions but not outages caused by technical faults. Still, CERT-In can call for information under Section 70B(6) of the IT Act to seek an explanation from Microsoft.

The second is the Reserve Bank of India's directions on managing risks in outsourcing, issued on November 28, 2025. They carry forward rules on outsourced IT services that first took effect on October 1, 2023. A bank buying cloud services must assess its dependence on the supplier and have an exit strategy. If the arrangement fails, the RBI can hold the bank responsible and the bank can seek an explanation from Microsoft under its agreement.

The third is the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. The Act defines a personal data breach to include an accidental "loss of access to personal data". Under Rules set to come into effect in May 2027, data breaches must be reported to the Data Protection Board and to each affected person. Failure to report could attract a penalty of up to ₹200 crore. The onus is on the organisation that collected the data, and the organisation is Microsoft's customer, even though the data sits on Microsoft's servers.

While Indian law does not require a minimum threshold of harm to report a breach, it is unclear whether a temporary outage constitutes a "loss of access" and thus a breach. If yes, a company must report the outage; if not, the company need not report, even if customers complained throughout the day. Europe's regulators count even a temporary loss of access as a breach to be logged, but only demand a report if people are put at risk.

How are cloud companies accountable in different countries?

The European Union and the U.K. have placed the biggest tech vendors directly under financial regulators' watch. The EU's financial supervisors named 19 such companies under its Digital Operational Resilience Act on November 18, 2025, which includes Microsoft and Tata Consultancy Services. Thus, an Indian company already reports to European supervisors.

As of July 13, 2026, the United Kingdom had placed Microsoft and three other companies under the Bank of England.

Both schemes only cover services sold to financial firms.

Europe has a broader law, called NIS2, that covers cloud companies across all sectors. Under the October 2024 Rules, a cloud service suffers a "significant incident" if it is completely unavailable for more than 30 minutes. A partial failure also counts if it lasts more than an hour and affects over 5% or over 1 million of the service's users in the EU, whichever is smaller. The company should inform the national authority within 24 hours and file a detailed notification within 72 hours.

The threshold here is how long the service was down, so the Microsoft outage would have counted.

On October 7, Singapore passed a digital infrastructure law. It needs large data centres and cloud firms to have a licence and to report any service interruptions to the regulator. South Korea acted after a fire at a data centre in October 2022 knocked out messaging app KakaoTalk. Since July 2023, large platforms and data centres there have been required to submit disaster management plans to the government.

In each of these countries, the reporting obligation depends on the outage duration and the number of people affected. Under CERT-In's directions in India, it depends on whether an attack occurred.

What are Indian customers' options?

A customer's recourse is in their agreement with Microsoft. If the service level is not met, the customer may be entitled to a credit, which is a discount on a future bill.

Four paths are open to India. First, CERT-In could add major service disruptions, whatever their cause, to the incidents to be reported to it. Second, the government could also put the largest digital service providers under a direct regulator. Third, the Data Protection Board might clarify before May 2027 whether outages are breaches and who should report them.

Fourth, authorities could outsource such services to Indian vendors. In December 2025, the Union government had told the Lok Sabha that 12.68 lakh official email accounts had shifted to a platform run by Chennai-based company Zoho. This means less reliance on a foreign company. But if a technical fault brought down an Indian supplier's email service, that company would have no duty to report it to CERT-In.

Whichever path India chooses, a clear rule on who must report a major outage, and to whom, would serve users of foreign and Indian services alike.

(N.V. Geetha is former Senior Technical Director, National Informatics Centre. She writes about technology and data-driven stories.)

THE GIST

- Europe's regulators count even a temporary loss of access as a breach to be logged, but only demand a report if people are put at risk
- While Indian law does not require a minimum threshold of harm to report a breach, it is unclear whether a temporary outage constitutes a 'loss of access' and thus a breach
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How a tax plan led the Dutch govt. to the verge of collapse

What led to the rift the coalition partners in the minority govt. in the Netherlands? What is the 'wealth tax'?

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

Story so far:

The Dutch government came close to a collapse last week over its Tax Plan for 2027 as members of the three-party ruling coalition disagreed over an amendment to the plan. Though the plan was passed in the lowest-possible majority in the House of Representatives on November 12 and the government subsequently defeated a no-confidence motion, the developments have brought a rift in the coalition out in the open and threaten the future of the government led by Rob Jetten just nine-months into its 4-year term.

How is the Dutch government set up?

The Netherlands currently has a minority government by a coalition of three parties holding 66 seats in the 150-member Tweede Kamer, the lower house. The centrist D66 led by Prime Minister Jetten, the youngest premier in the country's history, is the single largest party with 26 seats and is joined by People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) and Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), both centre-right parties, with 22 and 18 seats, respectively. The government came to power in February, 117 days after a snap election in October last year failed to provide a clear majority. Negotiations by parties across the spectrum failed and paved the way for the centrist parties to make do with a minority administration.

What led to the current crisis?

The Jetten administration has been trying for weeks to gather support for Tax Plan 2027, failure of which would have led to an effective suspension of the treasury. Following long discussions to settle on a plan that could get the crucial majority to keep the country running, the Cabinet decided to go for a 'split vote', giving members of the coalition the choice to ignore consensus within the bloc.

However, a 'wealth tax' amendment pushed by left-wing parties Pro and Volt sent ripples across the coalition as the D66 and CDA expressed willingness to accept it while the VVD strongly opposed it. A day before the vote, the D66 and CDA reached an agreement with the left parties to pass the amendment in return for support for the whole Tax Plan, enraging the VVD which threatened to quit the coalition. Deputy Prime Minister and VVD leader DIlan Yesilgoz-Zegerius termed the agreement an "ambush" and called for a "fundamental reset" of the coalition. "We will have to see if this collaboration can continue" if the partners voted for the amendment, she said a day before the vote.

What does the amendment propose?

The amendment proposed shifting the basis for a huge share of tax revenue from income to wealth. The initial proposal sought to raise 1.5 billion euros from taxing the wealthy to give relief to low-income workers, but the figure was brought down to around 1 billion euros after negotiations. People who earn money from wealth should pay as much tax as those who earn the same by working, left-wing Pro leader Jesse Klaver said of the amendment. The VVD saw this as an attempt to 'punish entrepreneurs' and said it was "unthinkable", warning the parliament in a letter from the Cabinet that the financing had a gap of more than 400 million euros. However Prime Minister Jetten said he saw no coalition blockade on higher wealth taxes.

How did the parliament vote?

Ending days of uncertainty, the wealth tax amendment was passed with 79 votes in favour while the whole Tax Plan was approved with 76 votes against 74, the narrowest possible majority. Following the vote, the Freedom Party of extremist leader Geert Wilders moved a no-confidence motion, but it failed with 34 votes against 116 in support of the government.

What comes next?

The tax plan will now go to the 75-member senate, which is as fragmented as the Tweede Kamer, for approval. Analysts say the Opposition will vote in favour of keeping the parliament alive to avoid having to go through another election as they would be wary of having a more fragmented house.

Pro leader Klaver said the adoption of the plan has "prevented a chaos". "Tonight, the centre-left majority has taken responsibility for governing the country... A 'millionaire's tax' is being introduced, and with it, we are making the Netherlands a little bit fairer," he said after the vote.

While the Tax Plan seems sorted, the future of the coalition is still in doubt. The VVD will be tasked with implementing the plan as it holds the finance portfolio, a prospect which could further the resentment it has towards its coalition partners. Mr. Jetten called a meeting of leaders of the coalition partners following the vote, saying that the bloc "must make a very serious fresh start, in order to function much better together."

The three allies stayed behind closed doors under radio silence over the last week, engaging in talks to smooth over the differences. If they fail to reach a consensus, Mr. Jetten could try ruling with an even smaller minority government without the VVD or try shoring up support from the leftist and other Opposition parties who supported the Tax Plan. If not, the politically splintered country will see its fifth general election in a decade.

CACHE



Wing Commander Shubanshu Shukla, Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Angad Prathap, who are under training for the Gaganyaan mission. FILE PHOTO

How did ISRO pick astronaut candidates and train them for the Gaganyaan mission?

As India embarks on its first manned space mission, developing indigenous capabilities in crew selection and training not only lays the foundation for sustained space activities but also gives an impetus to bioastronautics — the study of behavioural, and medical aspects of humans living in space

Unnikrishnan Nair S.

The Karman line is an imaginary line 100 km above sea level. It is widely regarded as the boundary at which space begins, and anyone who crosses this is considered an astronaut.

Historically, space agencies have sent military test pilots as the first astronauts. They are highly skilled persons who fly newly developed, modified, or experimental aircrafts to evaluate performance.

They routinely interact with aerospace engineers and help in identifying any design flaws in the aircraft. Test pilots are known for their ability to stay calm, make quick decisions, and have undergone very rigorous training to survive exigencies like high acceleration conditions or sudden cabin depressurisation.

How does one become a spacefarer?

Once a space agency has proven a launch system and matured it through test flights, it selects scientists, doctors, and engineers as mission specialists. With proper training and safety preparation, civilians and private citizens can also fly to space.

There are no universal criteria to become a spacefarer. However, there are certain requirements as to their age, height, weight, medical condition, and fitness, although they may also vary from one agency to the next.

There is no weight limit, but some agencies require a healthy body mass index and compatible body measurements.

In fact, good health, psychological stability, relevant education, technical skills, and professional experience are essential.

The upper and lower age limits also differ. The U.S. space agency NASA has not specified a formal age restriction but other agencies may do so.

The youngest person so far to go to space is the Dutch pilot Oliver Daemen, who was 18 years old at the time of his feat in 2021. The oldest spacefarer was U.S. astronaut Ed Dwight, at 90 years in 2024. Both flights were suborbital missions operated by U.S. aerospace company Blue Origin.

What are the ISRO criteria?

The selection process for Gaganyaan, executed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF), was multi-tiered and highly rigorous.

The Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), Bengaluru, handled the evaluation given its researchers have experience dealing with the human body when it is subjected to extreme physiological and psychological stress.

The IAF also selected Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma for the Soyuz T-11 mission in April 1984.

The sequence of activities undertaken to select the final four astronauts for the mission started with short-listing candidates from a pool of test pilots after detailed evaluation of their dossiers, followed by exhaustive psychological, physical, and clinical evaluations by medical experts from IAM.

The selected four astronaut-designates for Gaganyaan are Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, and Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubanshu Shukla.

They have undergone general training at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Russia, an internationally renowned facility.

How do astronauts train?

The programme covered centrifuge training, weightlessness simulations in parabolic aircraft flight, and harsh winter and sea survival drills to help in case of any unforeseen anomalous landings. Mr. Shukla and Mr. Balakrishnan Nair also underwent some training at the Johnson Spaceflight Centre under NASA in the U.S., ahead of the Axiom-4 mission. All four are undergoing further training specific to Gaganyaan at the Astronaut Training Centre in Bengaluru.

Training in simulators is an important part of crew workout.

A simulator is an advanced hardware-software system that replicates spacecraft environments where astronaut-candidates can master operations and handle emergencies during ground-based training.

All conceivable nominal and off-nominal conditions have to be simulated and the crew has to be trained to handle such situations.

Apart from full-scale fixed and motion-base simulators, there are part-task subsystem trainers – i.e. focused simulators designed to train on operating specific spacecraft systems or procedures rather than the entire vehicle – and immersive virtual/augmented reality systems to simulate crew operations in flight.

Why are astronauts quarantined?

The quarantine is part of a structured isolation protocol implemented roughly two weeks before launch to protect astronauts from catching any infectious illnesses. The small, sealed crew module, where the astronauts will reside for the course of the mission, can cause any germs to spread rapidly, severely compromising the crew's health and the mission's safety. It is also mandatory to maintain strict health protocols and isolation to prevent in-flight medical emergencies and to assure a hassle-free mission. The unprecedented medical evacuation from the International Space Station in January 2026 was triggered by an unexpected health issue with one of the U.S. astronauts – the first such instance in the 26-year history of the International Space Station.

As India embarks on its first human spaceflight mission, developing indigenous capabilities in crew selection and training not only lays the foundation for sustained space activities but also gives an impetus to the nascent discipline of bioastronautics – the study of biological, behavioural, and medical aspects of humans living and working in space – in the country.

(Unnikrishnan Nair S. is Former Director, VSSC and IIST; Founding Director, HSFC; and an expert in launch vehicle systems, orbital re-entry and human spaceflight technologies. Currently Dr Sarabhai Professor at VSSC.)

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

International Tolerance Day was observed on November 16. Here is a quiz on what we know about day marking mutual understanding and respect

N. Kesavan

QUESTION 1
When was the International Tolerance Day proclaimed by the UNGA?

QUESTION 2
What is the purpose of observing International Tolerance Day?

QUESTION 3
What is the purpose of UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize and when it was created?

QUESTION 5
Who was awarded the UNESCO-Mandanjeet Singh Prize in 2026?

QUESTION 6
Which organisation got the first UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize?



Visual question: The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and non-violence which is awarded every two years. It was funded by Madanjeet Singh and on whose rememberance was the prize given? THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. When was the Arecibo message transmitted, and what event did the transmission commemorate?
A: November 16, 1974; it commemorated a major upgrade to the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico
2. The globular star cluster and the constellation in which it is located to which the Arecibo message was directed towards:
A. Messier 13 (M13), located in the constellation Hercules
3. How many light-years away from the earth is M13?
A: About 25,000 light-years
Who was primarily responsible for designing the Arecibo message, and which prominent astronomer contributed to the project?
A: **Frank Drake designed the message, with contributions from Carl Sagan**
5. How many bits did the Arecibo message contain, and how were they arranged?
A: 1,679 bits, arranged in a rectangular grid of 73 rows and 23 columns
What two pieces of information about humanity does the message convey?
The average height of an adult male in the U.S. and the global human population in 1974
Early Birds
K.N. Viswanathan | Tathagata Das | M. Suresh Kumar | Tamal Biswas | Tito Shiladitya



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference between "hospice" and "hospital"? (Lalitha V. Ramani, Salem)

A "hospital" is a place where people go to get some medical treatment when they are sick or injured. Most major cities have several hospitals. When you go to a hospital, you generally hope to come back alive. When you go to a 'hospice', on the other hand, you go with no such hope. One generally goes to a hospice knowing he/she is going to die.

A hospice is a special hospital where people who are terminally ill get admitted. These people have no hope of being cured. So, unlike a hospital, a hospice not only takes care of the medical needs of a patient, but also looks after his emotional needs. The focus here is on keeping people as comfortable as possible – both physically and emotionally. By the way, the final "pice" in 'hospice' rhymes with the words "miss" and "kiss". The final 'e' is silent and the main stress is on the first syllable.

Here is an examples: Hemant spent the last few months of his life in a hospice.

What is the meaning and origin of the idiom "dark horse"? (K. Duraiswami, Tlruvallur)

A "dark horse" is someone whose abilities, plans, or feelings are a mystery to others. He is an individual whom people know little or nothing about.

"I did not know that Vinita could paint. She is such a dark horse"

"Meera could be a dark horse for a medal in the 400 metres event".

This is an expression which is frequently used in political contexts. When you say that a candidate was a dark horse, what you mean is that although the individual was relatively unknown, he succeeded in winning the election. It is believed that Benjamin Disraeli was the first person to use this expression. In the context of sports, a dark horse is usually someone who wins a tournament or an event although no one expected him to.

As you have probably guessed by now, this is an expression that comes from the world of horse racing. When a totally unexpected horse wins the race, it is often called a "dark horse". A "dark horse" does not have to be dark in colour. The word "dark" here means "secret" – the trainer of the horse keeps the potential of the horse a secret. Everyone is kept in the dark about the capability of the horse.

What is the difference in meaning between "That may be the reason she did not turn up" and "That might be reason she did not turn up"? (Venkatesh D. Pastay, Hubli)

For most people the two sentences have more or less the same meaning. Careful users of the language, however, maintain a subtle distinction between the two. In the two examples, "may" and "might" indicate "possibility". Some argue that "might," indicates a lesser degree of possibility than "may". By the way, the word "might" is not the past form of "may".

It may rain tomorrow – 50 % chance of rain.

It might rain tomorrow – 30% chance of rain.

Published in The Hindu on July 23, 2002

Word of the day

Susurrus:
a soft, low noise

Synonyms: rustle,whisper

Usage: *In the dark green forests, the only sound is the soft susurrus of the wind sweeping through the trees.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/susurruspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌsuːˈsʌr.əs/

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

From Page One

287 'other' religions briefly listed on portal

The self-enumeration portal (se.census.gov.in) went live on Monday for the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Punjab, where elections are scheduled to be held in 2027. For the rest of the country, the portal will open in January 2027.

A retired Census official told *The Hindu* that the options in the now-removed drop-down box were "strange", particularly because there is no previous data to compare them with. In 2001 and 2011, the tables on classified sects within major religions and respondents' entries in the 'other religions and persuasions' category were tabulated later, after the enumeration was completed.

Before the drop-down box under the other religions category was removed, a government official in Uttar Pradesh, who provided training to Census enumerators, said, "The instructions are to record religion from the six mentioned categories. If a respondent chooses the 'Other' category, they can pick from the specified drop-down box with more than 280 names, and if the preferred religion's name is not there, they can enter the name and it will be recorded as is."

There has been a sustained movement by tribal communities calling for a separate religion column for Adivasi faiths, which they asserted was different from Hinduism.

Beijing hails Trump, Xi, Putin meeting

Beijing officially eschews references to a "G2" with the U.S. or a "G3" with the two countries and Russia, maintaining that it supports multipolarity. At the same time, the symbolism of China hosting the meeting has been seized upon to highlight Beijing's global standing.

"The fact that China, Russia and the U.S. will sit down for face-to-face talks once again demonstrates that the head-of-state diplomacy plays an irreplaceable role in providing strategic guidance," an editorial in the *Global Times* said. "The effort to foster a new type of major-country relationship marks a new phase in China's major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, featured by proactive leadership and systematic construction. The meeting to be held in Shenzhen is a manifestation of the international community's high recognition of China's image as a stable and responsible major country."

Few experts in China expect substantial outcomes amid what they acknowledge is growing strategic rivalry between China and the U.S. on the one hand, and an enduring rift between Russia and the West on the other, especially with the continuing war in Ukraine. Russia was "most enthusiastic" among the three for the summit, Su Liuqiang, a scholar at the Centre for American Studies at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, said in an interview with state media last week, adding that an informal exchange was likelier than a more structured, formal trilateral summit.

"On the one hand, there is substantial political resistance in the U.S.," he said. "Anti-Russia sentiment remains strong in both the U.S. and among its European allies, with opposition to negotiating with Moscow while bypassing Ukraine and Europe. On the other hand, the three countries have differing priorities; Russia's core concern is negotiations on a ceasefire in Ukraine, the U.S. is interested in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and non-proliferation, China supports peace talks but must also balance its relations with the U.S., Russia, Europe and Ukraine," he added.

While China preferred "multilateralism" over ideas such as the G2 or a U.S.-China-Russia triumvirate, Mr. Su said a meeting would still be significant in suggesting that while structural competition between big powers would still continue to define global geopolitics, there was increasing interest in "managing that competition and preventing it from escalating or spinning out of control."

No proof to show SIR was 'unanimous': Rahul

The pointed questions inquire about the number and details of each SIR file, as well as the specific occasions between February 19, 2025, and October 26, 2026, on which the two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, objected in writing or expressed dissent or reservation regarding any matter related to the SIR, ECINET, Form 6, or the filing of appeals.

The case is scheduled for hearing on November 17 before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

The ECI's October 26 affidavit, in response to a petition filed by INDIA bloc leaders led by Mr. Gandhi, denied any differences of opinion between the CEC and the Election Commissioners over the SIR process. Mr. Gandhi said the court must not accept such "bare assertions" from the ECI. He questioned why the affidavit was filed by the ECI when Mr. Kumar, Mr. Sandhu and Mr. Joshi were separately made respondents.

The Opposition leader, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Prasanna S., said the EC chose not to explain when and where exactly the decision to conduct a nationwide SIR was made. "The present proceedings cannot be disposed of on the basis of general denials and showcasing of woefully belated course-correction," Mr. Gandhi requested the court.

SC warns of contempt over Aadhaar accessibility issues

SC seeks response from Centre over claims that blind and low-vision persons remain unable to independently complete Aadhaar face authentication despite directions by top court in 2025

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court warned of initiating contempt action if the Union government and authorities did not give a detailed response to an application filed by advocate Amar Jain pointing out that many visually challenged and low-vision persons are still unable to independently complete their Aadhaar face authentication.



Persons with vision disabilities are unable to complete Aadhaar face authentication as it requires the eyes to focus. FILE PHOTO

A Bench headed by Justice J.B. Pardiwala issued notice on Mr. Jain's application pointing out that the inability to complete Aadhaar face authentication was affecting e-KYC, which only relies on face authentication.

"The new Aadhaar App with face authentication interface which persons with blindness are unable to complete as it requires eyes to be attentive and looking into the frame," the application said.

Mr. Jain said he had personally suffered the obstacles pointed out by him in his application before the court.

"There is no grievance mechanism for accessibility complaints against apps, websites and software... Accessibility audits, nodal officers, human review of rejected KYC applications and compliance monitoring are not visible across regulated entities," the application noted.

Latest rejection

He has annexed with his application what he said was the "latest rejection by a private sector bank of my e-KYC for a credit card in October 2026".

Mr. Jain, represented by advocate-on-record Ila Sheel, said the continued lack of easy access was in violation of a Supreme Court judgment of 2025 in *Pragya Prasun versus Union of India* that had given comprehensive directions to ease digital access for the disabled.

"Amidst this wave of digital progress, there remains a crucial and often overlooked aspect that demands urgent attention – ensuring that digital infrastructure and services are accessible to all, including persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups," the court had observed in the 2025 judgment.

Mr. Jain was one of the parties in the Pragya Prasun case. He urged the apex court to intervene, once again, to direct the Union government, the Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Department of Telecommunications, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India to fully implement the 2025 judgment.

Monitoring compliance

The application has sought a clarification from the Ministry on how it intended to handle accessibility complaints about unregulated digital platforms and provide a mechanism to monitor compliance by regulated entities.

The court has also sought a response from the authorities on a separate application filed by the advocate-petitioner challenging the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas mandate, announced through a September press release, making biometric Aadhaar authentication compulsory for subsidised domestic LPG refills from October 1, 2026.

The court scheduled the next hearing in four weeks.

Dancing Girl, Nizam's jewels to move to Yuge Yugeen Bharat museum

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI



The Dancing Girl from Mohenjodaro is a 4,500-yr.-old artefact. FILE PHOTO

The Dancing Girl from Mohenjodaro, a 4500-year-old artefact, the Nizam's jewels, the Taxila Jewellery collection, and the Gandhara collection are to be displayed in the first gallery at the Yuge Yugeen Bharat museum in the national capital.

The museum, which is envisaged as a landmark civilizational exhibit of the continuity, diversity and richness of India's civilizational heritage, has been established at an estimated cost of ₹3,230 crore at the North and South Block buildings, following the relocation of government offices. The Centre has said that the Yuge Yugeen Bharat museum would have the largest display area of any museum in the world.

Culture Secretary Vivek Agrawal said on Monday that the first exhibition space to be set up at the upcoming museum would be the "adornments gallery" and the Dancing Girl, currently displayed at the National Museum, would be moved there.

Some of the other prized antiquities that would be moved are the Nizam's jewels, which are in the RBI vault, the Taxila jewellery collection, Gandhara collection, and miniature paintings.

Mr. Agrawal said, to start with, the new galleries of the Yuge Yugeen Bharat museum would be curated followed by a recuration of all the source museums. "The Yug Yugeen Bharat is a civilizational museum while the National Museum is a historical one," he said.

The Culture Ministry has also launched an AI-semantic powered search and knowledge discovery platform with conversational assistant on the primary digital platform, which would help a unified search in the 65 digital platforms the ministry manages. The search results will be enriched with AI generated summaries, source references, multilingual translation capabilities, and relevant multimedia content.

Indo-ASEAN ties at the heart of India's Act East Policy: PM

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India's relationship with the ASEAN region is at the "heart of India's Act East Policy", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, before leaving for Manila, where he is set to participate in the 49th ASEAN Summit.



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. welcomes Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of 49th ASEAN Summit in Manila. AFP

He will also participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India summit and the 21st East Asia Summit on Tuesday.

"Our relationship with ASEAN countries is at the heart of India's Act East Policy and occupies a central place in our MAHASAGAR vision," he said.

The Hindu had reported earlier that the Quad leaders summit, featuring Mr. Modi, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and U.S. President Donald Trump, is also expected to be held on Tuesday evening.

India has been maintaining that the South China Sea should be open for global maritime traffic.

Sources here have said that the expected Quad meeting, which is yet to be announced officially, will send a constructive message on this matter as the Philippines is on the frontlines of territorial issues in the South China Sea.

CBI takes over probe into tribal activist's death in Jharkhand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the probe into the death of tribal activist Nisha Kumari Bhagat at her residence in Jharkhand's Ranchi on November 6, following a reference from the State government, the agency said on Monday.

On November 10, the Jharkhand government referred the case to the CBI , which issued a notification in this regard on November 14. Accordingly, the agency re-registered the case previously lodged with Pithoria police station in Ranchi, against Ajay Tirky, Jyotsana Kerketta, and unknown persons, it said.

Amid protests in different parts of the State demanding a CBI probe into the case, the mortal remains of the tribal activist, who allegedly died by suicide, were consigned to flames at her ancestral village in Gumla district on November 7. On Facebook live, she had earlier accused the State government and land brokers of harassing her.

(For support with suicidal thoughts, call Jharkhand Health Helpline 104, Tele-MANAS 14416 or Sneha helpline 044-24640050)



Ashwini Vaishnaw

I&B Minister calls for talks on media governance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday called for deliberations on how the changing media landscape should be governed to empower citizens and address emerging challenges.

Speaking at the National Press Day event organised by the Press Council of India (PCI), Mr. Vaishnaw emphasised the need for accountability from digital platforms. He raised questions about whether community guidelines were sufficient, in the face of increasing misinformation, deepfakes, misleading advertisements, digital arrests, and harmful content affecting children, an I&B Ministry statement said.

The Minister underlined the vital role of the media in strengthening democracy and urged media professionals to adapt to the rapidly evolving media landscape and technological advancements.

He encouraged young journalists to embrace change and continuously upgrade their skills.

The 2026 edition of the PCI's Norms of Journalistic Conduct was released at the event, incorporating updated guidelines on reporting during natural disasters and conflict situations; coverage of protests and demonstrations; reporting on sex workers and persons with disabilities; protection of children's privacy; and advertisements related to online money games.

Marginal decrease in unemployment rate in October: survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Unemployment Rate (UR) in the country showed a marginal decrease in October, compared to last month for persons aged 15 years and above, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation here on Monday.

The UR was 4.9% in October, 0.1 percentage points less than 5% reported in September. Conducted by the National Statistics Office, the PLFS also noted that compared to October 2025, the overall UR declined by 0.3 percentage points.

The rural UR declined from 4.4% to 4.2% and urban UR declined from 7.0% to 6.7%. UR among rural males was 4.3% during October, and for rural females, it was found to be 3.8%. "In urban areas UR among female of age 15 years and above during October 2026 was 8.7% compared to 6.0% observed for male of the same age group," the PLFS noted.

On a year-on-year basis, the overall male UR declined from 5.1% in October 2025 to 4.9% in October 2026 and the Ministry said in a release that the improvement was more pronounced in rural areas, where male UR fell from 4.6% to 4.3%. Overall female UR decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 5.0% from 5.4% in the previous year.

Overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) improved to 55.7% in October 2026, compared to 55.5% in September 2026. In rural areas, LFPR increased from 58.0% to 58.4% , while the urban LFPR stood at 50.5% in October 2026 against 50.7% in September 2026.

Six slain Naga civilians laid to rest months after death

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The bodies of six Liangmai Naga civilians were laid to rest in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Monday , 187 days after they were abducted and subsequently killed almost a month later.

The family of the deceased and Naga organisations had refused to claim the bodies – kept at the mortuary of the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal since June 10 – until their demands were met.

One of the main demands of the Naga civil bodies was the abrogation of the 2008 Suspension of Operations agreements with 25 Kuki-Zomi armed groups and the completion of a safer alternative road for the people of Konsakhul village. The families received the bodies on Monday and transported them to their home village of Konsakhul in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district for the final rites. People from various communities gathered for the funeral.



The funeral service for six Liangmai Naga men abducted on May 13 was held in Kangpokpi district on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Darkest day'

Speaking at the funeral, United Naga Council (UNC) president N.G. Lorho said May 13, 2026, would remain the darkest day in Manipur's history.

"On that day, six Naga men were killed, mutilated, and dismembered at Leilon Vaiphei village by KNF-P (Kuki National Front-Presidential), Kuki militants, and Leilon villagers. Their bodies were treated in a manner that brings shame to the State of Manipur and to India," he said.

The UNC, Manipur's apex Naga organisation, urged the Centre to immediately end the "policy of appeasement and protection of militant groups" carrying out the killings.

The May 13 ambush of three Thadou church leaders in Kangpokpi triggered a wave of abductions, with 48 people – 28 Kukis and 20 Nagas – taken hostage. Security forces later brokered exchanges, but six abducted Nagas were found dead on June 10.

Wanted to set the record straight: Sonia

Congress leader says title of her memoir captures her journey towards finding a sense of belonging and acceptance in India; on Gen Z protests, she says it is encouraging that youth were coming together to demand their rights; Rahul remembers visit to Cambridge eatery where his parents met

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI





Engaging tales: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi speaks during the official launch of her memoir in New Delhi on Monday; and, right, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, K.C. Venugopal, and other dignitaries during the event. PTI

Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Monday said the title of her memoir captured her journey towards finding a sense of belonging and acceptance in India, and her son, Rahul Gandhi, recalled that after the assassination of his father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the people of the country had embraced his mother, telling her: "You belong to us."

They were speaking at the official launch of her book, *Belonging: A Journey of Love,* in New Delhi in the presence of top Opposition leaders, including Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. However, no representatives from the Left parties attended the event.

BJP leader and former Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh (retd), known to be close to the Gandhi family, was seated in the front row. Also in attendance were former Vice-President Hamid Ansari; Gursharan Kaur, the widow of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh; former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar; former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram; former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon, and others.

Though the event was meant to avoid political references, there was unmistakable political messaging of Opposition unity at the event.

Ms. Gandhi said she wrote the memoir partly because there had been a lot written about her family that was untrue, and she wanted to set the record straight. "So much has been said about my family – mother-in-law, husband, son, daughter – most of it is unreal stories woven around you. Hurtful things are said. This is a way of bringing out my feelings and about my family," she said.

Speaking about the recent student-led Gen Z protests, Ms. Gandhi said it was most encouraging that young people were coming together to demand their rights. "Rather than advising them, we should take their advice," she said.

'Trying to belong'

Explaining the title of her book, Ms. Gandhi said it reflected how hard she had tried to belong after coming to India and marrying into the Gandhi family.

"It is also the case with so many women in India; when they marry, they may be from the same background, but it is difficult for women to adjust to their new household," she said in a question-and-answer session with publisher HarperCollins' Poulomi Chatterjee.

She recalled that her upbringing in Italy had taught her to respect elders, helping her adjust to the formal surroundings of the Gandhi household. Initially terrified of her mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, she took time before she could address her as "mummy".

She said Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and her friend Manjulika Dubey, had persuaded her to write the book, though she had been reluctant to share her innermost feelings. "At the beginning, it was difficult, but once I started, the dam burst," she said. The most difficult portions dealt with the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, she noted.

Recalling her relationship with Rajiv Gandhi, she described their romance as magical. She had initially opposed his entry into politics, fearing it would take away their time together. After his death, she said, she became like a child, while her children took on the role of parents.

Rahul's visit to Varsity

In his speech, Mr. Rahul Gandhi spoke of his parents' bond and recalled how he and his then-girlfriend visited the Varsity restaurant in Cambridge, where his parents had met, years later. Narrating an episode from his own visit with his girlfriend, he said the staff there remembered his parents. When he asked the waiter what he should order, he was recommended chicken chasseur.

"If you want to fall in love, go to Varsity restaurant. But never eat the chicken chasseur – the food is horror," he said, drawing laughter.

Mr. Gandhi said he had grown up watching his parents share an unusually close relationship, with his mother often sitting on his father's lap during meals. That world was shattered by the assassinations of his grandmother and father.

He said though his mother changed with the "flame of her life" going out, another door had opened through the people of India.

"I am not talking about the 50-70 haters. I am talking about the millions of people in the villages that my mama mentioned. They suddenly turned around and told her that you belong to us," he said.

Mr. Gandhi said his mother had survived cancer four times, adding that she had never shown fear or backed down. "Not once in my life have I seen her scared," he said.

The Chief Ministers of Congress ruled Karnataka, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh were also part of the event.

Adityanath, U.P. BJP president decry 'fake' news on candidates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A press release issued by the Uttar Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday, which was signed jointly by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and BJP State president Pankaj Choudhary, came down hard on "rumour mongering" over the finalisation of candidates for the upcoming Assembly election and set off speculation over factionalism within the BJP in the State.

The statement was an unusual intervention by leaders from Uttar Pradesh and shone a light on somewhat patchy efforts by the BJP to project a united front.

The release refers to reports in the media and on social media that the BJP had already shortlisted 209 candidates for the Assembly election and sent the recommendations to the party's national leadership in Delhi.

Terming the reports "fake", the release denied that any such thing had been done. "The BJP is a cadre-based political party, which has a well-organised democratic process for the selection of candidates for the Assembly or any other election, and that process has not begun for U.P. yet," the statement said.

The joint release, sources said, became necessary after party cadres and ticket aspirants flooded leaders with questions over which of the 209 of the 403 seats in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly had already been decided in Lucknow. BJP national general secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh Vinod Tawde was in Lucknow when the release was issued on Sunday.

To calm anxieties

The statement was motivated by two issues. The first was to calm anxieties, and the second, more important, was to dispel any talk that Delhi and Lucknow were working at cross purposes just before a crucial election.

"The idea that as many as 209 seats were being decided in Lucknow was conveying that Delhi would be overlooked in choice of leadership thereafter. This was also directly connected to the fact that the BJP's performance in U.P. in the Lok Sabha election of 2024, when the party came down to 33 seats from 64, was largely attributed to retaining most sitting MPs, contrary to the advice sent from Lucknow," a senior leader of the party said.

BJP targets Rahul Gandhi over Hyderabad summit

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI



Gaurav Bhatia

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday, referring to the 'Bharat Summit' organised by the Congress in Hyderabad on Saturday, accused the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and the Congress of bringing together "foreign anti-India forces" to undermine India's sovereignty and democratic institutions.

"These platforms are used to spread hatred against Prime Minister Narendra Modi *ji*, to create anarchy and foment instability in India," BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged at a press conference, questioning the decision to give a platform to Giacomo Filibeck, an Italian politician currently serving as secretary-general of the Party of European Socialists.

"From this platform, he says, 'vote *chor*, *gaddi chhod* (vote thieves, vacate the seat)'. An anarchic and immature Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, makes similar statements in India. But look at the irony. From an Indian platform, a foreigner challenges the Indian mandate and mocks it. And what is even more unfortunate? Rahul Gandhi does not stop Giacomo Filibeck," Mr. Bhatia said, alleging that the Congress leader "clapped" and "laughed" in response.

"India's interests took a back seat" in Congress-ruled Telangana, Mr. Bhatia said, adding that investment summits organised in BJP-ruled States attracted foreign investors and ideologues to discuss investment opportunities.

"The Congress party loses 99 elections, but does not introspect. Rahul Gandhi should reduce his foreign visits a little. If he visits India's villages and cities and interacts with Indians instead, he will understand why 140 crore Indians bless the BJP," Mr. Bhatia said.

Congress, INDIA bloc will provide strong alternative in U.P.: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Rahul Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other senior leaders attended the meeting on Monday. X/@KHARGE

Days after Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav revealed that the Congress had sought 181 seats for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said his party, along with its INDIA bloc partners, would provide a strong alternative to the people of the State.

Mr. Kharge made the remarks after presiding over a meeting of senior Congress leaders to discuss preparations for the Assembly election as well as the issue of an alliance.

Former party president Rahul Gandhi, general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, All India Congress Committee in-charge of Uttar Pradesh Rajendra Pal Gautam, Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Aradhana Misra-Mona, and other senior leaders attended the meeting at Mr. Kharge's official residence.

In a post on X after the meeting, Mr. Kharge said the discussions had focused on the political situation in the State, and the Assembly election.

"The people of the State are looking for change and want to see social justice, equal opportunities and the rights of marginalised communities strengthened. I am fully confident that the Congress, together with the INDIA alliance, will present a strong alternative to the people of Uttar Pradesh," Mr. Kharge said.

Mr. Venugopal, speaking to reporters after the meeting, said that "come what may, U.P. will have an INDIA bloc government".

"Along with our INDIA bloc partners, we will ensure the BJP's defeat in U.P. – just as we did in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The people of U.P. know that the BJP's double engine has destroyed the State's social and economic fabric and must be thrown out at the earliest," Mr. Venugopal added in a post on X.

The meeting comes two days after Mr. Yadav indicated that the Congress sought to contest 181 of the 403 Assembly seats in the State.

Congress sets up screening panels for five States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday constituted screening committees for the Assembly elections in five states – Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa, and Manipur – with party treasurer Ajay Maken heading the panel in Uttar Pradesh, and Sirivella Prasad heading the panel in Punjab. Party general secretary Deepa Dasmunsi will head the panel in Uttarakhand, while Karnataka Minister K.J. George and B.M. Sandeep have been appointed chairpersons of the panels in Goa and Manipur, respectively.

The appointments were announced by Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal.

Lawyer led out after making derogatory remarks against CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A lawyer was led out of the Chief Justice of India's courtroom after making disparaging remarks directed at Chief Justice Surya Kant on Monday.

The incident happened soon after the Bench, including Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, assembled at 2 p.m.

Chief Justice Kant had not presided over his Bench in the morning, and had joined only post-lunch. He had been on an official tour in Brazil during the latter part of the Deepavali holidays.

The lawyer in question began by apologising to Justices Bagchi and Mohana, and said he had put a petition for the "favourable consideration of Justice Surya Kant". "This item was given to Justice Surya Kant 15 days back in his office on November 2, so I am forced to come before this court..." he said.

Justice Mohana interjected to caution the lawyer that he could not mention issues like this before the Bench. But he insisted. "I can. It is an emergency. I had submitted my apology first," he said.

The Chief Justice said the court would look into the case. "Please wait," the CJI addressed him.

At this, the lawyer replied that he would not wait. He made a derogatory comment about the "integrity" of the CJI. The audio-video feed was paused immediately after these remarks. Lawyers present in the courtroom said the lawyer in question was involved in a contempt case. He was finally led out.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST : MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id :- cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 18 /26-27 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1.	Name of Work	Renovation and Modernisation of left Main Distributary from RD 12500 M to RD 15645 M of Bankbal Irrigation Project.
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 571.43 Lakh
3.	EMD	Rs. 5,71,500/-
4.	Period of Completion	09 (Nine) Calendar Months
5.	Class of Contractor	"A" Class
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	18.11.2026 at 10.00 AM
7.	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	07.12.2026 up to 5.00 PM
8.	Date of Opening of Bid	08.12.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
9.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

32001/1352/2627 OIPR-32001/32429/1/26-27/0014

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

SRM E-Tender Notice

Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd, EHV PC O&M Zone Vashi invites bids through SRM e-Tender in two bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for following works;

RFx No./ Tender No.	Particulars	Estimated Cost
7000042139 T-17/ 2026-27	Augmentation of Transformation capacity through replacement of existing Power Transformers with higher capacity units at various EHV Substations under Vashi Zone (Transformers will be supplied by MSETCL).	Rs 1351.94 Lakhs excluding GST Rs 1595.29 Lakhs including GST

E.M.D. in Rs 13,51,943/-, **Tender Fees:** Rs 25,000/- excluding GST, **Sale period:** 16.11.2026 to 01.12.2026, **Last Date of Submission:** 01.12.2026 up to 15:30 Hrs, **Date of opening (Tech. bid):** 01.12.2026 at 15:35 Hrs (if possible). **Contact person:** Executive Engineer, EHV PC O&M Zone, Vashi. Phone No. (022) 27666010 (P) / 27665994. For further details please visit to **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

Chief Engineer, EHV PC (O&M), Zone, MSETCL, Vashi

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Act of Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR NON-TEACHING POSTS

No. AUD/55-1 (154)/Rect./2026/1140 Dated: 12.11.2026

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established through an Act by the Legislature of the National Capital Territory of Delhi invites online applications from eligible candidates for the following Non-Teaching post on Direct Recruitment basis:

Sr. No.	Name of Post	7th CPC Pay Level	No. of Posts & Category	Age Limit	Type of Recruitment
1.	Deputy Registrar	Level-12	01 (SC-1)	Not exceeding 50 years	Direct
2.	Assistant Registrar#	Level-10	01 (OBC-1)	Not exceeding 35 years	Direct
3.	Statistical Officer	Level-7	01 (UR-1)	Not exceeding 35 years	Direct
4.	Steno	Level-4	03 (UR-3)	Not exceeding 32 years	Direct

 # 01 Post of Assistant Registrar, is reserved for person with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) on horizontal reservation basis. The functional requirements and suitable category of Benchmark Disability shall be regulated as per the Gazette of Indian Notification dated 07.01.2021 notified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, along with the other instructions issued from time to time by the Govt. of India (Dopt OM dated 15.01.2018)/GNCT of Delhi.

Note:

1. For Qualifications, Eligibility Criteria, General Instructions, Online Application Form, Payment of Fee & other details, please visit University website **https://aud.delhi.gov.in**
2. The online applications will commence after publication of the detailed advertisement on the University website **https://aud.delhi.gov.in/.**
3. The Last date to apply online is three (03) weeks from the date of publication of this advertisement in "Employment News"/ "Rozgar Samachar".

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0290/26-27 **Registrar**

Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006, Email: careersnts@aud.ac.in

Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

INBRIEF



'India eyes place among top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030'

India is targeting a place among the world's top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and the top five by 2047, with investments of nearly $10 billion projected in five proposed greenfield coastal shipbuilding clusters, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said. Inviting global shipbuilders, shipping lines and financial institutions to invest in the country's shipbuilding sector, Mr. Sonowal said India was poised to emerge as a major global shipbuilding destination. The five proposed greenfield clusters are located at Dugarajapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Kuchhadi in Gujarat, Dighi in Maharashtra, Kendrapada in Odisha and Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.

Tech, reforms help strengthen public accountability: CAG

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India K. Sanjay Murthy on Monday said the institution should make full use of technology while remaining firmly grounded in its constitutional mandate to strengthen public accountability and contribute to the country's development. Addressing the 'Audit Divas' celebrations marking 166 years of the institution, he said the CAG's job went beyond protecting public money; it was also about earning people's trust. Every reform undertaken over the last couple of years, including breaking departmental silos; auditing themes, including 'Ease of Living' and 'Ease of Doing Business'; and focusing on local bodies, was aligned with the nation's development goals, he said.

'India shows us a picture of colour and complexity'

Prince William says every climate solution is a breakthrough making next goal easier 'until what once seemed impossible becomes inevitable'; two Indian firms among 15 Earthshot Prize finalists

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

India reached its target of 50% installed capacity from non-fossil fuels five years early, with solar capacity growing more than 50-fold in just over a decade, Prince William said on Monday.

Addressing a gathering of award finalists, philanthropists, government leaders and investors at the Earthshot Prize Impact Assembly in Mumbai, he said the transformation was about more than energy.

"Too often, the world's emerging economies are presented with false choices: growth or the environment, prosperity or protection. But India shows us a different picture – a picture full of colour, complexity and possibility," he said.

He added that each climate solution was a breakthrough making the next goal easier "until what once seemed impossible becomes inevitable".



Climate agenda: Prince William speaks during the Earthshot Prize Impact Assembly, 2026 in Mumbai on Monday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Earthshot's impact

During his address at the plenary session, Prince William reflected on the Earthshot Prize's growth and impact, and the role of innovation, investment and collaboration in accelerating environmental solutions. He hailed India as a leading source of Earthshot innovation, praising Mahila Housing Trust and Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited – finalists for the 2026 Earthshot Prize.

Prince William and Catherine arrived in Mumbai on Monday for a three-day official visit for the sixth edition of the Earthshot Prize. It is the couple's first joint overseas visit in four years and their second trip to India in a decade.

The Earthshot Prize was founded by Prince William in 2020. It recognises 15 global finalists annually and selects five winners across five categories: Clean our Air, Fix our Climate, Revive our Oceans, Build a Waste-Free World, and Protect and Restore Nature.

Rangbirangi duniya

This year, two Indian initiatives are among the 15 finalists. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Using the Hindi phrase *'rangbirangi duniya"* (colourful world), Prince William told the audience: "Perhaps that is how we should see the future. Not in black and white, not presented as false choices between people and planets."

India has more Earthshot prize winners and finalists than any other country, he said.

"But this is not India's responsibility alone. Our finalists span continents and industries from cleaner transport to agricultural insurance, from renewable energy to tackling dangerous chemicals. They show us that no country, company, or community has all the answers. We must learn from one another," he added.

Batting for change

Earlier on Monday, the royal couple played gully cricket with local children and former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar in South Mumbai's Ballard Estate, before travelling on the Mumbai Metro to the Bandra Kurla Complex.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister Dame Jacinda Ardern, a trustee of the Earthshot Prize, also addressed the gathering.

"With nearly half of humanity now living in cities, that is where tipping points are triggered. One city proves something works, the next one copies it, and soon, it's simply how things are done," she said.

Divergent positions mark draft text of COP31 in Turkiye

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Halfway into COP31 deliberations under way at Antalaya in Turkiye, developing countries have asked developed countries to "lead" efforts to achieve net zero by 2030 and achieve net negative emissions by 2045.

Net zero refers to carbon emissions being matched by carbon prevented from being emitted (through trees and other yet-unproven technological methods).

Several developed countries have set individual dates for achieving net zero by 2050 with major (fossil fuel-dependent) developing countries – India and China, for instance – committing to 2070 and 2060 deadlines, respectively.

Developing country positions are typically carried by a coalition called LMDC (Like-Minded Developing Countries, which includes India), the Arab Group, the African Group, and the LDCs (Least Developed Countries).

Developed country positions come mainly from the EU, the U.K., and Japan. The U.S. has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement.

There is language in the draft cover text that calls upon developing countries to "contribute voluntarily" towards climate finance – the trillions of dollars required for the globe to collectively adapt to a fossil fuel-free era as well as make good the losses that have already resulted from climate change.

The basic structure of the UN framework on climate change has a clear line separating developed countries – acknowledged to be responsible for most of the historically accumulated carbon – and developing countries, who in the course of developing their economies are to be incentivised to avoid such emissions but with assistance – finance and technology – by the developed ones.

Developing countries also called upon developed countries to eliminate measures such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) – a tariff to protect European manufacturers, in the steel sector primarily – who use lower emissions to make a unit of the metal than several developing countries, whose steel is cheaper but dirtier, by the end of 2027. There are also positions that countries "be under no obligation" to achieve a goal for 35% of energy use sourced from electricity by 2035, a proposal moved by the COP31 Presidency.

Number of Indian students in U.S. varsities sees decline

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

There was a decline of as much as 6% in the number of Indian students in the U.S. for their studies in 2025-26 as compared with those in the previous year, with 3,39,435 enrolled in American universities during the year in comparison to 3,63,019 the year before, according to a report by the U.S.-based think-tank Institute of International Education (IIE).

According to The Open Doors 2026 Report on International Educational Exchange, most Indian students were studying at the graduate level, with up to 1,16,609 studying at various universities in 2025-26. This was a 34% decline in comparison to the prior year.

There were also 39,711 Indian students studying at the undergraduate level, which is 1% lower than the previous year.



India continues to send the largest chunk of international students to the U.S.

Despite the decline, India continues to send the largest chunk of international students to the U.S., the report states.

Indian student enrolments had earlier declined in 2020-21 to 1,67,582 from 1,93,124 in the previous year. After 2020-21, the enrolments continuously rose till 2024-25 and peaked at 3,63,019 before coming down in 2025-26.

Visa process a worry

The report states that the decline in 2025-26 was due to multiple contributing factors, with 88% of institutions citing the visa application process.

In addition, 70% of institutions cited travel restrictions, while 60% said students were enrolling in other countries for higher education. As much as 45% said that cost was a key factor reducing Indian students' ability to study in the U.S.

The number of international students from China decreased by 4% to 2,54,458 in 2025-26 compared with 2,65,919 in the previous year.

Chargesheet filed against six in terror funding case

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), a special cell of the J&K Police, filed a charge sheet on Monday against six persons accused of a "conspiracy to raise and route funds to a banned outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF)".

A CIK spokesman said the charge sheet was filed before the court of the Special Judge Designated Under NIA Act (TADA/POTA), Srinagar. "Mukhtar Ahmad Baba, a TRF-linked terrorist operating from Pakistan, used hawala and other covert channels to send funds into J&K," he said, adding that evidence were seized during searches.

The CIK said a case was registered in April.

SC pulls up Centre over relocating heritage library

Court says it would examine govt. plan to permanently relocate library to Kartavya Bhavan-4 in Delhi

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday criticised the Centre's "*ad-hoc* approach" to relocating the 135-year-old Central Secretariat Library and asked it to halt the shifting of books from its premises in Shastri Bhavan until the next hearing on November 20.

The court said it would examine the government's proposal to permanently relocate the library to the under-construction Kartavya Bhavan-4 in central Delhi as part of the Central Vista redevelopment project.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Sanjeev Sachdeva was hearing a *suo motu* petition initiated amid reports that the library had been directed on September 17 to vacate its premises by September 30 as part of the redevelopment project. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) had also asked the library, along with other offices in the complex, to remove all furniture and electronic equipment ahead of demolition work.

Earlier, the Bench had sought an affidavit from the Centre detailing the space proposed to be allotted for the library.

'In a hurry'

"You are just in a hurry to get done with this. What are you planning to do with these books? There seems to be an *ad-hoc* approach... this is some heritage. Basically, a heritage for us dating back to 1702. If you don't want them, give them to some other country that will value them," the Bench remarked, addressing Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre.

On existing site

In an affidavit filed on Monday, the Union government informed the top court that space had been earmarked for both the Central Secretariat Library and the Tulsi Sadan Library in the proposed Kartavya Bhawan-4, which will come up on the existing site of Shastri Bhawan in the national capital.

India's first open foetal spinal surgery performed

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi has performed India's first open foetal repair of a lumbosacral myelomeningocele – the most severe form of spina bifida – at 25 weeks' gestation.

"The six-hour operation repaired the cerebrospinal-fluid-leaking lumbosacral defect in utero," the AIIMS said. A myelomeningocele is an open neural tube defect in which the spinal cord and its coverings protrude through an opening in the spine.

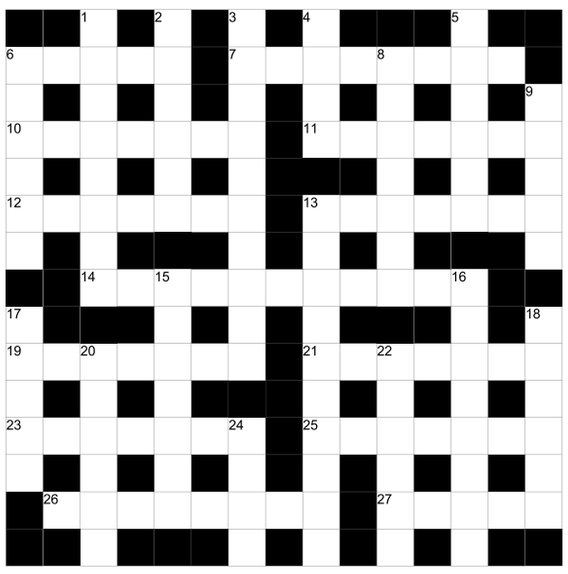
The procedure was provided free of cost to the family under the Union government's Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK).

TH CROSSWORD + 14950

(set by Crossant)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

6. Holy man seen regularly in USA and the UK (5)
7. Tough army men checked by Doctor House at the centre (8)
10. Struggles of a girl working primarily in engineering sector (7)
11. Falls near Indian city say (7)
12. Pace bowling's erratic, lacking swing, it's quite ineffective (7)
13. Choose again from three lecturers (7)
14. Awkward English maiden sporting Arab dress (11)
19. Starts to prepare realistic order forecast (7)
21. Blast essentially lousy pals of husband perhaps (7)
23. Unfriendly director is basically troubling worker (7)
25. Falls in line after million abuses (7)
26. LOI for energy provider (8)
27. Ultimately, smoking grass is a sin (5)

DOWN

1. A meeting interrupted by very old Conservative supporter (8)
2. Drink wine without wife in flat (6)
3. Lady is seen in film, maybe with foreign actor (10)
4. Against American drink (4)
5. Revealed time for power cut (6)
6. Quarrels about collecting money for brands (6)
8. Lecturers and principals switch sides (7)
9. Stops and eats, drinks sips of lemon tea (5)
13. Cleared real messy suburb finally for reconstruction (10)
15. He robs and after returning again robs, ignoring the odds (7)
16. In fact, character is developed (8)
17. 24 spread out right away (5)
18. Miss entering Chesterfield on vacation is blocked (6)
20. Guarantee result after accepting remuneration in the beginning (6)
22. Help girl doing duty for queen — not straightforward (6)
24. Stolen goods kept back in plane perhaps (4)

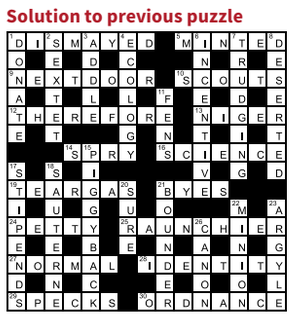
SUDOKU

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

No.SS7063 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Lessons from Satrajit

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna says, "Take refuge in Me and being self-controlled, renounce the fruit of all actions." When one does not react to success or failure, but accepts what comes one's way, then one's spiritual power will improve, said Swami Sivayoganandha.

Staying humble, being gentle (to tormentors and unjust people) and following dharma will fetch rewards. Krishna Himself shows this through the episode of Satrajit, as detailed in Srimad Bhagavatham. Satrajit was a pious devotee of Sun god and pleased with him, the latter gifted him the jewel Syamantaka, which was capable of yielding eight loads of pure gold every day. When Satrajit strutted around Dwaraka with the jewel adorned around his neck, its brilliance blinded everyone. The Lord, aware of the jewel's property, asked Satrajit to donate the Syamantaka to the king, so that it could be used for the welfare of people. Satrajit refused. One day, Satrajit's brother wore it and went for hunting. He and his horse were killed by a lion which in turn was killed by Jambhavan, the bear. Unaware of the true events, Satrajit cast aspersions on Krishna, who had no choice but to trace the sequence of events with a few citizens. Retrieving the jewel from Jambhavan, Krishna handed it over to Satrajit in the king's assembly. Satrajit, ruing his greed and grieving over accusing a great man such as Krishna, sought to walk the path of dharma and offered his daughter Satyabhama in marriage to Krishna along with the jewel. Krishna accepted Satyabhama, renowned not only for her beauty but also for her great qualities, but rejected the Syamantaka. Krishna says it is enough if one follows dharma.

INBRIEF



Musk, tech leaders push for reinstating Jensen at Nvidia

More than 1.75 lakh people, including tech leaders and over 8,760 who say they are current Nvidia employees, have signed an open letter asking the chipmaker's board to reinstate Jensen Huang as CEO while an independent investigation establishes the facts around his exit last week. Tech billionaire Elon Musk is among those backing Mr. Huang. "A petition is underway to reinstate Jensen, and I'm signing it too," Musk said in a post on X on November 14. The letter, hosted on the website standwithjensen.com, listed over 1.75 lakh names as of Monday afternoon India time, of which 8,745 were shown as current Nvidia employees and 1,576 as former employees. These affiliations are self-reported and unverified, the site notes. Addressed to the Nvidia board, the letter asks the board to bring Huang back unless and until it can provide compelling evidence that his removal is in the company's best interests. PTI

MCL fixes IPO price band at ₹129-136; CIL to raise ₹9,000 cr.

Coal India subsidiary Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) on Monday fixed a price band of ₹129-136 per equity share for its approximately ₹9,000-crore initial public offering (IPO), marking another major step in the government's plan to list all Coal India subsidiaries by 2030. The IPO, entirely an offer for sale (OFS), will see Coal India offload around 66.2 crore equity shares, representing a 10% stake in its Sambalpur-headquartered subsidiary. The bidding window will open on November 19 and close on November 23. MCL produced 218.31 million tonnes (MT) of coal in FY26. It accounts for approximately 21% of India's domestic coal production. The company operates 17 mines, including 14 opencast and three underground mines. MCL reported a net profit of ₹4,880.66 crore during the six months ended September 30, while revenue stood at ₹16,093.04 crore. The proposed listing is part of the government's broader strategy to unlock value in Coal India's subsidiaries through public listings and widen investor participation in the coal sector.

Split assets equally, Lakshmi Venu tells her father in notice

With Lakshmi Venu's notice to her father Venu Srinivasan, it is now clear the differences over the division of property have not been resolved amicably and will most likely be fought in the courts

Kunal Shankar
CHENNAI

Lakshmi Venu, the daughter of TVS Holdings chairman Venu Srinivasan, has sought formal partition of assets of the Venu Srinivasan branch of the TVS family by issuing a legal notice to her father.

The Venu Srinivasan branch controls TVS Motor Company, India's third largest two-wheeler manufacturer by market share worth over $20 billion. It is currently headed by Ms. Lakshmi Venu's younger brother Sudarshan Venu, who is the CMD of TVS Motor Company, and was named the Significant Beneficial Owner in April 2025, signalling that he would inherit the larger chunk of the businesses under TVS Holdings.

A senior executive privy to the family dispute, but who did not wish to be named had told *The Hindu* attempts to seek clarity by Ms. Lakshmi Venu on the April 2025 SBO disclosure had been met with "silence". *The Hindu* had reported on the differences that had appeared over the division of assets in October, when it was still unclear whether the matter would reach the courts.



Seeking justice: Ms. Lakshmi said she "is being wrongfully denied her rightful share of the joint family property." BIJOY GHOSH

With the filing of a caveat in the Madras High Court by Mr. Srinivasan, followed by the notice issued by Ms. Lakshmi Venu to her father, it is now clear that differences over the division of property have not been resolved amicably and will most likely be fought in the courts.

In her statement to the media, Ms. Lakshmi Venu has cited the Hindu Succession Act 1956, which was amended in 2005 to include Section 6, enabling women to be equal inheritors of family property.

Ms. Lakshmi Venu has said she "is being wrongfully denied her rightful share of the joint family property". The statement goes on to state, "Patriarchy has no place in law or in a progressive India. The rights of daughters to joint family property, she maintains, cannot be overridden through unilateral decisions or corporate arrangements."

Crucially, this statement has the endorsement of Ms. Lakshmi Venu's mother Mallika Srinivasan.

As per the statement, "Mrs. Mallika Srinivasan, supporting Ms. Venu's legitimate right in the family assets, said, 'It is unfortunate that requests for an amicable settlement have not so far progressed in a meaningful and timely way. As a mother, to me, a son and daughter are equal in every respect. I do believe that Lakshmi has a legitimate share of the family assets, not inequal to that of Sudarshan's. I reiterate that this is a matter to be settled, in the interests of all stakeholders, through transparent dialogue, with equity, clarity and amity."

Ms. Venu has sought the partition of assets allotted to the Venu Srinivasan branch of the family under the 2020 TVS family arrangement, including interests in TVS Holdings, TVS Motor Company, TVS Credit Services and Sundaram-Clayton.

Shares of TVS Motor Company closed at ₹4,453 apiece on the NSE signalling no impact on account of the notice so far.

Jimmy Tata backs Tata Sons listing, accuses Noel of 'back-door takeover'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Amid an intensifying power struggle within the Tata Group, Jimmy Naval Tata, 85, the younger brother of the late Ratan Tata, has thrown his weight behind the listing of Tata Sons, accusing Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata of attempting a "back-door takeover" of the holding company by inducting family members into key trusts.

In a strongly worded communication responding to queries from a Tata stalwart, believed to be Tata Trusts trustee Vijay Singh, Mr. Jimmy Tata alleged that the composition of the trusts was being altered to consolidate family control over Tata Sons.

"In recent times the trusts are being filled with family members of the present Tata Trust Chairman [Noel Tata], thereby securing a degree of control over Tata Sons that was never the settlors' intention," Mr. Jimmy Tata said.

"It is entirely inappropriate for more than one family member to serve on a given trust; doing so effectively confers ownership rights over the trusts' significant shareholding in Tata Sons at no consideration whatsoever. Such an arrangement is untenable and amounts to a back-door takeover of Tata Sons," he added.

Mr. Jimmy Tata, a trustee of several Tata Trusts, said the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) were established by their respective founders, who had no children, to serve the larger public interest.



Jimmy Naval Tata

"The trusts were established for the benefit of the Indian people – as laid out in the objects of the trusts [alleviation of poverty and safeguarding Indian culture] – and the trustees were custodians of public trusts that can never be dissolved, unlike private family trusts," he said, adding that Mr. JRD Tata and his father Mr. Naval Tata were conscious of this responsibility.

Backing Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, Mr. Jimmy Tata credited him with turning around heavily indebted group companies, delivering record earnings and dividend payouts exceeding 6,500%, including to Tata Sons shareholders.

According to Mr. Jimmy Tata, listing would end the group's "pervasive culture of secrecy", strengthen statutory accountability and necessitate changes to the Articles of Association.

He also cited the successful public listing of TCS under Ratan Tata as evidence of its benefits.

He urged the RBI to enforce strict listing timelines and prevent any breakup of the group, while calling on the government and Charity Commissioner to safeguard the trusts' founding objectives.

Wholesale inflation rises to 12.3% in October

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Wholesale inflation surged to 12.3% in October 2026, the second consecutive month of double-digit inflation, official data released on Monday showed.

Fuel prices continue to be the main reason for the price rise, with the crude petroleum and natural gas sectors seeing inflation of more than 70%. The new series of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has data that goes back to only April 2024 and so a historical analysis for a longer duration is not possible. However, the data shows that inflation in October was the highest since at least then.

This data follows the release of Consumer Price Index data last week that showed that even retail inflation had climbed above the Reserve Bank of India's upper comfort mark of 6% in October 2026.

According to Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, it is only a matter of time before wholesale inflation translates into a further increase in the prices consumers pay.

"It has been seen that manufactured goods in particular have witnessed an increase of 9.5%, with high inflation rates in textiles, tobacco products, chemicals, rubber products, metals and electrical equipment," Mr. Sabnavis pointed out.

"This will pressurise companies into increasing their product prices at some point of time."

FPIs stage record comeback as local investors turn sellers

Gowri Lakshmi
MUMBAI

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) staged a dramatic comeback in Indian equities, net investing ₹89,856 crore in November so far, their highest-ever monthly inflow, reversing months of aggressive selling.

As per latest National Securities Depository Ltd. data, FPIs invested the money in the first two weeks of November against net outflows of ₹34,843 crore in October and ₹35,861 crore in September.

A global rally in AI and technology stocks diverted foreign capital to other markets while concerns over weak corporate earnings, expensive valuations and elevated crude prices further hit India's appeal.



DIIs offloaded equities worth ₹52,607 crore so far.

However, moderating momentum in global AI stocks, coupled with improving earnings prospects appears to have revived foreign investor interest. The improved sentiment lifted benchmark indices. Nifty 50 narrowed year-to-date losses to 3.3% from about 13% in October.

DIIs turn sellers

Meanwhile, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) turned net sellers in November, offloading equities worth ₹52,607 crore so far.

"This should be viewed as tactical profit booking rather than a reversal in the broader domestic investment trend," said Pabitro Mukherjee, deputy VP, research, Bajaj Broking.

RBI seeks review of SC's Yes Bank AT-1 bond order

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's central bank on Friday filed a petition in the country's apex court seeking a review of its judgment that set aside the write-off of ₹84.15 billion ($893.8 million) of Yes Bank's additional tier-1 bonds, SC website showed.

An email query sent to the Reserve Bank of India was not answered. Last month, SC upheld a Bombay High Court ruling which had set aside the write-off of Yes Bank'sAT-1 bonds and said the write-off was impermissible.

IBM for $10 bn quantum plan, spends $3 bn in India a year

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

IBM spends about $3 billion a year in India and plans to invest $10 billion globally in quantum computing over next five years, chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna said, underlining the firm's long-term commitment to the country even as he flagged huge disruption to jobs from AI.

AI could displace 10-20% jobs over the next decade, with business process outsourcing industry likely to face some of the biggest job cuts, he said

SC upholds NCLAT order to revisit ₹2,962-cr. Videocon plan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court upheld the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) decision to send Twinstar Technologies' ₹2,962-crore resolution plan for 13 Videocon group firms back to lenders for reconsideration, holding the plan failed to comply with mandatory provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 governing payments to dissenting financial creditors.

The SC dismissed appeals filed by Twinstar challenging the appellate tribunal's 2022 order.

The Bench also affirmed the NCLAT's authority to remit an approved resolution plan to the CoC, while delineating the circumstances in which such power may be exercised.

The Bench held neither the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) nor the NCLAT could rewrite/ modify a resolution plan to rectify statutory deficiencies. Where a plan failed to comply with the law, the right course was to remit it to CoC for reconsideration.

The dispute arose from insolvency proceedings against Videocon Industries Ltd. and 12 other group firms whose admitted claims amounted to about ₹64,839 crore. Twinstar's resolution plan, approved by the CoC in 2020 with 95.09% of the voting share, proposed a financial outlay of ₹2,962.02 crore.

The NCLT, Mumbai, approved the plan on June 8, 2021 despite noting it entailed a haircut of 95.85%.

On January 5, 2022, the NCLAT set aside the approval and referred the matter back to the CoC, holding that the proposed repayment through deferred debentures did not satisfy the statutory requirement of payment to dissenting financial creditors.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
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Notification No.4/APMB/2026-2027, Dt. 14-11-2026
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Sd/- Praveen Adhithya CV, IAS.,
DIPR 5563PP/CL, Dt: 16/11/2026 Chief Executive Officer, AP Maritime Board

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Letter No. :4893/GMCA/G-1/Advertisement/2025-26 Date:- 16th November, 2026
Walk-In-Interview
A Walk In interview for various post of **"Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor"** at **Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora** will be held on **02nd December, 2026 at 10:00am** on wards in **"Office of the Principal, Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora"**. Registration will be done on the day of interview till 1:00 PM only. The post will be filled on yearly renewal contract basis for a maximum period of **03 (three) years** or till regular appointment are made. For further details please visit our **website**:- **http://www.ssjgimsralmora.org, www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in & www.hnbumu.ac.in**
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Managing Director

WASHINGTON

Third U.S. aircraft carrier arrives in West Asia amid tensions with Iran



AFP

The *USS Theodore Roosevelt* aircraft carrier arrived in West Asia on Sunday, media reports said, bringing the number of American carrier strike groups in the region to three. The deployment comes as fighting reignites in the region, with Iran claiming a drone attack on U.S.-allied Bahrain on Sunday. AFP

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia removes commander of anti-Houthi coalition in Yemen



AFP

Saudi authorities on Monday dismissed the commander of the military coalition fighting the Houthis in Yemen. The announcement came a day after the the Iran-backed group advanced to an area around 60 kilometres from Aden, the interim seat of the Saudi-backed internationally-recognised government. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed ex-PM Imran Khan appeals for urgent medical care



AP

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan appealed on Monday to the country's top judges, seeking urgent medical treatment for himself and his wife. They are serving prison terms on graft charges. Mr. Khan wrote in his letter that he was at risk of cardiac arrest. "I will only remain able to prove my innocence if I stay alive". AP

AMMAN

Jordan to block Telegram app over national security concerns



REUTERS

Jordan said on Monday that it will block the Telegram social media app over national security concerns. The move aimed to safeguard society against "extremism and radicalisation that threaten national interests," Jordan's Security Directorate said. The decision comes after a rare deadly church attack last month killed nine people.

Ukraine launches biggest drone attack on Russia since war began

Russian defences down over 1,300 Ukrainian drones in major attack; aerial barrage targets capital, two oil depots and a key bridge linking Russia to Crimea; Moscow keeps up strikes on power infrastructure as Ukrainians brace for a harsh winter

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russia intercepted 1,336 drones launched by Ukraine, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Monday, in what was the most claimed interceptions since Moscow's all-out invasion of its neighbour nearly five years ago.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that around 600 Ukrainian drones had been launched at the Moscow region surrounding the Russian capital since Sunday evening, 191 of which had been brought down.

Russia's Defence Ministry said Ukrainian drones had also been brought down over Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula which Russia seized and annexed from Ukraine in 2014, and over the waters of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.



Strategic connect: A view of the Kerch Bridge that links Crimea to Russia, which was hit by Ukrainian drones on Monday. AFP (FILE)

Ukraine also targeted the Kerch Bridge, a key span for moving military and civilian supplies from Russia to Crimea.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov insisted the attack caused "insignificant damage."

Ukraine's military claimed hits on two oil depots in Azov and the Ilsky oil refinery in Krasnodar, which it said processes 48 million barrels of oil a year.

Energy facilities hit

Russia, meanwhile, has battered Ukrainian civilian areas with relentless strikes that seek to choke the economy and break public morale, especially through strikes on the power grid.

Ukrainians are bracing for what could be the hardest winter since the war began. Mr. Zelenskyy says the Russian strategy is to bombard specific areas for days, flattening energy infrastructure.

Russian strikes on power lines and substations in the southern Zaporizhzhia and central Dnipropetrovsk regions left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity, Ukrainian Prime Minister Serhii Koretskyi said on Monday.

A Russian attack in Dnipro killed one person and injured three, local officials said, while one person was killed and four were wounded by a strike in the Kharkiv region.

The overnight aerial attack by Ukraine surpassed the 1,254 drones that were registered as shot down by Russia on October 29.

Bahrain sentences dozens to life over 'links' to Iran's IRGC

Agence France-Presse
MANAMA

Court hands jail terms to over 60 Shia Muslims, mostly clerics, on terrorism charges

A Bahraini court sentenced dozens of Shia Muslims, most of them clerics, to life in prison on terror charges on Monday, as authorities crack down on groups it accuses of ties to Iran.

Since the Iran war began with U.S.-Israeli attacks, Gulf states that have borne the brunt of the Islamic republic's retaliatory strikes have cracked down on what they call cells with links to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Bahrain, a Sunni Muslim kingdom, has a large Shia population that has long complained of marginalisation. Authorities in the country have denied cracking down on citizens based on their religious identity.

On Monday, the criminal court sentenced 64 Shias, 57 of them clerics, to life in prison. It also sentenced five others to 15 years in prison, according to the Britain-based Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD).

A Bahraini official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, confirmed the figures.

The mass trial involves 69 Bahraini Shias, including 60 clerics – 13 of whom were tried in absentia, including prominent cleric Ayatollah Isa Qassim, according to BIRD.

Bahrain's official news agency confirmed the sentencing, adding that more than $21 million was confiscated from defendants.

"The defendants in the case of the terrorist group linked with the Revolutionary Guards were convicted and handed sentences ranging between life in prison and 15 years," the Bahrain News Agency said.

It said they were convicted of "managing a terrorist group linked to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, which advocates for the overthrow of the ruling system".

The Shias sentenced on Monday had been arrested and tried in separate groups earlier this year.

"Since Bahrain's judiciary was established in the 1920s, the country has never witnessed persecution of Shia clerics on this scale," the BIRD group said.

Israeli Opposition leaders slam Netanyahu over press reports of election interference

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israeli Opposition leaders Yair Lapid and Yousef Jabareen denounced on Monday an "attempted coup" following press reports that outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office tried to frame members of Raam, an Arab-Israeli party, ahead of last month's election.

Israel's Channel 12 reported on Sunday that on the eve of the October 27 election, Mr. Netanyahu's chief of staff Ido Norden had phoned in a complaint to the police about members of the Raam party, which led to three arrests. The three men were later released.

"This wasn't an attempt to disrupt the elections. It was an attempted coup," said Yair Lapid, who co-chairs the Beyachad list.

The Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported that David Zini, head of the Shin Bet domestic security service, sought to wiretap leaders of the other Arab slate, the Joint List, but the Attorney-General turned down his request due to lack of evidence.

Joint List leader Yousef Jabareen also denounced an "attempted coup by Mr. Netanyahu".

"If the findings are confirmed, this is a criminal mechanism that operated from the heart of government to rig the election results," he wrote on X.

Mr. Netanyahu's main rival Gadi Eisenkot wrote on Sunday that Mr. Netanyahu "cannot remain at the head of the government for a minute longer".

Robert Pattinson named as new James Bond, takes over the iconic role from Daniel Craig

Associated Press
LONDON

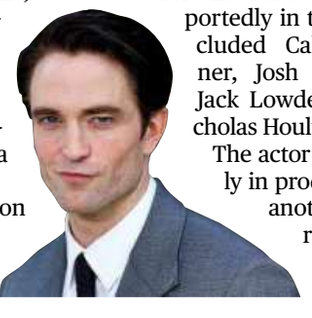
Robert Pattinson was unveiled as the next James Bond on Monday, becoming the seventh actor to play the iconic British spy and the first since Amazon MGM took over the beloved film franchise.

The announcement ends years of speculation about who would inherit the role from Daniel Craig. It comes five years after 2021's *No Time to Die*, the first film in Bond's 64-year history on the silver screen to conclude with the character's death.

But 007 will be reborn, yet again, in the 26th Bond film, directed by Denis Villeneuve.

Mr. Villeneuve said it was a tough choice, but the right one.

"James Bond is one of the most legendary characters in cinema, and to be entrusted with 007 is the honour of a lifetime," Mr. Pattinson said in a statement.



Mr. Pattinson only entered the Bond rumour mill recently after the revelation that he screen-tested for the role. Others reportedly in the mix included Callum Turner, Josh O'Connor, Jack Lowden and Nicholas Hoult.

The actor is currently in production on another iconic role in *The Batman Part II*.

'U.S. midterm results mark the beginning of the end of MAGA'

The Center for American Progress chief argues Democrats' practical, working-class populism and immigration reform signal the waning of MAGA; she stresses that the party's future accountability depends on delivering economic relief; she points out that many who voted for Democrats are former supporters of Donald Trump acting as temporary 'renters' rather than permanent party loyalists

INTERVIEW

Neera Tanden

Varghese K. George

The Center for American Progress, which promotes a liberal and progressive viewpoint, is led by president and CEO Neera Tanden. Among the most influential thought leaders of progressive politics in the United States, Ms. Tanden has worked with three Democratic presidential administrations, most recently as Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council and Senior Advisor to President Joe Biden.

In this interview with *The Hindu*, Ms. Tanden says the Republican route in the November 3 midterm election marks the beginning of the end of the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement. Edited excerpts:

The midterm results were a phenomenal success for the Democrats. What do you read in this outcome?

This success was historic, with the largest gains for any party in a midterm since 1974, since the Watergate scandal. And I think there are really two issues at play.

First, I think the country has really made a determination that the second term of Donald Trump, his presidency, has been a failure. Second, Democrats put together a list of candidates who were practical progressives and populist on economic issues while being practical. They were able to really hug the middle of the country.

So you are confident that this is a positive mandate as well for the Democrats?

Absolutely. I think it's a positive mandate for Democrats, but I do want to emphasise that a lot of the voters who voted for Democrats last Tuesday were people who voted for Donald Trump just two years ago. These voters, a lot of whom are renters, not buyers of the Democratic Party, will go somewhere else in the future. So that's why this is a really important time to deliver, not just discuss.



REUTERS

Would the Democratic majority lead to a stalemate, with constant conflict with the President? Or would there be joint efforts with the President?

People understand that Donald Trump is still President. They are not going to hold Democrats accountable if Mr. Trump vetoes legislation that Democrats try to pass. What they will hold Democrats accountable for is if they do not attempt to lower costs.

Do you think the Trump era in American politics is over?

Tuesday was a historic election for many reasons, but an element of why it was so historic is that, for the first time, the MAGA coalition that has been fuelling the Trump presidency really cracked. We saw a big movement of white non-college voters, who have been the backbone of his coalition, and working-class people of all races actually moved dramatically towards the Democratic Party. In many States, by 12, 14 or 16 points. But it is really a presidential election that makes a determination about the future of a political party.

You mentioned practical populism. Is that the future of progressive politics in the United States?

I think so. What is really interesting about candidates like James Talarico (who was elected Senator from Texas, a traditionally Republican State) is that he had a populist critique. He talked about how it is not me against you, it is top versus bottom. His ideas are focused on how he can deliver now, not five years or 10 years from now, and lower healthcare and housing costs. So, I think a progressive critique with practical ideas that are populist in nature, because they very much focus on working-class people and making their lives easier, is the future.

Immigration and the border are issues that remain unresolved for the Democrats. Are you thinking in terms of any new ideas?

I definitely agree that this is an important issue in the country. The Center for American Progress developed a framework for immigration for the future. And that framework has four pillars. One, securing the border; two, reforming asylum laws; three, expanding legal immigration; and four, ensuring a path to citizenship for people who have been here for 10 years or longer.

A really crucial element of all of this is that the public really recoiled from the draconian and terrifying immigration policies, and the effort to crack down on legal immigration. To point back to the election results, a lot of candidates adopted our framework on these issues.

I would say to my friends in India and around the world that the American people are not opposed to legal immigration. In fact, if we could stifle illegal immigration and expand legal immigration, that is a deal Americans would take.

How are the Democrats repositioning on global trade and wars?

Americans are rightly recoiling from this military intervention, this war with Iran. I do not think Democrats will retreat from the global stage. What Democrats will not do is engage in forever wars around the world, particularly in the Middle East [West Asia]. On trade, I think a lot of Democrats are becoming a little more pro-free trade than they have been in the past, perhaps because Mr. Trump's policies have been such a disaster.

Do you think the setback for MAGA in the U.S. might set a trend of setbacks for similar politics around the world?

I absolutely believe that there is a kind of global network for right-wing authoritarian populism in Europe, many parts of the world, and in Asia as well. And I hope that this is the beginning of the end for this movement across the world. I am hoping that the whole world will wake up to this, and people should remember our own experiences here, which is that the policies of the Trump administration are really hurting the people who voted for him numerous times.

IN THE SADDLE

Jay Shah re-elected unopposed as ICC chair for a second term



FILE PHOTO

Jay Shah was re-elected unopposed for a second term as chair of the International Cricket Council at the governing body's board meeting in Bali. Shah will oversee cricket's return to the Olympics at the 2028 Los Angeles Games during his second two-year term. The sport's only other appearance at the Olympics was in 1900.

A REWARD

Rookie speedster Nabi receives 'Impact Player of the Series' medal



PTI

Pacer Auqib Nabi secured the 'Impact Player of the Series' medal following India's ODI series win over New Zealand. During the medal ceremony, team physio, Thulasi Ram Yuvaraj, described Auqib as a man "who speaks less and makes sure his ball speaks on the field". He said Nabi was "hardworking, committed and meticulous".

HARSH PENALTY

I've stood up for three guys who were treated unfairly: Khawaja



GETTY IMAGES

Usman Khawaja has insisted that his revelations about the Sandpapergate scandal were not driven by profits. "I've stood up for the three guys (Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft) who, I feel, were treated unfairly. The penalties were overboard," he said in a podcast.

THE HEROES

Ackerman leads SA reply after Litton takes Bangladesh to 400



AP

Marques Ackerman hit his maiden ton to lead South Africa's strong reply to Bangladesh's total of 400 on the second day of the first Test in Johannesburg. **The scores:** Bangladesh 400 in 101.2 overs (Hridoy 137, Litton 120, Rabada 5/70, Paterson 4/92) vs. South Africa 287/4 in 62 overs (Ackerman 157, Hamza 83).

Blustery Wellington all in readiness for main course

New Zealand and India, after the white-ball assignments, have reached the city for the two-Test series; given its precarious position in the World Test Championship standings, the visitor cannot afford another slip-up

INDIA IN NZ

Amol Karhadkar
WELLINGTON

The T20I series was conquered with a hat-trick of wins at the start. The ODI assignment was pocketed, with the Men in Blue clawing their way out of a hole in each of the three matches they won. For some of the fans, India's tour of New Zealand would already qualify as a resounding success.

But for the connoisseurs – and, more importantly, the touring Indian contingent – these have merely been the appetisers. The main course will be served over the next fortnight.

The manner in which India has approached this mega tour, from selection and a shadow India-A series to its preparations, made it evident that the two-Test joust was the centrepiece of the whole sojourn.

As the Indian contingent joined the other group, which had been training rigorously here for the past week, it was greeted by gusty winds. Wellington was so blustery on Monday that several flights were diverted or cancelled. Both teams, however, managed a safe landing from Tauranga.



Clear priorities: Skipper Gill had left the ODI squad after the third game to focus on the red-ball fixtures. FILE PHOTO

Captain Shubman Gill and head coach Gautam Gambhir will hope the skies remain clear on Tuesday. After all, it will be the only full-fledged practice session that the entire 16-member squad gets together before the opening Test.

With India bolstering its fast bowling resources by replacing Kuldeep Yadav with Gurnoor Brar as the sixth pace option, it will be interesting to see whether the lanky speedster – who walked away with the Player-of-the-Series award in the ODIs, gets the nod ahead of Mohammed Siraj or Prasidh Krishna.

Combination in focus

Getting the combination right will be crucial if India is to keep its slim hopes of qualifying for the World Test Championship (WTC) final alive. Placed fourth with seven Tests remaining, two in New Zealand followed by five against Australia at home early next year, India needs to win the series or, at the very least, avoid defeat to remain in contention. Little wonder, then, that the tour has been planned with the clear objective of finishing on a high.

Should India fail to avenge the 2024 home series whitewash against New Zealand, which triggered a prolonged downturn and hastened the transition in its Test set-up, the scrutiny of Gambhir's credentials as Test coach is bound to intensify.

Despite considerable success in multinational limited-overs tournaments, India's Test returns under Gambhir have been underwhelming. Of the seven Test series comprising two or more matches that India has played since he took charge in July 2024, it has won three and lost three. The drawn series in England in 2025 remains arguably the high point of his tenure – a telling stat indeed.

The series victories have come against Bangladesh, the West Indies and Sri Lanka, none of whom has consistently challenged for a place in the WTC final. It is the defeats, though, that continue to rankle.

The home whitewashes against New Zealand and South Africa, on either side of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy loss in Australia, have exposed India's inability to find a settled combination.

For Gambhir and his trusted lieutenants, the next fortnight is about more than winning another Test series. It is an opportunity to restore confidence in a team that has struggled to find its feet and, perhaps, silence some of the growing doubts surrounding its red-ball direction.

The coach will hope to get it right come Thursday.

Blockbuster trades set up the table for 20th iteration

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

As the 10 IPL franchises are set to announce their list of retained and released players on Tuesday, a significant churn has already taken place, with some big names switching allegiance.

Since the conclusion of the 2026 edition, 10 players have been involved in trades so far.

The biggest bombshell dropped last week when ace all-rounder Hardik Pandya joined Punjab Kings from Mumbai Indians in a swap deal that sent left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh the other way.

Hardik, who returned to MI in 2024 after spending two years at Gujarat Titans to take over the captaincy from Rohit Sharma, struggled in his second stint with the five-time champion.

In the last three campaigns, the Mumbai outfit failed to qualify for the playoffs twice, and this year it became evident that the relationship between the player and the franchise had collapsed.

Over the last six months, there had been speculation surrounding Hardik's next move, with multiple franchises showing interest in the 33-year-old. While he has not been at his best in the IPL recently, PBKS will hope the all-rounder can produce something special to help the team win its first title.



Big one: The Hardik-Arshdeep swap has been the talking point. PTI

An equally significant development unfolded even earlier, just three weeks after the conclusion of the 19th iteration, when Rishabh Pant moved back to Delhi Capitals from Lucknow Super Giants.

Pant was the most expensive signing in the league's history when LSG forked out ₹27 crore in the 2025 mega auction. However, after two poor seasons, including this year when the team finished last, the stylish wicket-keeper-batter left the franchise to return to his home city.

As part of this deal, left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav moved the other way to Lucknow.

Delhi and Pant will hope their second innings plays out differently from the Hardik-MI saga.

The double-swap between Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad, with Liam Livingstone and Jack Edwards coming to the five-time champion, was another significant trade. CSK, in turn, released pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Nathan Ellis, and SRH should feel it got the better end of the bargain.

Other trades included the swap of T. Natarajan and Zeeshan Ansari between DC and SRH while Sunrisers' Harshal Patel has all but sealed his departure to GT in an all-cash deal.

While the trading window is open until one week before the auction (December 16), it remains to be seen how many more will move, considering these deals are only for a year before the deck is completely rearranged for 2028.

Alcaraz makes short work of Tiafoe

ATP FINALS

Agencies
TURIN

Carlos Alcaraz looked in ominous form on Monday as he began his bid to win the ATP Finals for the first time by cruising past Frances Tiafoe in straight sets 6-2, 6-2.

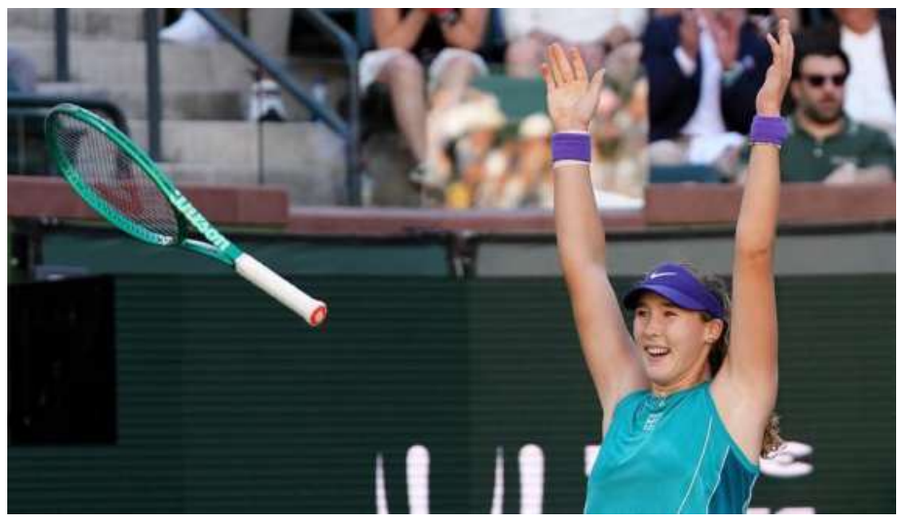
World No. 3 Alcaraz took just over an hour to deal with American Tiafoe and show why he is the favourite to win in Turin, where he was the beaten finalist last year. Since returning in August from a wrist injury that kept him off the tour for four months, Alcaraz has won three of five tournaments he has entered, most recently the Paris Masters.

Tiafoe had a nightmare debut match at the season-ending tournament, having no answer to Alcaraz's speed and power. Only briefly in the second set did he look like challenging his opponent, a seven-time Grand Slam winner, when at 2-3 down he wasted three opportunities to break back.

On Sunday, US Open finalist Ben Shelton beat Arthur Fils 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 for his first win at the ATP Finals after going 0-3 during his debut last year. Fils is the first Frenchman to compete at the Finals since Gael Monfils a decade ago.



On a roll: Alcaraz continued his smashing form. AFP



Hip, hip, hooray! Andreeva won the season-ending championship without losing a set. AP

Unbeaten Andreeva caps dream debut with title

WTA FINALS

Associated Press
INDIAN WELLS

Mirra Andreeva defeated Elina Svitolina 7-5, 6-3 to win the WTA Finals on Sunday without dropping a set over five matches at the season-ending event.

The 19-year-old Russian jumped in the air when Svitolina netted an easy smash on the second match-point, culminating a week in which Andreeva clinched a career-high world No. 2 ranking to end the year.

Andreeva became the 11th player to win the Finals without losing a set, joining among others Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova and Serena Williams, all of whom did it multiple times.

Andreeva won five of the last six games to close out the nearly two-hour match that featured nine breaks of serve across 21 games.

Svitolina won both of the match's longest games of six deuces each in the second set. She needed seven break points before Andreeva's forehand sailed long to tie it 1-1.

Svitolina survived four break points to hold trailing 4-3 on another forehand error by her opponent.

Svitolina won just two points over the final two games. Her forehand hit the net-cord and dropped on her side to set up triple match-point for Andreeva. One point later, Svitolina blew an easy smash playing on the sunny side of the court to end it.

Vaishali's win puts paid to Arjun's semifinal hopes

TOTAL CHESS

Jayantho Sengupta
BUDAPEST

Arjun Erigaisi began Sunday's final game with a title semifinal place within reach. R. Vaishali, already out of contention, ended those hopes with a victory that left India without a representative in the championship bracket of the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot in Budapest.

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Fabiano Caruana, Anish Giri and Alireza Firouzja won their groups. Vachier-Lagrave faces Giri, while Firouzja meets Caruana in the semifinals beginning Tuesday.

Arjun entered Sunday level with Vachier-Lagrave and Hans Niemann on 13 points in Group D. His 60-move victory with white against Vaishali put him two points clear after Vachier-Lagrave drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva and Niemann lost to Wesley So.

However, Vachier-Lagrave's superior opening blitz tie-break meant Arjun needed another victory to guarantee qualification.

Vaishali won the return game with white in 61 moves, while Vachier-Lagrave beat Assaubayeva to top the group on 17 points. Niemann defeated So to join Arjun on 16, taking second place on tie-break.

Vaishali finished sixth on seven points. R. Praggnanandhaa also finished last in Group B on seven after drawing twice against Liem Le. He remained winless, with seven draws and three defeats.

Arjun will contest places nine to 12, while Vaishali and Praggnanandhaa will play for positions 21 to 24.

Caruana topped Group B with a draw against Vladislav Artemiev before losing the return in 66 moves. His first defeat left him on 17 points, three ahead of Le. Caruana had started Sunday just 5.4 points behind the Norwegian in the live classical ratings.

Carlsen drew twice against Ian Nepomniachtchi to finish fifth in Group C on nine points, with nine draws and one defeat. Giri drew twice against Shakhriyar Mamedyarov to win the group on 15 points, two ahead of Nepomniachtchi and Haik Martirosyan.

Firouzja topped Group A with 15 points. The knockout matches will combine blitz, rapid, and Fast Classic games.

(The writer is in Budapest at the invitation of Total Chess).



Dominant: Giri topped Group C with 15 points. FLICKR/FIDE

INBRIEF



Nikkhil wins u-19 title; finishes runner-up in two categories

Nikkhil Menon clinched the under-19 boys' title and finished runner-up in u-17 singles and u-19 mixed doubles at the World Table Tennis Youth Contender Gaborone, Botswana, recently. Nikkhil defeated Ritvik Gupta 5-11, 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7 in the u-19 final. In the u-17 title clash, Nikkhil lost to Ritvik 8-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11 and in the u-19 mixed doubles final, Nikkhil and Croatia's Elena Vukovac went down to Ritvik and Leeloo Vukelja of Croatia 9-11, 0-11, 3-11.

Parveer named national athletics chief coach

Experienced throwing coach Parveer Singh has been appointed as the national athletics chief coach, while Raj Mohan has been appointed to oversee the junior development programme.

Velavan advances to quarterfinals in Qatar

Velavan Senthilkumar entered the quarterfinals of QSF 3 PSA Copper squash in Doha with an 11-4, 11-7, 11-4 win over France's Manuel Paquemar.



Capitals strengthen grassroots cricket development

Delhi Capitals has strengthened its grassroots cricket development programme with the addition of CEC Gurgaon, a cricket academy based in Baliyawas in Gurugram, to its partner academy network. The association aims to create greater access to structured coaching, performance support and competitive opportunities for aspiring cricketers in the national capital. "Grassroots development is an important part of our commitment to the game, and our partner academy network allows us to engage with young cricketers beyond the professional arena," said Delhi Capitals CEO Sunil Gupta.



Impressive England halts Spain's unbeaten run

England ended Spain's unbeaten run in competitive matches at 44 on Sunday, beating the World Cup winner 3-2 on its own patch, while Belgium thumped Italy 4-1 to join France in the Nations League quarterfinals. Thomas Tuchel's team won Group A3, level on 15 points with Spain, after the win in Madrid. But the Three Lions ended up down to 10 men and hanging on by their finger nails.

The results: Group A1: Belgium 4 (De Cuyper 15, Ngoy 22, Doku 26-pen, Moreira 80) bt Italy 1 (P. Esposito 11); France 2 (Topcu 49-og, Kroupi 80) bt Turkiye 1 (Bardakci 90).

A3: Croatia 2 (Perisic 2, Hlozek 85) bt Czechia 1 (Majer 87); Spain 2 (Oyarzabal 65-pen, Williams 75) lost to England 3 (Kane 45-pen, Konsa 53, White 57).

C1: Belarus 0 lost to Albania 2 (Manaj 28, Hysaj 57); Finland 7 (Svanback 8, 20, 79, Walta 17, Pohjanpalo 36, 42, Hakans 70) bt San Marino 2 (Nanni 26-pen, 76); **C2:** Cyprus 1 (Pittas 52-pen) lost to Montenegro 4 (Osmajic 5, M. Vukotic 58, Krstovic 67, 83); Latvia 0 drew with Armenia 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs. Sri Lanka: Second Test, Day 1, VETO App, 10 a.m.

Afghanistan vs. Zimbabwe: Second Test, Day 5, FanCode, 11.30 a.m.

South Africa vs. Bangladesh: First Test, Day 3, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

SAFF Championships (final): India vs. Pakistan, VETO App, 7.30 p.m.

UEFA Nations League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.15 a.m. (Wednesday).

J&K gets off the mark with a thrilling victory over Tamil Nadu in a run-fest

Opener Qamran and skipper Shubham lay the platform with quickfire fifties; Sathvik's 31-ball 67 in vain; Mayank's early burst sets up Delhi's win

SMAT

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
INDORE

After spectacular power-hitting from opener Qamran Iqbal (70, 37b, 10x4, 3x6) and skipper Shubham Khajuria (53, 34b, 2x4, 4x6), Jammu & Kashmir edged past Tamil Nadu by six runs in a high-scoring Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) Group-B clash at the Holkar Stadium here on Monday.

Tamil Nadu finished with 195 for nine in response to J&K's 201 for seven as the latter opened its account.

Qamran struck three successive fours off M. Siddharth, clearing mid-on, swatting one straight back past the bowler, and driving another through covers. He also smashed back-to-back sixes off Athisayaraj Davidson.

Shubham's second-wicket partnership with Qamran yielded 70 off 39 balls, while his third-wicket stand with Yawer Hassan (16) produced 60 off 32.

He repeatedly shuffled across, launching two sixes off Sunny Sandhu, one over deep-midwicket and the other straight down the ground.

Opener Amith Sathvik (67, 31b, 9x4, 3x6), reprieved on nought and four, set up Tamil Nadu's chase. He took Abid Mushtaq for 6-4-6 in one over, bringing up his half-century off just 22 deliveries. There were three fours in one over off Lone Nasir before he was caught at short third-man off Yudhvir Singh, attempting to drag a delivery from outside off.

With 47 needed off 18 balls, R. Rajkumar (24, 10b) reduced the equation to 31 off 15 with two sixes and a four down the ground off Lone Nasir.

After Rajkumar fell, the tail-enders could only manage to bring it down to 12 off the final ball. Brijesh Sharma then bowled a waist-high no-ball down the leg side, which Siddharth helped away for four. However, Siddharth failed to make contact with the free hit.



Timely knock: Dhull's unbeaten 78 was studded with seven fours and five sixes. R.V. MOORTHY

Priyansh makes merry

Later, skipper Priyansh Arya struck his second consecutive half-century (55, 32b, 4x4, 3x6) and Yash Dhull top-scored with an unbeaten 78 (40b, 7x4, 5x6) to power Delhi to 240 for five. Punjab folded up for 131 in reply, handing Delhi a 109-run victory.

Mayank Yadav (four for 12) led Delhi's bowling effort with a three-wicket maiden in his first over. He hurried the batters with his pace, having opener Vihaan Malhotra (23) caught at long-off, Uday Saharan (0) edging one to the 'keeper, and Arjun Rajput (0) top-edging a pull to square leg.

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY — MONDAY'S SCORES

Elite: Group A: At Mumbai: Rajasthan 166 in 19.3 overs (Rohan Rajbhar 35, Kartik Sharma 39, Mukul Choudhary 31, Anukul Roy 3/25) bt Jharkhand 111 in 17.5 overs (Sushant Mishra 40 n.o., Manav Suthar 3/25).
Uttar Pradesh 204/5 in 20 overs (Divyansh Joshi 65, Aryan Juyal 31, Sameer Rizvi 46 n.o.) bt Karnataka 188/9 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 42, R. Smaran 68, Manvanth Kumar 42, Mohsin Khan 3/28).
Mizoram 133/5 in 20 overs (Jehu Anderson 39) lost to Baroda 138/2 in 10.2 overs (Shivalik Sharma 101 n.o.).
Bengal 200/7 in 20 overs (Abishek Porel 53, Shakir Gandhi 34, Rishabh Chaudhary 33) bt Chandigarh 115 in 15.5 overs (Arjun Azad 47, Mukesh Kumar 4/9, Karan Lal 3/24).
Group B: At Indore: Railways 137/9 in 20 overs (Jayant Lakhlan 47, Prashant Singh 3/28, Suraj Kashyap 3/29) lost to Bihar 141/6 in 18.2 overs (Ayush Loharuka 58).
Jammu & Kashmir 201/7 in 20 overs (Qamran Iqbal 70, Shubham Khajuria 53) bt Tamil Nadu 195/9 in 20 overs (Amith Sathvik 67, N. Jagadeesan 35, Lone Nasir 3/42).
Haryana 118/9 in 20 overs (Yashvardhan Dalal 65 n.o.) lost to Saurashtra 119/4 in 13.5 overs (Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 46, Yuzvendra Chahal 3/27).
Delhi 240/5 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 55, Yash Dhull 78 n.o., Nitish Rana 35) bt Punjab 131 in 17.5 overs (Ramandeep Singh 30, Harpreet Brar 33, Mayank Yadav 4/12, Digvesh Rathi 3/21).
Group C: At Mohali & New Chandigarh: Himachal Pradesh 158/9 in 20 overs (Ayush Jamwal 36, Nehal Wadhera 35, C.V. Stephen 3/27) bt Andhra 150/8 in 20 overs (Ashwin Hebbar 34, Ayush Jamwal 3/23).
Madhya Pradesh 250/6 in 20 overs (Shivang Kumar 61, Rajat Patidar 135 n.o., Akash Sengupta 3/42) bt Assam 119 in 17.4 overs (Sibsankar Roy 32, Kumar Kartikeya 3/17).
Pondicherry 209 in 20 overs (Bhanu Anand 59, Aman Khan 69, Manisankar Murasingh 6/33) bt Tripura 169/9 in 20 overs (Sridam Paul 57).
Kerala 211/8 in 20 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 75, Sanju Samson 47, Mukesh Choudhary 3/34) bt Maharashtra 117 in 16 overs (D. Nidheesh 5/27, Biju Narayanan 3/11).
Group D: At Kolkata: Odisha 161/8 in 20 overs (Gaurav Choudhury 53, Kartik Biswal 30, Nachiket Bhute 4/22) lost to Vidarbha 162/2 in 17.4 overs (Atharva Taide 74, Danish Malewar 67 n.o.).
Goa 168 in 19.4 overs (Abhinav Tejrana 76, Janmejay Joshi 3/17) lost to Uttarakhand 174/5 in 18.1 overs (Tejasvi Jaiswal 46, Aarav Mahajan 60 n.o.).
Gujarat 197 in 19.2 overs (Vishal Jayswal 38, Ashutosh Sharma 42, Shardul Thakur 3/30, Atharva Ankolekar 3/28) lost to Mumbai 201/5 in 15.4 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 82, Sarfaraz Khan 40 n.o.).
Chhattisgarh 168 in 19.2 overs (Ayush Pandey 37, Dev Singh 47, C.V. Milind 3/20, Ajay Goud 4/28) lost to Hyderabad 169/9 in 20 overs (Abhirath Reddy 34, K. Himateja 37).
Plate: At Sovima: Arunachal Pradesh 69 in 15.2 overs (Satyajit Bachhav 4/18) lost to Sikkim 70/1 in 8.2 overs (Parth Palawat 38).
Nagaland 205/5 in 20 overs (Hokaito Zhimomi 50, Rongsen Jonathan 57, Joshua Ozukum 35) bt Manipur 125/9 in 20 overs (Chingakham Bidash 39 n.o., Nagaho Chishi 3/29).
Meghalaya 151/8 in 20 overs (Jiwanjot Singh 54) lost to Services 153/3 in 17.4 overs (Suraj Vashisht 63 n.o., Mohit Ahlawat 54).

Railways' Mrinal and Ruma turn giant-killers

NATIONAL ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi
SHILLONG

Railways' Mrinal Chauhan and Ruma Biswas adapted well to windy conditions to eliminate two accomplished pairs and enter the recurve mixed team final in the National archery championships at the Parade Ground on Monday.

After securing an individual bronze for Railways, Mrinal joined hands with Ruma to ensure another medal for his employer.

The duo knocked out the vastly experienced pair of Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari, representing the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, 4-4 (shoot-off: 20-18) in a cliff-hanger of a pre-quarterfinal.

"I joined Sports Authority of India (SAI) Kolkata a month ago and trained alongside Atanu and Deepika. I never thought we could beat such a seasoned team. Winning against them provided a lot of motivation," said Mrinal.

The Railways side got past Odisha 5-3 in a closely fought affair before toppling another experienced side, including Olympian B. Dhiraj and Asian championships bronze medallist Sangeeta, of Services 5-3 in the semifinals. Following a 3-3 deadlock, Railways narrowly won the last set 36-35 and earned two valuable set points to claim the duel. "The wind was confusing as it was blowing from both sides. We needed to control our arrows. I don't know Ruma well, but I gave her the feedback after taking the first shots and she did her best," said Mrinal.

Having booked her berth in the individual title clash, rising star Kumkum Mohod carried on her excellent form to guide Maharashtra to two recurve team finals. She combined with two other teenagers, Sharvari Shende and Gatha Khadake, to help her State reach the women's team summit clash besides gelling well with Parth Salumkhe to secure a mixed team final berth.



Spectacular run: Mrinal and Ruma advanced to the recurve mixed team final. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Important results:
Team: Recurve: Men: Semifinals: SSCB bt Chhattisgarh 6-0, Maharashtra bt Madhya Pradesh 6-2; **Bronze medal match:** Madhya Pradesh bt Chhattisgarh 6-2.
Women: Semifinals: Maharashtra bt SSCB 6-0, Haryana bt AIP 6-2; **Bronze:** AIP bt SSCB 5-3.
Mixed: Semifinals: Maharashtra bt Bihar 6-0, RSPB bt SSCB 5-3; **Bronze:** Bihar bt SSCB 5-3.
Compound: Men: Punjab bt Rajasthan 235-232, Madhya Pradesh drew with RSPB 233-233 (Madhya Pradesh won 28-27 via shoot-off); **Bronze:** Rajasthan bt RSPB 234-233.
Women: Uttar Pradesh bt Maharashtra 233-231, Punjab bt Delhi 233-226; **Bronze:** Maharashtra bt Delhi 235-228.
Mixed: Uttar Pradesh bt Assam 157-153, Delhi bt Telangana 156-153; **Bronze:** Telangana bt Assam 155-154.

Parikh and Rajpal file nominations for the post of AITA president

TENNIS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Interim All India Tennis Association president Chintan Parikh, and Davis Cup captain and Delhi Lawn Tennis Association president Rohit Rajpal, have filed nominations for the post of AITA president ahead of the Executive Committee (EC) elections scheduled for November 27.

Indian tennis legend Leander Paes and Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association president Prashant Sutar will vie for the post of vice-president while Gurcharan Singh (interim AITA joint-secretary) and Sunder Iyer (interim AITA secretary) will contest to become the new secretary.

Karnataka's Sunil Yajaman and Uttarakhand's Sumit Goel will hope to occupy one of two joint-secretary positions, with Prerna Bhambri set to be elected unopposed as the other. The competition for the post of treasurer is expected to be between Asit Tripathy and Sujit Roy.

For the two Athletes Committee representatives - one male and one female - in the AITA EC, Yuki Bhambri, Rutuja Bhosale and Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi have thrown their hats into the ring. Objections to these nominations can be lodged until Nov. 20 with the scrutiny and disposal scheduled for Nov. 21 and 22. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is Nov. 24.

India eyes hat-trick triumph and 10th title as it meets Pakistan

SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP

The Blue Tigers are the favourites to lift the trophy again despite fielding a second string team

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Defending champion India is in sight of a 10th overall and third successive SAFF Championship title when it faces Pakistan, a team that is on an unprecedented dream run of its own, in the summit clash here on Tuesday.

The Blue Tigers have won a record nine titles – in 1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2021 and 2023 – and are the favourites to lift the trophy once again despite fielding a second string team.

Pakistan, meanwhile, will be appearing in its maiden SAFF Championship final. Having reached the semifinals on four previous occasions, most recently in 2018, it broke new ground by defeating host Bangladesh 1-0 in the semifinal on Saturday.

The only time India failed to reach the final was in 2003.

India's head coach Naushad Moosa expressed satisfaction with the team's progress to another final, crediting the collective effort of the players and support staff.

"One of the biggest positives has been the team's fighting spirit, attacking intent and ability to compete in difficult situations. We have also seen good individual performances and, more importantly, a collective willingness to work for each other."

The two sides have met 30 times in senior internationals, with India winning 17 matches, Pakistan four and nine ending in draws.

Ragnarok clinches the main event

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward Ragnarok, ridden by Afroz Khan, claimed the Bloomer Plate, the main event of Monday's (Nov. 16) races. The winner is owned by M/s. Donald Anthony Netto & P. Ranga Raju. D. Netto saddled two more winners of the day.

1. CABARET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): ATREYA (Dhanu S. Deora) 1, Char Ek Char (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Iconic Star (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Niloufer The Great (Ajay K) 4. 8, 2 and 1/2. 1m 13.13s. ₹18(w), 11, 21 and 22(p). SHP: 40, THP: 58, FP: 84, Q: 63, Tanala: 657. Favourite: Atreya. Owners: M/s. Rohit Gupta & Nishant Jain. Trainer: Magan Singh.

2. BLOOMER PLATE (1,200M): RAGNAROK (Afroz Khan) 1, N R I High Power (Akshay K) 2, Knight Crusader (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Reigning Beauty (Santosh Raj) 4. 1/2, 2-1/4 and 3-1/2. 1m 11.29s. ₹60(w), 26 and 10(p). SHP: 77, THP: 38, FP: 80, Q: 19, Tanala: 491. Favourite: N R I High Power. Owners: M/s. Donald Anthony Netto & P. Ranga Raju. Trainer: D. Netto.

3. CABARET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): TIMELESS ELEGANCE (Bhawani S) 1, Barbarossa (Swarup S) 2, Fortune Art (Mukesh K) 3 and Amboseli (Surya Prakash) 4. 1-1/4, Short Head and 1/2. 1m 13.90s. ₹31(w), 17, 12 and 10(p). SHP: 47, THP: 24, FP: 122, Q: 25, Tanala: 260. Favourite: Barbarossa. Owners: M/s. Muthiah Ramaswamy & Ramasway Muthiah rep. GMMSR Advisory Services LLP. Trainer: Robin R. Kondakalla.

4. BHONGIR PLATE (1,600M): YOU TUBER (Akshay Kumar) 1, Ashwa Jaffna (Gaurav S) 2, French Lieutenant (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Special Star (P. Sai K) 4. Not run: Pristine Glory. 3/4, Short Head and Neck. 1m 38.35s. ₹22 (w), 11, 14 and 10(p). SHP: 78, THP: 33, FP: 128, Q: 86, Tanala: 621. Favourite: You Tuber. Owners: Mr. M. Raghunath rep. Gava Racing Syndicate LLP & Mr. P. Amarender Reddy. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

5. KRISHNA TROPHY (1,400M): DINO (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Aashritha Pet (Santosh Raj) 2, Aos Si (Antony Raj) 3 and Winning Attitude (Md. Ekram) 4. 6-1/4, 1-1/2 and 2. 1m 26.18s. ₹18(w), 15, 10 and 16(p). SHP: 29, THP: 29, FP: 60, Q: 31, Tanala: 170. Favourite: Dino. Owners: M/s. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni & Srikanth Badruka. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. KINNERASANI PLATE (1,100M): MY TOUCH (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Agasthyeshwara (Neeraj) 2, Night Whisper (H.M. Akshay) 3 and Goddess Of Light (Akshay K) 4. 8-1/2, Nose and 1/2. 1m 5.30s. ₹23(w), 15, 40 and 22(p). SHP: 248, THP: 46, FP: 541, Q: 647, Tanala: 4,370. Favourite: My Touch. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

7. HYDERABAD TROPHY (1,200M): SHOOLIN (Dhanu S. Deora) 1, Basilica (Mukesh K) 2, Lifes Journey (Ajay K) 3 and Golden Gazelle (H.M. Akshay) 4. 3/4, 2-1/4 and Neck. 1m 11.67s. ₹40(w), 17, 13 and 15(p). SHP: 45, THP: 85, FP: 133, Q: 58, Tanala: 1,091. Favourite: Basilica. Owner: Mr. Rohit Gupta rep. Rolli Stud Dairy & Agri. Farm. Trainer: Magan Singh.

8. SRISAILAM PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): ADVAIT (P. Trevor) 1, N R I Royal Power (Afroz K) 2, My Honey (Shivam) 3 and Aquatone (Rafique Sk.) 4. 4-1/2, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m 11.86s. ₹13(w), 10, 16 and 18(p). SHP: 32, THP: 98, FP: 36, Q: 26, Tanala: 219. Favourite: Advait. Owner: Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: Bharat Singh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹2,265 (267 tkts.), 30%: 689 (376 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 3,807 (61 tkts.), (ii) 1,112 (60 tkts.). Treble: (i) 1,165 (21 tkts.), (ii) 231 (113 tkts.), (iii) 292 (136 tkts.).

Lakshya roars back to life



After months of frustration, tough losses and a season that threatened to slip away, the ace shuttler has found his mojo again, winning back-to-back titles at the Hylo Open and Japan Masters to boost his BWF World Tour Finals hopes



BADMINTONPHOTO

From the unforgiving pace of Germany to the hostile home-court atmosphere in Japan, Lakshya won 10 matches in succession, en route his twin triumph

THE GIST

- Lakshya has spent much of 2026 fighting to keep his season alive. In November, he did far more than that
- After the Hylo win, he was looking forward to a five-day break in Bengaluru with his family for Deepavali. He skipped the Korea Open before heading to Kumamoto with fresher legs
- Before the Japan Masters, Lakshya was 12th in the Race to Finals with 64,980 points. The Super 500 title added 9,200 points, taking his projected tally to 74,180 and lifting him to sixth in the standings

The Hong Kong Open, which begins today, gives Lakshya one more opportunity to consolidate his place in the race to the season-ender



Devyanshi Bihani

Some rallies are remembered for the winner. Others, for the sheer audacity of keeping the shuttle alive when the point seems all but lost. Lakshya Sen's late-season resurgence has been a little like that. Just when his 2026 campaign appeared to be running out of steam, the Indian found a way to keep the rally going.

From the unforgiving pace of Germany to the hostile home-court atmosphere in Japan, Lakshya won 10 matches in succession, lifting the Hylo Open and Kumamoto Masters Japan titles. It is the manner of the victories that has made this November run so exhilarating. He has out-powered a towering Frenchman, outmanoeuvred one of Indonesia's most promising young shuttlers and outlasted a Japanese opponent in front of a partisan crowd. The familiar aggression is back. So, too, is the roar.

It is a remarkable turn for a player who had spent much of the season searching for rhythm, fitness, confidence and, at one point, even funding to compete. But he stayed the course, ending his year-long title drought with two trophies in hand. The wins gave his campaign an entirely different complexion, and strengthened his bid for a place at the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals.

The physical toll

The signs of what was possible had appeared early. At the All England Open in March, Lakshya reached the final after a statement win over defending champion Shi Yuqi in the opening round. He ultimately finished runner-up to Taiwan's Lin Chun-Yi. It was the sort of performance that suggested a player ready to challenge the very best. He was also conscious of the need to manage his body. "I'm taking much more care in between tournaments to stay injury-free," he had said after the final in Birmingham.

But at the highest level, even the best precautions cannot always keep injuries at bay. A freak elbow injury during the Thomas Cup in May prevented him from playing the semifinal, as India went on to secure bronze. The World Championships and the Asian Games brought exits that were difficult to reconcile with the standard Lakshya has set for himself. Reflecting on the difficult stretch, Lakshya said, "In certain tournaments I was not really 100%."

That is part of the difficult equation with Lakshya. At his best, he can be devastating. His reflexes allow him to turn defence into attack in the blink of an eye; his ability to take the shuttle early makes him dangerous at the net; and when he finds the timing on his jump smash, even the most organised defence can look scrambled. But his game demands a great deal from his body. Explosive changes of direction, lunges and the torque required to retrieve awkward shots are difficult to sustain when his body is troubling him.

Which is to say that his biggest challenge has been not just reaching an elite level when his body allows, but sustaining it consistently. For much of 2026, that search proved frustrating. The Thomas Cup bronze and the Asian Games team bronze offered something to show for the year, but the individual disappointments lingered. By the time the tour moved into its closing stretch, he needed a performance that could not only improve his ranking but could restore his belief.

First title of the season

At the Hylo Open, Lakshya began to look like a player who had rediscovered the pleasure of taking the game to his opponent. His semifinal against France's Toma Jr Popov was a particularly emphatic statement. At 6ft 5in, Popov has the reach to cover enormous stretches of the court and the physicality to turn flat exchanges into a bruising contest. His doubles background also gives him the ability to accelerate rallies, taking time away from opponents with quick, compact strokes.

Lakshya met those strengths with a level of aggression that left little room for Popov to settle. He won 21-17, 21-13 in just 41 minutes, making the Frenchman's physical advantages look surprisingly ordinary. The jump smash was the headline weapon, but the quality of its placement mattered just as much as its power. Lakshya attacked down the line, targeted the body and repeatedly forced Popov to defend from uncomfortable positions. The final brought another challenge, but the Indian was ready for it. Indonesia's Jonatan Christie, a former Asian Games champion and one of the most accomplished players on the circuit, was beaten 21-17, 21-10. The Indian took the match in straight games, accelerating away in the second to secure his seventh BWF World Tour title and his second Hylo Open crown.

Following the title win, he said that he was "close to my best level today". The victory moved him eight places up to 10th in the WTF race, giving him a realistic route back into contention for the season-ending tournament.

The turnaround

After the Hylo triumph, Lakshya was looking forward to a five-day break in Bengaluru with his family for Deepavali. He skipped the Korea Open before heading to Kumamoto with fresher legs as the eighth seed and world No. 13, with the Japan Open offering another chance to collect valuable points.

The semifinal against Indonesia's Alwi Farhan was his biggest test. Ranked World No. 10, Farhan had beaten Lakshya in both their previous meetings without dropping a game. This time, Lakshya took away the 21-year-old's biggest weapon by keeping the shuttle low. Fast, flat drives and sharp pushes denied Farhan the high lifts he needed to unleash his smashes.

The net was another important battleground. Lakshya moved forward aggressively, took the shuttle early and used the parallel channels to stretch the taller Indonesian. He kept Farhan moving, prevented him from getting underneath the shuttle and forced him to manufacture winners from increasingly awkward positions.

Farhan fought back to take the second game 21-15, but Lakshya responded solidly in the decider. He won 21-12, 15-21, 21-11 in 70 minutes, recording his first victory over the Indonesian and reaching a second successive Super 500 final.

Waiting in the final was Koki Watanabe, the Japanese world No. 15, who had the home crowd firmly behind him. He entered the final buoyed by a gruelling semifinal win over world No. 2 Kunlavut Vitidsarn. Watanabe is quick around the court, comfortable in flat exchanges and particularly dangerous when he can use his pace to move an opponent from corner to corner.

In the opening game, Watanabe raced into an early lead, repeatedly finding the straight smash down Lakshya's forehand side. The Indian struggled to establish control and appeared a little passive in constructing points. He took the first game 21-13, leaving Lakshya with another uphill task.

A change of ends brought a change in approach. Lakshya began the second game by taking charge of the net. But the Japanese had no passive presence at the net either. He relished the close exchanges, matching the Indian's quick racket work with sharp interceptions and probing strokes. The two traded net shots in a tense front-court duel, neither willing to concede the initiative. But Lakshya's greater urgency helped him edge ahead, opening up a 5-0 lead at the start of the second game.

Watanabe then mounted a spirited comeback, reeling off eight successive points to close the gap from 10-19 to 17-19 and threaten to turn the game around. But Lakshya's sharp finish at the net earned him game points, and a side-court smash finally closed the game 21-18.

Pulling away

The decider was tighter at the start. Neither player could establish a decisive advantage, with the score moving to 5-5 before Lakshya edged ahead. The exchanges became increasingly physical, the rallies longer and the margin for error smaller. Watanabe continued to move the Indian across the court, but Lakshya's defence was beginning to frustrate him. The blocks, flicks and retrievals that had been missing at various points in the season were now arriving with startling precision.

Then came a point that seemed to capture the entire turnaround. At 10-7, Watanabe pushed Lakshya deep into the backhand corner. The Indian was forced to retrieve the shuttle from an awkward position, with his back turned towards the net and very little time to recover. Somehow, he reached it, stretched out and sent the shuttle back across the court. It appeared to be drifting wide. Instead, it curved in and landed inside the line, giving Lakshya an 11-7 lead at the interval.

Watanabe dropped to his knees. From there, Lakshya took charge. He extended his lead with steep smashes and attacking returns, moving to 16-7 as the Japanese struggled to find answers. The Indian eventually sealed the match 13-21, 21-18, 21-14 in 64 minutes, becoming the first Indian to win the Kumamoto Masters Japan title.

"Just keeping my confidence up, even though it has been tough matches," he told the BWF after the final. "I started with a game down in many matches, but yeah, it was really good of me that I still kept believing in myself and just kept on playing and fighting," he added.

Lakshya's roar of celebration carried the release of a season's worth of frustration with the clenched fist serving as a fitting expression of triumph. One desperate retrieval became another attacking opportunity; one title paved the way for another, and a season that had threatened to fade into disappointment found its second wind.

Taking charge

A rally, after all, is not decided by the first attack or the first mistake. It is decided by the player who finds a way to stay in it, adjust and strike when the opening finally arrives. Lakshya has spent much of 2026 fighting to keep his season alive. In November, he did far more than that. He has taken control of the rally again. Before the Japan Masters, Lakshya was 12th in the Race to Finals with 64,980 points. The Super 500 title added 9,200 points, taking his projected tally to 74,180 and lifting him to sixth in the standings when the updated list is released. The top eight qualify for the BWF World Tour Finals, scheduled in Hangzhou from December 9 to 13. The Hong Kong Open, beginning on Tuesday, is the final qualifying event, giving Lakshya one more opportunity to consolidate his place.

When orbit processing makes sense – and when it doesn't

To bridge the gap between data being recorded by satellites and data being available to users on the ground, operators are pursuing a solution called in-orbit computing: the basic idea is to analyse some data onboard the satellite and only send back the most relevant information

Ronak Kumar Samantray



At present, creating and launching satellites requires specialised knowledge and resources, not to mention a hefty price tag; this limits who can experiment with and benefit from technology in space; image for representation. GETTY IMAGES

Satellites observe floods by capturing images of inundated areas such as submerged roads, damaged infrastructure, and settlements in the path of flood waters. This data helps response teams make critical decisions but only if the data reaches them in time. To be useful in emergencies, data must get to users quickly.

Today's satellites monitor everything from weather to agriculture to our oceans. As satellite technology improves, so does the quality of the data they provide, giving us more and better information about our planet and its inhabitants. However, there is a gap between data being recorded and data being available to users on the ground. It has to be sent to the earth, downloaded at ground stations during satellite pass windows, then analysed in time for it to be put to use.

To speed up this process, one solution operators are pursuing is to process data in space, before it is beamed to the earth.

This concept is called computing in orbit. The basic idea is to analyse some data onboard the satellite and only send back the most relevant information.

Satellites working together

Imagine a satellite tasked with monitoring floods. Instead of sending every image back to the earth for analysis, an artificial intelligence (AI) model could screen for images with too much cloud cover and only analyse images where the extent of flood waters seems to change, while prioritising images of areas most affected by floods – and finally transmit just that data down.

Similarly, consider maritime monitoring, where ships are identified in certain areas, or precision farming, where crop health is monitored. Computing in orbit can help analyse satellite images in these use cases too, depending on image quality, the AI models onboard, and the satellites' communication capabilities.

The European Space Agency's Phi-Sat-1 recently showed how AI can be used to select earth observation images for further analysis on the ground. As computing and storage capabilities improve, more and better analysis can be done onboard satellites. Satellites could even talk to each other using optical inter-satellite links and pass on data or even computing tasks to each other.

Eventually, this could lead to multiple satellites working together as a system, sharing data and computing resources, and forming distributed computing systems in orbit. However, such computing will not replace data centres on the earth: they will continue to be needed to train AI models, store large quantities of data, and run other applications. Where data is created in space and needs to be analysed quickly or reduced in size before being sent back to the earth, however, computing in orbit could make more sense.

Computing resources as a service

At present, creating and launching satellites requires specialised knowledge and resources across engineering, design, testing, and regulatory clearances – not to mention a hefty price tag. This limits who can experiment with and benefit from technology in space. In future, however, just as computing resources are available on-demand as a service on the ground, they could be made available onboard satellites. Researchers, developers, and businesses could use onboard computing resources to run applications without having to design, build, and launch their own satellites.

Picture a researcher who has developed an AI model that they want to test on satellite images. Instead of launching their own satellite, they could simulate the performance of their model on similar datasets available on the ground, request processing time onboard an already operational satellite, and analyse the results when the data is sent back down. Universities, start-ups, and other businesses working with data from space could also benefit from such a model.

Of course, this would only work if the computing resources in space are reliable, have standardised software interfaces, are secure, available in sufficient quantities, and offered at reasonable prices.

Computing in orbit is different

Most satellites generate electric energy using solar panels and store it in batteries for use when they are not sunlit. All systems onboard, including communications, navigation, data storage and computing, have to share this limited resource. And more powerful computers would mean more demand for energy.

Satellites generate crucial flood-monitoring data, but delays in transmitting and processing it can limit its usefulness during emergencies

Unlike on the earth's surface, there is no air in space to help cool electronics. The heat generated has to be conducted to other parts of the satellite and radiated into space. And engineers have to design every component keeping this in mind. Electronics in space are also subjected to radiation and temperature extremes and need to be able to withstand these conditions.

These realities affect the kinds of processors, power electronics, and other components used in satellites as well as their design and the software that runs on them. While off-the-shelf components offer attractive price and performance propositions, they need to be qualified for space or adequately protected from its harshness before being used onboard.

Also unlike on the earth, where engineers can easily replace failed components, satellites need to be designed with redundancy and error detection and recovery capabilities in mind.

Finally, whether or not computing in orbit makes sense also depends on economics. The cost of building satellites and launching them into space, generating enough solar power, the limitations of in-orbit servicing, and their expected lifetime all matter. In other words, if computing in orbit is to be adopted widely, there must be sufficiently compelling advantages, such as reduced data transmission and lower data latency, to justify the additional expenses.

Shot at stardom

India has built a strong base in satellite technology, launch vehicles, and space applications. With the Indian Space Policy 2023 and the creation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to facilitate private sector participation in space technology development, companies in India have an opportunity to explore computing-in-orbit and contribute to developing this frontier.

Building these capabilities locally can help strengthen supply chains, reduce dependence on imported components where viable, and create opportunities for companies to participate in the global space infrastructure market. Progress will depend on continued investments in research, testing infrastructure, flight demonstrations, and collaboration between government agencies, private companies, academic institutions, and end users.

Overall, the technology's success should be determined by how reliably and economically computing it can solve problems that existing infrastructure cannot address as effectively. Satellites have already changed how we observe the earth. The next phase will be shaped by how effectively we can process those observations and turn them into information people can act on.

(Ronak Kumar Samantray is founder and CEO, TakeMe2Space.)



Edits, the company's video editor, has reached desktop with a macOS release, and Instagram claims over 50 million people have used the mobile app in just over a year JOHN XAVIER

Is Instagram's Edits app safe for your data?

John Xavier

Meta's Instagram has a habit of taking over product categories one feature at a time. First, it came for photo filters, then Stories, then short video. Now, Edits, the company's video editor, has reached desktop with a macOS release, and Instagram claims over 50 million people have used the mobile app in just over a year.

Edits on mac comes with several features, including multi-track timeline, keyframes, colour wheels, curves, log conversion, and imports for custom LUTs and fonts. It also allows users to remap keyboard shortcuts, including ones carried over from other editors. Exports of up to 4K allowed with no watermark, in horizontal and vertical formats. Captions are unlimited and support multiple languages. There's even MCP support, so AI agents can plug into your projects. But all this comes at a cost.

Before you cut a single clip in Edits, you have to hand something over. The new macOS editor won't open without an Instagram account, and the desktop app has to be linked to it.

You must also let Edits access your information in both Edits and Instagram so Meta can personalise ads for you. You must agree to Instagram's terms of use and acknowledge Meta's privacy policy, which has drawn criticism for letting data move between Meta's family of apps. And, if you want the AI features, you must accept Meta's AI terms too. Decline any of it and you can't log in.

Privacy tax

That is a lot of consenting for a video editor, and it sets the tone for everything else about this launch.

Compare the rest of the market, where the privacy bargain is less pushy.

DaVinci Resolve is the benchmark for free but serious editing, and it mostly minds its own business. Your file sits on your machine, and you can colour grade as you wish. The learning curve is steep, of course, but nobody asks you to consent to ad personalisation first. AI features in Resolve are behind a paywall.

Final Cut Pro is a Mac native video editor that works much the same way. You only have to pay once and then start editing locally, and the only account you need is the Apple one you bought it with.

Premiere Pro asks you to sign in with an Adobe credential and nudges you toward its cloud, but you're paying a subscription, not being the product, and Adobe has said it doesn't train its generative models on customer content.

CapCut, the closest rival to Instagram's Edits, is the one that deserves scrutiny as it wants an account and has ByteDance parentage – meaning its data practices are questionable.

Edits is closest to CapCut in spirit and reaches higher on the technical side. A creator who has outgrown phone editing but doesn't want to learn Resolve or pay for Adobe is the obvious target. That creator should read the policies before consenting.

Instagram's edge is distribution, and it is also the reason for the data practices. Edits publishes straight to Instagram with tagging, location and trial reels built in, and it syncs your saved audio and text styles from mobile.

The licensed music library gives "rights cleared" audio inside the editor, tied to the platform where the video will live, which is something Resolve and Premiere can't offer. That means a content creator will have a more streamlined workflow with Edits. But that's a convenience that comes on being logged in to Meta – a convenience on Meta's terms.

As consent isn't optional, and ad personalisation, cross-app data policy and AI terms come as a package. Anyone working with a confidential or unreleased material should think hard before using Edits.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

On October 15, international timekeepers voted to abolish leap seconds from May 20, 2027. A quiz on the measure.

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

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

A _____ ____ _____ is what happens when timekeepers remove one second from Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) to keep it aligned with the earth's rotation. So clocks would skip from 23:59:58 directly to 00:00:00. Timekeepers have never had to do this, however. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

Using hundreds of _____ _____ around the world, scientists calculate a continuous timescale that measures time independently of the earth's rotation and also does not use leap seconds. As a result, this timescale currently runs 37 seconds ahead of UTC, which does incorporate leap seconds. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

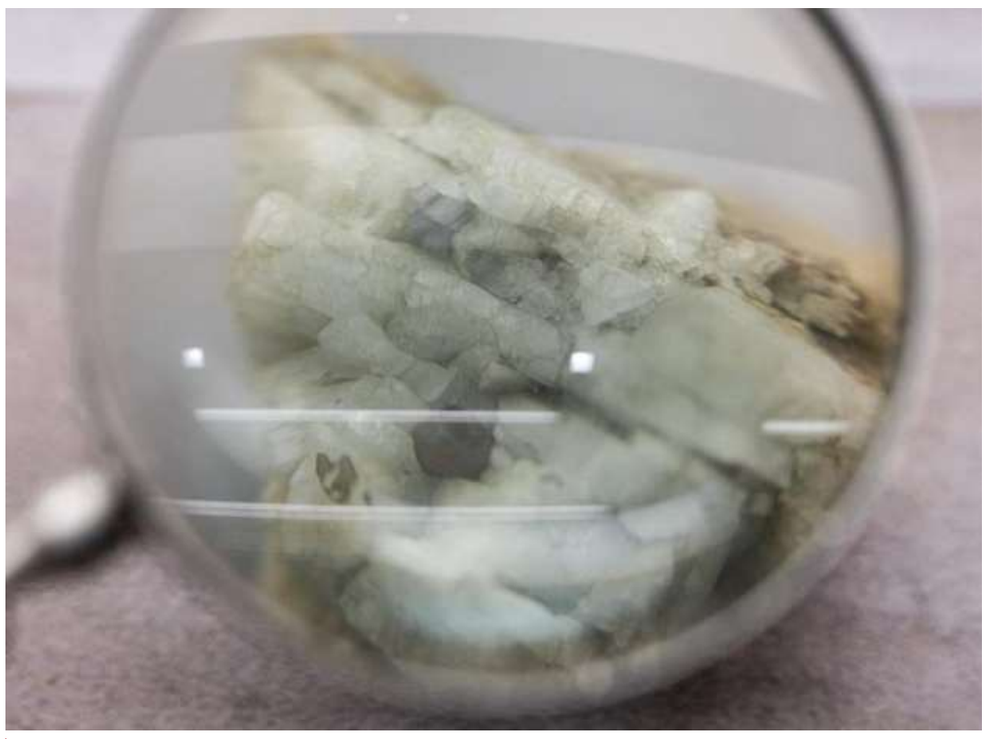
Leap seconds were created to explain the difference between UTC and X, which is a measure of time based on the earth's rotation but relative to the positions of distant celestial objects, such as the quasars 3C 273 and 3C 279. Leap seconds have historically kept UTC within 0.9 seconds of X. Name X.

QUESTION 4

Timekeeping on the earth is also affected by the moon. For example, the gradual slowing of the earth's rotation by the moon's gravitational pull is called Y. This is because the Moon raises tides in the earth's oceans and friction dissipates some of the rotational energy as heat. The interaction also transfers angular momentum to the moon's orbit, pushing it farther away. Name Y.

QUESTION 5

From May 20, 2027, international timekeeping rules will allow UTC to diverge from the time kept by the earth's rotation by up to what duration? As a result the first adjustment is unlikely to happen for millennia.



Visual: Name the element derived from this mineral. India has the world's largest deposits of this element, especially in the form of this mineral. And one of this element's isotopes is the basis of a new, extremely precise timekeeping device called a nuclear clock. REUTERS

Answers to November 10 quiz:

1. Prizes set up in 1991 that make people laugh, then think – **Ans: IgNobel Prizes**
2. U.S. government research feted by prizes named for Brothers Grimm fairy tale – **Ans: Golden Goose**
3. Competition where PhD students have to explain their theses with dance – **Ans: Dance Your PhD**
4. Satirical Australian prize for outrageous pseudoscientific claims – **Ans: Bent Spoon**
5. Magician who created Pigasus Award for paranormal phenomena – **Ans: James Randi**

Visual: **Alan Alda**

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For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'