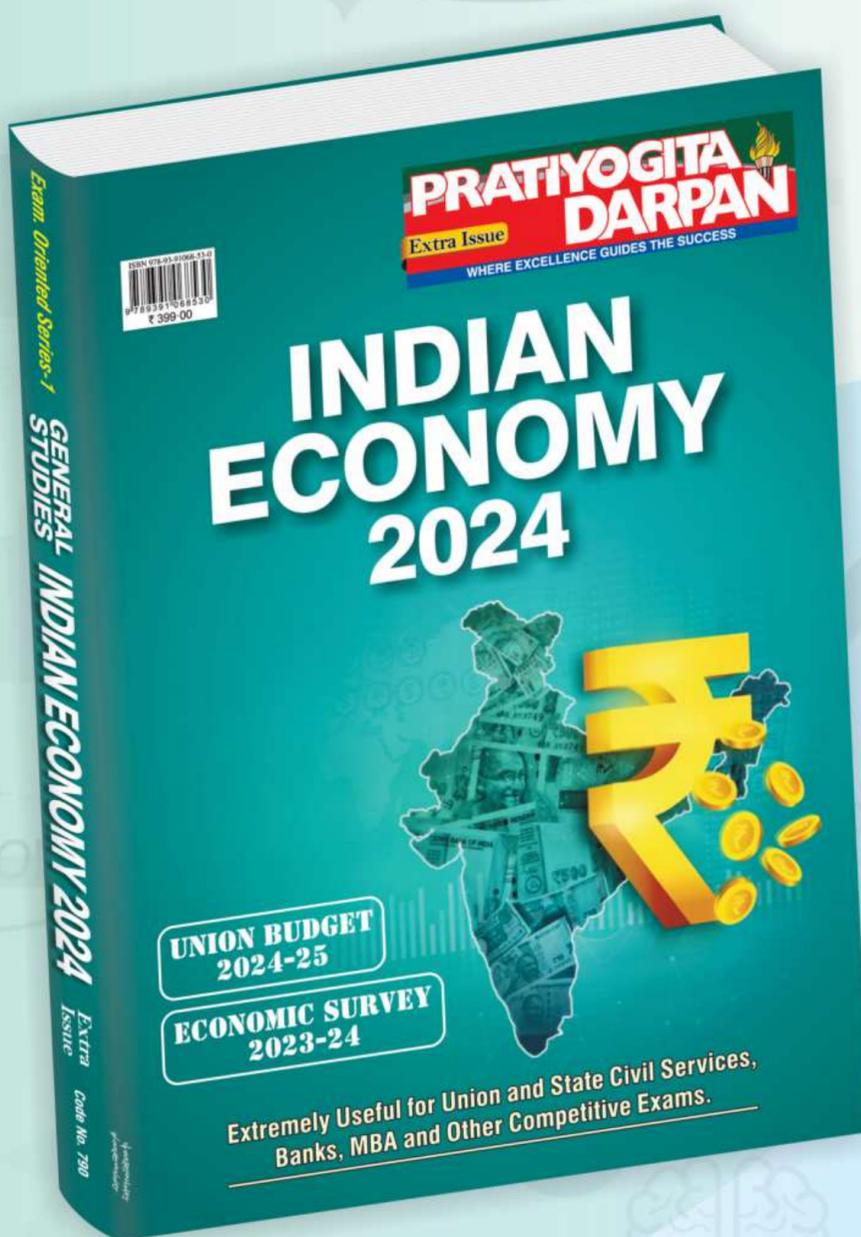


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WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

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TAMIL

TAMIL

SC (AD) 25yrs Masters in Audiology, Well educated family. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9962791888/7094991999

HINDU NADAR 29/166cm Monthly income 2 Lacs Working in Bangalore seeks Groom Ct:9300791999/9841329471

VANNIYAR, BDS, 31, Revathi, Employed, Middle class family, Groomed from same community needed. 9840961251

Tamil Hindu Nadar 34/158, Pooradam Dhanasu, IAS- Maharashtra, Divorcee, no issue preferred Hindu Groom, Caste No Bar. Ct: 9445282905/9445704985

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RICH MUDALIYAR 24yrs B.Tech Own Schools & Colleges in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999/9710091999

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HINDU NADAR 23/171cm, BE (Pune), Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 9300791999/9841329471

HINDU SC AD 28yrs MBA Chennai Bride seeks same community Chennai qualified employed groom below 34yrs. Caste No Bar. 7338901952 Whatsapp

SC AD 44 years B. Tech MBA Divorcee (No issues) belonging to a decent family seeks suitable bride-groom. Contact 9791136704

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HINDU NADAR, 31, Barani, MBBS, MD working in London seeks Doctor / Engineer Nadar Groom working in England. Brokers Excuse. Ct: 9444556000

SC AD / 24 / Star Rohini /MBA (Vandavasi) / Pvt Job Chennai/ expecting Suitable Bridegroom. Ct: 9444573205

HINDU NADAR 1989/160cm Ashwini Central Govt job Bangalore 80K pm seeks suitable groom Ct:9489972544

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HINDU SC AD DOB 14.03.1993 BE Working at MNC Chennai Rs. 12 Lacs PA. Contact: 9677147247

HINDU NADAR 32yrs/164cm, B.Tech star-Revathy work-IT seeks IT/ other profile groom 9944410712/9514952555

HINDU, NADAR, 25yrs MBA, Own Business, Income 50 lakhs, Rich and affluent family. Ph. 8138900523

HINDU, VEERA SAIVAM, 34yrs, Software Professional in Coimbatore. Income 50 lakhs. Ph. 8138900537

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Balija Naidu, 41yrs/151cm, Magam, B.Sc Fashion Design, 6LPA, unmarried Free lancer Job, Diabetic, seeks well employed kind hearted Groom, CNB, serious proposer wts up. 94443 19133

SC, Christian 1989 / 162, M.Sc, B.Ed Pvt Teacher, Divorcee, No kids seeks Telugu / Tamil / NRI Groom, Dont expect Dowry / Assets. No brokers. Wapp - 9642775849

URDU SUNNI Muslim family 26/158 fair girl seeks alliance from Chennai or Abroad preferably Doctor or Engineer Ct: 8667755403

URDU MUSLIM 29/150cm girl, B.Tech, MSc(Japan), in Coimbatore, from affluent educated family. Seeking well settled groom from India/abroad. Ph: 9789622873

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DOUBLE ROLE
Kerala's everyday heritage heroes
Citizens pitch in to protect State's diverse legacy, facing threat from modernisation, natural disasters
MAGAZINE » PAGE 1

Govt. plans to 'purify' Tirumala temple: Naidu
STATES » PAGE 3

Misquoted, says Justice V. Srishananda
STATES » PAGE 3

Why did Hezbollah come under attack?
FAQ » PAGE 11

IN BRIEF



JMM, Cong., RJD speed breakers in Jharkhand

PATNA
Senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday targeted the JMM, Congress, and RJD, terming them "three speed breakers" hindering Jharkhand's progress. » Page 4

Rahul defends remarks: 'BJP spreading lies'

NEW DELHI
Breaking his silence on the row over his statements in the U.S., Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday accused the BJP of spreading lies and trying to silence him from speaking the truth. » Page 6

MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Presidential poll passes off peacefully in Sri Lanka

Result likely to be out today; President Wickremesinghe is fighting for a fresh mandate in the first election being held after a people's uprising unseated Gotabaya; rival candidates promise change

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lankans gave their mandate to the country's next leader in a peacefully held Presidential election on Saturday. The outcome of the critical election, expected on Sunday, is watched closely as the island nation navigates a challenging phase of economic recovery, following a crushing crisis two years ago.

While an announcement of the official voter turnout is awaited, the People's Action for Free and Fair Elections, a local election observer group, said it was likely to be in the range of 75% to 80%. The last Presidential election in 2019 saw a record voter turnout of 83.72%.

The election assumes significance for it is the first



Battle of ballots: Election officials taking ballot boxes to a counting centre in Jaffna on Saturday. REUTERS

time citizens had a say in determining the country's leadership after a historic people's uprising in 2022 forced former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and quit office, at the height of the crippling meltdown.

Departing from the past Presidential polls that had two main candidates, this

election was marked by a three-way contest. Senior politician and incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who replaced Mr. Gotabaya through a parliamentary vote in 2022, sought a mandate to continue his project of reviving the country's battered economy. His main rivals from the Opposition,

Sajith Premadasa and Anura Kumara Disanayake, ran on a plank of "change", offering relief from the burden of the government's ongoing IMF-led reform programme.

'End corruption'
Sarojini Kadigamar, 97, turned up early on Saturday at the College House, a more-than-a-century-old building of the University of Colombo.

"Today will be the last time I am called upon to do my civic duty. I am voting for an honest President who will end corruption, because all the mantras that put our economy [on the] right [track] will count for nothing if we are not honest and corruption-free," she said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Modi meets Biden prior to Quad summit

Sriram Lakshman
WILMINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met U.S. President Joe Biden for bilateral talks at the President's house in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday.

The meeting took place shortly after the Prime Minister arrived in the city for a summit-level meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) with Mr. Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. "The United States' partnership with India is stronger, closer, and more dynamic than any time in history," tweeted Mr. Biden, who is in the final months of his presidency. Mr. Biden added that he was "struck" by Mr. Modi's ability to find new areas of cooperation.

The White House media pool and Indian travelling press did not have access to the bilateral talks, which the White House described



Narendra Modi with Joe Biden at the latter's residence in Wilmington on Saturday. PTI

as a "personal meeting". External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and India's Ambassador to the U.S. Vinay Mohan Kwatra were present at the meeting from the Indian side.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti were present from the U.S. side.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Atishi takes oath as new CM of Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Atishi on Saturday took oath as the eighth Chief Minister of Delhi after party chief Arvind Kejriwal resigned from the post on September 17. The third woman to hold the post, she is likely to have a four-month term as CM with the Delhi Assembly election scheduled for February next year.

Lieutenant-Governor V. K. Saxena administered the oath of office and secrecy to Ms. Atishi at Raj Niwas and also swore in her new Council of Ministers besides approving the distribution of portfolios.

"My job is to ensure that those people of Delhi who have been troubled due to the conspiracies of the BJP get the facilities promised to them," Ms. Atishi said after taking oath, appealing to Delhiites to elect Mr. Kejriwal as CM again.

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DUSU polls: student outfits promise visit to Ayodhya, scholarships

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The three major players in Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections – Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-linked Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Congress-backed National Students' Union of India (NSUI), and the Left panel comprising All India Students' Union (AISU) and Students' Federation of India (SFI) – released their manifestos on Saturday for the September 27 polls.

While the ABVP has promised the students a free trip to Ram Mandir in Ayodhya to “help them connect with their culture”, the NSUI has assured scholarships to those from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. The Left panel has talked about placing elected representatives in the internal complaints committees (ICCs) of the various colleges.

All three manifestos address issues such as fee



NSUI nominees with their manifesto. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

hikes, limited hostel infrastructure, and Delhi Metro concessional passes for students. The student outfits also released separate manifestos for women students.

The ABVP, which dominates the student body with three members, promised new women's hostels, internship programmes, and special buses for students in its 11-point manifesto.

The NSUI, which holds one central panel post, promised menstrual leaves up to 12 days per semester, reversing fee hikes, preventing paper leaks, and ensuring functional ICCs.

Atishi takes oath as CM, says she'll work to ensure Kejriwal is back at helm

Atishi takes over when AAP gov't is eager to get a nod on several schemes, such as ₹1,000 monthly stipend for women, ahead of Assembly poll; don't expect miracles from her, say BJP, Cong. leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In her first address to the media after taking charge as the eighth Chief Minister of Delhi, Atishi said her objective during her four-month tenure would be to ensure that former CM Arvind Kejriwal comes to power again.

“In these four months, under the guidance of Arvind Kejriwal, all the work of Delhiites that was stopped by the BJP will be resumed. Arvind Kejriwal is now out of jail and will not let any conspiracy of the BJP succeed,” said the CM.

Senior AAP leaders Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Kailash Gahlot, and Imran Hussain, who were part of the former CM's Council of Ministers, have been retained in the new Cabinet as well, with the addition of first-time MLA Mukesh Ahlawat. Mr. Bharadwaj has been given charge of two additional portfolios – Cooperative and Social Welfare – in addition to the six departments he led under Mr. Kejriwal.

With Cabinet meetings not being held and several projects remaining pending since the arrest of the former CM in June, Ms. At-

In the saddle

Some of the key portfolios assigned to the six Cabinet Ministers

Name	Department
Atishi	■ Finance ■ Revenue ■ Education ■ Services ■ Vigilance ■ Power ■ Water ■ Law
Saurabh Bharadwaj	■ Health ■ Urban Development ■ Social Welfare ■ Industries ■ Tourism
Gopal Rai	■ General Administration ■ Environment, Forest and Wildlife ■ Development
Kailash Gahlot	■ Transport ■ Home ■ Information Technology
Imran Hussain	■ Food and Civil Supplies ■ Election
Mukesh Ahlawat	■ SC/ST Welfare ■ Labour ■ Employment



Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena with Chief Minister Atishi and former CM Arvind Kejriwal at Raj Niwas on Saturday. ANI

SOURCE: CM OFFICE

ishi has her task cut out.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government is keen to get a clearance on the ‘Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana’, under which ₹1,000 will be deposited every month in the bank accounts of women over 18, as well as schemes such as the Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0 and the door-

step delivery of services, ahead of next year's Assembly election.

Ms. Atishi will also have to conduct the meetings of the National Capital Civil Service Authority for the transfers and postings of bureaucrats in the Delhi government.

Speaking to journalists after the oath-taking cere-

mony, senior AAP leader and Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, “The objective in front of all of us now is to take forward the work that was started in Delhi under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal to new heights by the time of the upcoming election.” He added that the Cabinet “will work as a team to control pollution during the winter”.

'No expectations'

While extending his wishes to the new Chief Minister, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said Ms. Atishi was an “unsuccessful Minister”, and the city residents have “no expectations from her government”.

“With Atishi becoming the Chief Minister, only the face of the government has changed, not its character. Issues like corruption irresponsibility, and chaos will persist,” he said.

Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said, “Atishi, as a Minister with 13 portfolios, failed to address Delhi's problems over the past one and a half years.” He added that any hope AAP may have of the new Chief Minister “performing miracles” over the next few months would only be “wishful thinking”.

BJP Janata Darbar to be held every Saturday; Kejriwal's Adalat today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP will hold a *Janata Darbar* for two hours every Saturday from September 28, party's Delhi unit chief Virendra Sachdeva said.

The announcement came a day after the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) announced a *Janata ki Adalat* by its national convenor and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at Jantar Mantar on Sunday.

Following his public event on Sunday, Mr. Kejriwal will lead the party's door-to-door drives for the Delhi Assembly poll scheduled for February next year.

Mr. Sachdeva said a BJP Lok Sabha MP, along with

other party office-bearers, will listen to people's grievances during the weekly event from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

“People at receiving end” “It is a part of the BJP's working style as serving the public is our priority,” he added.

Union Minister and East Delhi Lok Sabha member Harsh Malhotra alleged that for the past 10 years, the city residents have been suffering under the AAP government as their basic needs have not been fulfilled.

He said the party will try to resolve people's issues pertaining to the civic body or any Delhi government department through its “public hearings”.

63-yr-old man killed after being hit by luxury car

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 63-year-old man was killed and four others injured after a luxury car hit an autorickshaw on central Delhi's Tilak Marg, the police said on Saturday.

The incident, which took place on September 12, came to light after the autorickshaw driver, who escaped the accident unscathed, reported it to the police. “On September 12 around 5 a.m., Sachidanan-

da, his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren were going to their home in the autorickshaw from New Delhi railway station when a luxury car jumped a traffic light and hit their vehicle,” an officer said, adding that Sachidananda succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on Friday.

The officer said the driver of the car that bore a Himachal Pradesh registration numberplate has been identified and will soon be arrested.

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
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Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow invites eligible Indian citizens from all categories for appointment on contractual basis to the faculty posts of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors in various Broad and Super Speciality departments. For detailed information, application form, **Schedule of the Walk-in Interviews**, and subsequent updates, kindly visit the Institute website-www.drmlims.ac.in. Director

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Rec.No.P&M/Disposal of Sunflower/2023-24 Dated: 21.09.2024

TENDER FOR SALE OF SUN FLOWER PROCURED BY TG MARKFED DURING YASANGI 2023-24
Tender notification for Godown wise online e-Auction on disposal of Sunflower yasangi 2023-24 procured by TG MARKFED for the quantity of 5136.942 MTs without base price. Online e-auction starts on date 03.10.2024, from 11:00AM to 03:00PM through e-procurement.telangana.gov.in or <https://auction.telangana.gov.in/> i.e. Telangana e-procurement portal (Applications in e-procurement portal will be available from 23.09.2024 AN). EMD submission end date 30.09.2024 For online registration and further technical support please contact Service providers Ph: 7337445546, 7337445545 & 63099339690, 9912756216.

For further details please contact. Ph: 7288879806, and 7288879829. Sd/-
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India's National Newspaper

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Eastern Railway, Lucknow invites E-Auction for following work.
Admin Unit/Zone: Lucknow-NER-Division-Commercial/North Eastern Railway, Auction catalogue No./Lot No.: L/N-MA-EXT-03, Catalogue Published on: 17-09-2024 at 16:24 Hrs. Auction Start (All Lots): 07-10-2024 at 13:00 Hrs., Auction Close Date/Time: 07-10-2024 at 16:00 Hrs., Auction Type: Close Ended, Website particulars where complete details of auction can be seen by registered bidders: E-Auction Module of www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, CPRO/Vanija-140 Lucknow
Do not smoke Bid/Cigarette in train.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH
K.CHANDRASEKARAN (65), Retired Regional General Manager, The Hindu, Trichy. Passed away on 21.09.2024. Address: Bhuvanewari Abodes, Plot No 74, G1, Bhuvanewari Nagar 2nd Main Road, Madambakkam, Chennai-600126. Contact No. 9566499050

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER:PWD:BUILDING:ASSAM, CHANDMARI:GUWAHATI-3.

No. 530927/8

PRESS NOTICE

The Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Building (Health & Education), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati – 3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites bids in electronic tendering system (e-tenders) through Engineering, Procurement and Construction, (EPC-I) mode of contract (Single stage two-part bidding system) from eligible contractors registered with Assam Public Works Department (Building & NH) or Contractors registered with other State/ Central Government Departments, Institutions, Undertaking and Authorities having experience in similar nature of work, for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	Completion period (Months)	Bid Security	Cost of Bid (in Rs.)
1	Construction of Adarsha Vidyalaya at Demow, Sivasagar, Assam	659.40572	12	2% of Bid value for General category and 1% of Bid Value for reserved Category	13,200.00
2	Construction of Adarsha Vidyalaya at Mahmora in Charaideo District, Assam	662.69548	12	-Do-	13,300.00
3	Construction of G+1 RCC School Building at Pub-Guwahati Sri Aurobindo Adarsha Vidyalaya, Guwahati.	659.72467	12	-Do-	13,200.00
4	Construction of Adarsha Vidyalaya at Tokradia, Hajo in Kamrup District, Assam	653.92704	12	-Do-	13,100.00
5	Construction of Adarsha Vidyalaya at Kamalpur, Kamrup, Assam	654.0155	12	-Do-	13,100.00

The Bid price may vary at the time of detail tendering for which no claim will be admissible.
All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be part of the Bidding Documents
The Works will be allotted only after receiving Government approval.
Details of the bid may be seen at website i.e. <https://www.assamtenders.gov.in>.

Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), Assam, Health & Education Chandmari, Guwahati - 3
Janasanyog /C/3172/ 24/21-Sep-24

Office of Executive Engineer Mandi Division No.II HPPWD Mandi
Phone & Fax No.01905-222051 Email: ee-mandiv2-hp@nic.in, ee.mandiv2@gmail.com.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
The Executive Engineer Mandi Division No. II HPPWD Mandi H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on percentage rate in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD department.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of tender	Eligible class of contractor	Time limit
1.	A/R and M/O Nerchowk Pandoh bypass road (Section of NH-21) km 198/145 to 203/500. (SH-Patch work in km 198/145 to 203/500)	Rs. 6,17,174/-	Rs. 12,400/-	350	"A to D"	One Month

Starting date for downloading bid: - 21.09.2024. Deadline for Submission of bid: 01.10.2024 11.00 AM. Date of opening of bid: - 01.10.2024 at 11.30 AM
1. The rates beyond the limit of over + 5%, will be rejected and the rates quoted below 10 %, the Additional Performance security will have to be borne for unbalanced bid. The rates below - 30% are also acceptable.
2. Only scanned copy of original documents as uploaded on the tender website are required for technical & financial evaluation. The original documents shall be required only from the successful bidder before issue of letter of award.
3. The participants should have the work done of similar nature.
4. The interested bidders must have hot mix plant in his/her possessions and material from HMP shall be allowed only.
5. The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.
Executive Engineer,
Mandi Division No.II, HPPWD Mandi
HP / 2244/24-25

CENTRAL RAILWAY
Materials Management Department
E-PROCUREMENT ADVT. TENDER NOTICE NO. E-38/2024, DT. 19-09-2024

Sr	Tender No	Item Description	Quantity	Tender Opening date
1	38243318	Primary Spring (Outer) for Generator Car	915 Nos	08-10-24
2	60243100	Clean silica sand, free from clay, loams	7675 MT	12-10-24
3	41241486	Polyimide covered copper conductor	9591 Kgs	14-10-24
4	80242244A	Gadus S5	8075 Kgs	14-10-24
5	38241197	Non-asbestos K-Type composition brake block	56260 Nos	14-10-24
6	41241016A	Carbon brush for Hitachi	26868 Nos	15-10-24
7	38243235	Uncoupling Gear arrangement of wagons bearing piece assembly,	13889 Nos	16-10-24
8	38243037	Silent block for anchor link (type-A)	10280 Nos	18-10-24
9	71245060B	CNC Gantry Beam Drilling & Milling Machine.	01 No	21-10-24
10	38242235	High capacity Thermoplastic Polyester Elastomer Lower Washer	15469 Nos	21-10-24
11	42240021	Set of Magnet Valve	522 Set	21-10-24
12	43241129A	110V/120AH Capacity valve regulated lead acid battery	1087 Set	04-11-24

Detail notice & Tender Conditions can be seen and downloaded from the website www.ireps.gov.in.
Principal Chief Materials Manager, CSMT
Download UTS App for Tickets

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 03 Dated: 21.09.2024

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services/ Equipments:

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipments	Tender Value crores (Approx)	Last date for submission of documents at 5:00 pm
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0123	Procurement of Fire Extinguishers.	1.90	21/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0124	Procurement of Automotive Batteries.	2.00	21/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0125	Procurement of ERW GI Square tubes & CR MS Round Tubes.	2.50	21/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0126	Procurement of Air suspension parts for premium buses.	1.50	21/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0127	Procurement of Window Flock Channel With Rubber.	0.50	05/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0128	Procurement of NRC Engine Spares.	3.00	21/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0129	Procurement of Eco-friendly Industrial Degreaser for Engine Block Head.	0.28	05/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0130	Procurement of Spring Leaves.	10.50	21/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0131	Procurement of Heavy Duty Sewing Machines.	0.06	05/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0132	Procurement of Desktop Computers & Printers with 5years Comprehensive on site warranty**	0.30	05/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0133	Procurement of Office Furnitures.	0.49	05/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0134	Procurement of Aluminum Extrusions.	3.64	21/10/2024

SHORT TERM TENDER

KSRTC/2024-25/SE1248	Engaging an agency for providing Driver Services on contract basis to various divisions of KSRTC.	42.92	30/09/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/SE1251	Engaging an agency for providing Technical Assistant to various Divisions of KSRTC.	13.00	03/10/2024

** Only Pre-qualified vendors as per GOK order No DPAR/113/ EGM/2020 Dated:9/10/2023 are eligible to participate. Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope of work other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.
NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> in case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-22230960, 080-22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224)
Sd/-
CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/JA/2120/2024-25

Action against judge over courtroom conduct

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday withdrew judicial work from a district judge in Dwarka after a video of him shouting inside a courtroom started doing rounds on social media.

According to sources, earlier too, several complaints regarding the judge's conduct had been received by the authorities concerned.

Timings

DELHI

SUNDAY, SEP. 22		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:18
RISE	21:16	SET 10:43
MONDAY, SEP. 23		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:16
RISE	22:07	SET 11:52
TUESDAY, SEP. 24		
RISE	06:11	SET 18:15
RISE	23:04	SET 12:57

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	36	25
Safdarjang	36	25
Palam	33	26

Delhi Palam Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C The weather will be very warm and uneasy during the day. Morning and night will be comfortable. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU

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Naidu says A.P. govt. plans to 'purify' Tirumala temple

CM says TTD management was asked to cut cost during YSRCP regime which led to adulteration of ghee; says State will test quality of *prasadam* in all temples; A.P. Congress seeks CBI probe

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday suggested that the instructions given to the management of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to cut costs led to the adulteration of ghee used in the preparation of the laddu *prasadam* during the previous YSRCP rule. He insisted that his predecessor Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy should give an explanation for what had happened instead of attacking the present government with fall pretences.

"We are discussing with religious heads on how to purify the temple, and will have the quality of the *prasadam* tested in all temples in the State," he said adding that attempts to make



Business as usual: Devotees buying laddu at Sri Venkateswara Swamy TTD temple in Vijayawada on Saturday. G.N. RAO

laddus matching the quality of the ones prepared for TTD, at the Ayodhya temple had failed.

In a brief conversation with mediapersons, Mr. Naidu said Mr. Jagan and other YSRCP leaders were taken aback by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) report on the ghee samples, and questioned how the pricey

commodity could be obtained at just ₹320 a kg and what prompted the then government to go for reverse tendering.

"Soon after taking the reins earlier this year, I instructed the TTD's new Executive Officer (EO) to streamline the Tirumala temple administration and he (the EO) took various steps, including those for

improvement of the quality of the *Laddu Prasadam*, blacklisted several companies supplying ghee and other ingredients of sub-standard quality, and resumed purchasing Nandini ghee, a product of Mandya District Cooperative Milk Producers Society's Union Limited," Mr. Naidu stated.

He sought to know how Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy could endorse Rajya Sabha member and TTD former chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy's claim that the ghee was not adulterated, and to what extent the traditions were followed at the Tirumala temple when the YSRCP was in power.

State Congress chief Y.S. Sharmila urged Governor S. Abdul Nazeer to seek a report from the government on the adulteration, and recommend a CBI probe.

Sale of laddus not impacted at TTD-run temples in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Sale of Tirumala laddus at the temples being run by the TTD across Andhra Pradesh continued as usual on Saturday, amid the controversy over the quality of ghee used in the preparation of the *prasadam* at the shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala.

The Tirumala laddus landed in controversy after an NDDB lab report suggested the presence of 'foreign fat' in the ghee used in preparation of it at the Tirumala temple.

"The TTD has announced that the laddus will be sold daily at the temples run by it. But, the *prasadam* is available once or twice a week. We eagerly wait for Saturdays when the laddus are available," said V. Seshagiri after purchasing it from the counter at the Venkateswara Swamy temple in Vijayawada.

Tension in Dharavi over demolition bid

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A move by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to demolish an alleged illegal portion of a mosque in Dharavi, sparked tension and led to protests by residents.

On Friday night representatives of the Masjid Mehboob-e-Subhani put

out a notice saying the BMC was coming with full police protection on Saturday to demolish a part of the mosque which is on 90 Feet Road in Dharavi. Hundreds of residents gathered in the morning to oppose the move. Later, after a meeting with BMC officials the mosque trustees said they would themselves remove the encroachments.

Observations quoted out of context on social media, says Karnataka HC judge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Making it clear that his certain "observations made during judicial proceedings were reported out-of-context on social media platforms and his remarks were unintentional and not to hurt any individual or any section of the society", Justice V. Srishananda of the High Court of Karnataka on Saturday expressed his "sincere regrets if his obser-

ations had hurt any individual and any section or community of the society".

He read out a statement in the open court on Saturday afternoon in the presence of some of the office-bearers of the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru (AAB), several lawyers, and others present in the court hall, before commencement of regular judicial proceedings.

Referring to his remark, made while addressing a woman advo-

cate recently during judicial proceedings, which had gone viral on social media, Justice Srishananda said that the remark was not intended to her [woman advocate] but it was to her client.

Stating that he would have clarified this point to the woman advocate if she was present in the court, Justice Srishananda requested the office-bearers of the AAB to convey his message to her as she was not present in the hall.

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20th CONVOCATION - 2024

NOTIFICATION

The 20th Convocation 2024 of SRM Institute of Science and Technology for the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Medicine and Health Sciences, Management, Science and Humanities, Law and Agricultural Sciences is scheduled as given below:

Venue: Dr. TP. Ganesan Auditorium, SRM Nagar Kattankulathur - 603 203	Date Day Time
Faculty Engineering and Technology (All Programmes)	13.10.2024 (Sunday) 11.00 A.M.
Faculty Medicine and Health Sciences, Management, Science and Humanities, Law and Agricultural Sciences (All Programmes)	15.10.2024 (Tuesday) 11.00 A.M.

Campuses: Kattankulathur, Ramapuram, Vadapalani, Trichy & Baburayanpettai

The eligible Graduates who have completed their Degrees from October 2023 to September 2024 shall apply online for registration.

Visit our website: <https://www.srmist.edu.in> for online registration.

Last date for online registration: **05.10.2024 upto 5.00 PM.**

For NCR, Delhi Campus, the date for the graduation day will be intimated later.

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For event related queries, please contact:
9003077030 | 9094041021 | 9962226550

IN BRIEF



Flood-like situation in Bihar: CM inspects affected areas

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inspected the rising water levels of the Ganga at key locations in Patna and Hajipur on Saturday and urged district officials to "remain alert and be prepared to tackle any situation". Officials said the river is flowing above the danger mark at Digha ghat, Gandhi ghat, Hathidah, and Maner in Patna district and several areas have been inundated. So far, five people – four in Saran and one in Bhojpur – have lost their lives, they added. Around 9.78 lakh people have been affected by rising water levels, said the officials. PTI

Tirupati laddus: FIR against X users for 'misinformation'

The police on Saturday registered a case against seven users of social media platform 'X' for allegedly spreading misinformation that "low quality" ghee used for making laddus at the Tirupati temple belonged to the 'Amul' brand, an officer said. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, which markets its milk and dairy products under the brand name 'Amul', has denied having supplied ghee to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, which manages the temple. The accused were booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita dealing with forgery intending to harm the reputation of any party, and promoting enmity on grounds of religion, race. PTI

JMM, Cong., RJD 'speed breakers' in Jharkhand's progress, says Rajnath

Time has come to remove Hemant Soren from power, says BJP leader while addressing the party's Parivartan Sabha: JMM-led govt. protecting infiltrators, BJP govt. will remove them from the State'

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, labelling him the "most corrupt CM" and accusing him of undermining India's democratic principles.

Mr. Singh also targeted the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Congress, and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), constituents of the State's coalition government, terming them "three speed breakers" hindering Jharkhand's progress.

Addressing the BJP's Parivartan Sabha in Chatra and Garhwa, after flagging off the party's Parivartan Rath at Itkhor in Hazaribagh division, he urged voters to overthrow the current government and vote for the BJP in the upcoming Assembly election.

Lashing out at the Soren government, Mr. Singh said India will never accept



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (second from right) and other BJP leaders wave to supporters at a poll rally in Chatra on Saturday. ANI

any "tainted person" in a top post. "Time has come to remove Hemant Soren from power," he said, adding that the BJP will form the government in the State and take legal action against the corrupt.

'BJP's clean record'

"Seldom have any BJP Chief Ministers been involved in corruption. My colleague Shivraj Singh Chouhan served as CM for 18 years but his name was never mentioned in any corruption case. Even I was CM of Uttar Pradesh,

but corruption did not take place the way it is happening under Hemant Soren in Jharkhand," Mr. Singh said.

Praising the people of the State, he said they never shy away from doing hard work. "As Defence Minister, I have seen our brothers and sisters from Jharkhand, especially from the Adivasi community, serve the nation with utmost courage," he said.

Highlighting transparency during the BJP rule in the State, he said former CMs Babulal Marandi, Arjun Munda, and Raghubar

Das had no corruption allegations against them. In contrast, the current leadership has faced serious corruption charges, including jail time, he said.

The BJP leader also criticised the State government for allegedly protecting Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators, stating that the party will remove them from the State. "Bangladeshi infiltrators are marrying our daughters, which will not be tolerated, because the BJP only knows the politics of justice and does not do the politics of religion or caste. Infiltrators will be thrown out of Jharkhand," he said.

'Tarnishing India's image'

Mr. Singh also attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of tarnishing India's image abroad. "Rahul Gandhi went on a U.S. tour and provoked the Sikh community by saying that its members are not safe in India. He is just tarnishing India's image abroad."

BJP's Manohar Lal invites 'snubbed' Selja to join party

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Turning up the heat on the Congress over the alleged ill-treatment of its prominent Scheduled Caste leader and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja by the party, Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal has offered her to join the Bharatiya Janata Party. The Bahujan Samaj Party, too, has taken aim at the Congress, accusing it of showing no respect to its own SC leader.

However, denying the reports of Ms. Selja being upset, Congress leader Pawan Khera said she was campaigning for the party candidates, and all leaders were united. In a counter-attack on the BJP, Mr. Khera said Mr. Lal was knocking on the Congress's door after he was removed as the Chief Minister. He advised the leaders of other parties to "look at your party affairs", adding that there were no differences within the Congress.

Speaking at a meeting in Ambala on Friday, Mr. Lal said the Congress had abused the SC community, and its leaders did not feel ashamed. He said the BJP had taken many disgrun-



Kumari Selja is staying away from the Congress campaign, say party insiders. FILE PHOTO

ted Congress leaders into its fold and was ready to accept Ms. Selja if she came.

Raking up the issue of a viral video in which an elderly man from Haryana talking about ticket distribution made casteist slurs against Ms. Selja, BJP leader Ashok Tanwar had regretted that none of the Congress leaders condemned the language and no action was initiated.

Later, former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda had accused the BJP of playing politics over the matter.

Congress sources, however, said Ms. Selja was indeed upset over the ticket distribution and had decided to stay away from the campaign for the time being.

Simultaneous polls flawed, dangerous for India: Kamal

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) president Kamal Haasan on Saturday called the Centre's plan to conduct simultaneous elections to Parliament and State Assemblies "flawed and dangerous" for the country.

Delivering an address at the party's general council meeting in Chennai, he said: "The concept of 'One Nation, One Election' is dangerous for India. Several countries in Europe attempted to hold such simultaneous polls in the past, and the scars still re-



'Voters should be given proper time to think and choose their representatives.' FILE PHOTO

main... Voters should be given proper time to think and choose their representatives."

His comments come in the backdrop of the Union Cabinet's approval to the recommendations of the

high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind. The panel had proposed simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies as the first step, and to the local bodies within 100 days of the general election in the next phase.

The party also passed resolutions urging the Centre to conduct a nationwide caste census; implement the recommendations of the M.S. Swaminathan committee on the minimum support price for farmers; and undertake the delimitation exercise only after broad consensus.

'Only politics done in the name of building mosque at Dhannipur'

Mavank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Ayodhya case petitioner Iqbal Ansari on Saturday alleged that only politics has been done in the name of constructing a mosque at an alternative site after the Supreme Court verdict in 2019.

"More than four years have passed, but the U.P. Sunni Central Waqf Board and the foundation failed to do anything apart from only showing the proposed mosque layout and again changing it," he reacted to revelations that the Indo-

Islamic Cultural Foundation, set up by the waqf board to oversee the construction of the proposed Dhannipur mosque in Ayodhya, is facing a severe fund crunch.

He said there are multiple mosques in Dhannipur and farming should be done on the five-acre plot instead. "The produce should be distributed between Hindus and Muslims to signal unity," said Mr. Ansari, who pursued the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case after his father Hashim Ansari, the oldest litigant, died in 2016.

Those in power should tolerate criticism, says Nitin Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari emphasised the significance of freedom of expression and tolerance for criticism in a democracy on Friday.

"Everyone should be free to express their opinions, and those in power should tolerate criticism," Mr. Gadkari said. "Writers and poets should openly and strongly express their views without fear."

Speaking at the release of a book on S.N. Pathan, former Vice-Chancellor of Sant Tukadoji Maharaj Un-

iversity, Nagpur, at MIT World Peace University, Pune, the Minister also highlighted India's democratic foundations.

'Specific rights'

"India is called the mother of democracy, which stands on the four pillars of legislature, executive, judiciary, and media. Our Constitution has specific rights and responsibilities for all the four pillars, which include the freedom to express and opine. S.N. Pathan never compromised on his thoughts," he said.

Sharing a personal anecdote, Mr. Gadkari said the government must be open

to criticism in a democracy. "When I was a child, my mother would often tell me that 'a critic should be our neighbour, so that they can point out our flaws and we can work on them to get better'. The biggest test of a democracy is that the king [government] is capable of tolerating the strongest criticism, and doing introspection on it."

He also highlighted that in a democracy people can choose their faith, the God they want to pray to, and the manner of offering prayer. "We must take the path of social harmony in order to become Vishwaguru [global teacher]."

From mat to maidan: Vinesh Phogat switches battlegrounds ahead of Haryana poll

SPOTLIGHT

Ishita Mishra

A convoy of cars and tractors blaring campaign songs, with Congress flags billowing at the top, races along the narrow road in Aasan village in Haryana's Julana constituency. Polling is less than two weeks away and they have many stops to make.

Every now and then, wrestler-turned-politician Vinesh Phogat puts her head out of the sunroof of her SUV to wave at the on-lookers. For women, she takes the extra step of getting down and greeting them. With folded hands, she asks for their blessings. The sun is beating down all the while.

A lot has changed for Vinesh in less than two months. On August 6, minutes after her bout, the image of her in a red singlet, kneeling down on the wrestling mat at the Paris Olympics with hands folded in gratitude, flooded social media. A jubilant nation cheered for her. She was to be the first Indian woman grappler to enter the wrestling finals at the

Olympic Games. But within hours of this triumph came the crushing news of her disqualification – she was 100 grams overweight. A stunned nation mourned for her. On August 8, she announced her retirement from wrestling, the sport which had defeated her not once, but on several occasions.

Not one to walk into the sunset quietly, she is back on the mat, but this time, the rules of the game have changed. As a Congress candidate in the upcoming Haryana polls, she has a tough contest on her hands. The Congress has not won the Julana Assembly constituency – her husband and fellow wrestler Somvir Rathee's home – in the last three Assembly polls.

"The fun is always in doing what is difficult," Vinesh says on her way to a meeting at Aasan village. Beginnings, she adds, are always hard, whether it is politics or wrestling.

On the road

The convoy enters Aasan village, where she is welcomed by an eager crowd. On the cement stage at the centre of the village, she is



Vinesh Phogat being felicitated at Chabri village in Jind district of Haryana. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

the only woman. Other women watch her from the margins. Most of them are veiled.

She pitches herself as the "bahu and beti" (daughter and daughter-in-law) of Julana. On her messy mop of hair, hastily cropped at the Olympics to drop a few grams of weight, the villagers place a pagdi (turban), signifying power and respect.

With the practised ease of a politician, she puts a towel on the microphone to ensure that her voice is clearer. She begins by listing out the failures of the

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) government, which has been ruling the State since 2014. She rushes through the script: a litany of unkept promises, high unemployment rate, poor healthcare facilities, and a power crisis.

She also briefly touches upon her Olympic loss and her battle against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the five-time former MP from the BJP and former chief of the Wrestling Federation of India, who is accused of sexually harassing many young female wrestlers. "They [BJP] have not left

anyone, be it kisan, jawan, or pehelwan (farmer, soldier, or wrestler)," she says.

Vinesh's fight against Brij Bhushan started in January 2023. After months of protests on the streets of Delhi, the Supreme Court ordered for an FIR against the former BJP MP. Her fight for justice, however, continues.

Unending battle

Born in Balali village in Charkhi Dadri district, Haryana, Vinesh's father was murdered when she was nine. She was brought up

by her extended family alongside her cousins, Geeta and Babita Phogat, daughters of her father's brother Mahavir Singh Phogat. Wrestling was an essential part of childhood, and she has been training since she was six years old.

Mahavir's life has been canonised in the Hindi film *Dangal*. He stood by Vinesh when she and other fellow wrestlers raised allegations against Brij Bhushan. Geeta too had extended support to her sister. However, she has not received her uncle's endorsement for entering politics, especially the Congress, as Mahavir and his second daughter Babita had joined the BJP in 2019.

For now, though, Vinesh is focusing on more immediate problems on her hands. Paraded into politics just days before polling, she has many miles to travel, meet, and great political influencers and navigate the tricky terrain of the constituency.

She also has multiple opponents to worry about. The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) has fielded Surendra Lather, formerly

with the BJP, from this seat. The Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) has fielded sitting MLA Amarjeet Dhanda. His party's intransigence on farm laws and delay in leaving the BJP, however, has put them on a weak wicket. Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Kavita Dalal, a World Wrestling Entertainment player who has branded herself Julana's "Lady Khali", is also in the fray.

All the other candidates, including Vinesh, are Jats. Breaking from this trend, however, the BJP has fielded Captain Yogesh Bairagi, an OBC. Numerically, the Jats are the single largest bloc with some estimates pegging their strength at 42% of the voters, but the OBCs follow close behind.

"The BJP's choice of candidate may be an advantage as Jat votes will be divided," says Satpal Panchal from Lajwana Kalan village. He himself is a BJP supporter.

Vinesh's opponents, however, are careful not to indulge in any personal attacks against her. Viendra Arya, vice president of AAP's farmer wing in Julana, says the party workers had told the leadership not to field any candidate

against Vinesh. He himself is campaigning for her. Bairagi too refers to her as his "sister" in all election speeches.

She is also fighting the tag of "outsider". To counter it, in her interviews and speeches, she repeats, "I am here to stay." At an election meeting in Kharak Ramji village, Vinesh assures the gathering, "I am not here to make money. I had a great city life and money as well, and I left it all just to work for you."

Her candidature has generated some interest among the young. Rohit Banwala, 19, who has been cheering Vinesh on, says he will vote for the first time on October 4 in favour of the grappler-turned-politician. He has taken up wrestling himself, inspired by the Phogat sisters.

The next fortnight will decide the course of Vinesh's future. She is confident that she will stick around, irrespective of the October 5 outcome. "Politics is everywhere. I have a long way to go and a longer battle to fight," she says.

LINK TO FULL STORY
» <https://bit.ly/4ewdEob>

Lebanon blasts: Norway citizen with Kerala roots under scanner

E.M. Manoj
KALPETTA



Rinson Jose

The Special Branch (SB) of the Kerala Police has initiated inquiries into Rinson Jose, a 37-year-old who left Wayanad for Norway a decade ago, following reports of his alleged involvement in the pager blasts that shook Lebanon.

P.L. Shyju, Deputy Superintendent of Police, said officials visited Mr. Jose's house at Mananthavady in Wayanad to collect information from his parents.

They reported being unaware of the situation, adding

that they had been unable to reach him by phone since the incident.

Given that Mr. Jose is a foreign national, no legal action is being pursued against him, nor is he currently a target of any investigation in India, Mr. Shyju said.

Reports indicate that Mr.

Jose has been active within the Malayali community in Norway, where he previously operated a job consultancy.

His LinkedIn profile reveals that he has been employed with DN Media Group since March 2022 and it describes him as an entrepreneur managing Nortalink.

Norta Global Limited is reportedly viewed as a shell company associated with Nortalink.

On Friday, the police conducted ground checks to assess the financial situation of Mr. Jose's family and to gather details.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Project Manager/Gati Shakti, North Eastern Railway, Izatnagar invites the following e-tender: S.No.1. E-Tender No.: CPM-GS-IZN-2024-09, Name of work : Providing Project Supervision Services for various works/construction site in the jurisdiction of Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti), Izatnagar Division, North Eastern Railway. Approximate Value (Rs.): 2,15,72,10,80, Earnest Money (Rs.): 2,57,90,00, Cost of Tender Form (Rs.): Nil, Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) Months.

CPROW-257 "Never travel on roof and foot boards"

South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division ANNEXURE-A

Parcel e-acution - COMBSP/E-AUCTION/ PARCEL/24-01 E-Auction has been invited for the leasing of parcel space in SLRs. The catalogue has already been published on the IREPS Website <https://ireps.gov.in>. The details are as follows:- Catalogue No.: PARCEL-BSP-SLR1 Category: (PARCEL) Auction start: 23.09.2024 15:30

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Telephone No. 01970-222770 E-mail ID: INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) The Executive Engineer Jawalamukhi Division HPPWD Jawalamukhi H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest money	Deadline for submission of bid	Tender Cost	Time Limit
1.	Construction of Aadarsh Gram Sukh Aashray Parisar/ Complex at Jawalamukhi (Luthan) Tehsil, Jawalamukhi Distt. Kangra HP (SH- C/o Building portion , Sanitary installation rain Harvesling tank & septic tank etc.	74,03,50,761.00	23.09.2024 at 10:00 AM	84,03,510/-	30.09.2024 upto 11:00 AM	5000/-	Thirty Months

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender form from the department website. www.hptenders.gov.in.

Date of opening of tender 30.09.2024 at 3:00 PM.

Executive Engineer, Jawalamukhi Division HPPWD., Jawalamukhi Pin No. 176031. Tel. No. 01970-222770

HP/ 2239/24-25 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

बिहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन कार्य प्रमण्डल-01, Email ID: ee1aelao1hjp@gmail.com

—:: अल्पकालीन शुद्धि पत्र ::—

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं- 01(SBD)/2024-25, 2(SBD)/2024-25, 3(SBD)/2024-25 एवं 4 (SBD)/2024-25 सूचना जनसम्पर्क द्वारा निर्गत थी और संख्या-007905 (Planning) 2024-25 है।

निविदांक-23.09.2024 समय 10:00 बजे के बदले में दिनांक-23.10.2024 समय 10:00 बजे पढ़ा जाय।

निविदांक-26.09.2024 समय 03:00 बजे के बदले में दिनांक-28.10.2024 समय 03:00 बजे पढ़ा जाय।

निविदांक-30.09.2024 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न के बदले में दिनांक-30.10.2024 समय 03:00 बजे अपराह्न तक पढ़ा जाय।

निविदांक-03.10.2024 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न के बदले में दिनांक-04.11.2024 को 03:30 बजे अपराह्न तक पढ़ा जाय।

निविदा में पूर्व की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमण्डल-01, हाजीपुर, वैशाली

PR. No. 008560 (Planning) 2024-25

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

बिहार सरकार

योजना एवं विकास विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-02, पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी

पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -03(SBD)/E/2024-25

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम/अन्य राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थायिक के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निविदा संवेदकों से प्रतिशत वाद निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अर्थात् अनिश्चित विधि में है।

यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग/निगम में पूर्व से निविदा नहीं है, तब एकरचना के पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्सेप्टेंस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम (जिसमें निवेदन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निवेदन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

1. कार्य की विवरणी :-

श्रु संकेत	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विवरण की राशि (लाख रूप में)	अग्रघन की राशि (लाख रूप में)	परिमाण-सिद्ध का मूल्य (अग्रघन/कुल केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में प्रस्तावित) (रुपये में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क (अग्रघन/कुल केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में प्रस्तावित) (रुपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (लाघ में)
01	सीतामढ़ी जिला के परिहार प्रखंड अंतर्गत सरिसिया पंचायत के ग्राम/मौजा सरिसिया में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	313.64	6.27	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
02	सीतामढ़ी जिला के परिहार प्रखंड अंतर्गत परिहार दक्षिणी के ग्राम/मौजा नोनाही में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	313.64	6.27	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
03	सीतामढ़ी जिला के परिहार प्रखंड अंतर्गत विशुनपुर पंचायत के ग्राम/मौजा विशुनपुर में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	313.64	6.27	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
04	सीतामढ़ी जिला के परिहार प्रखंड अंतर्गत परिहार उत्तरी पंचायत के ग्राम/मौजा परिहार में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	313.64	6.27	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
05	सीतामढ़ी जिला के सोनबरसा प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत सोनबरसा पंचायत के ग्राम/मौजा सोनबरसा में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	313.64	6.27	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
06	सीतामढ़ी जिला के सोनबरसा प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत मलुआहा पंचायत के ग्राम/मौजा मलुआहा में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	313.64	6.27	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
07	सीतामढ़ी जिला के बथनाहा प्रखंड अंतर्गत पंथापाकर पंचायत के ग्राम/मौजा मलुआहा में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	313.64	6.27	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
08	सीतामढ़ी जिला के बथनाहा प्रखंड अंतर्गत डाईन छपरा पंचायत के ग्राम/मौजा मलुआहा में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	311.77	6.24	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
09	सीतामढ़ी जिला के सुरसण्ड प्रखंड अंतर्गत मरुकी पंचायत के ग्राम/मौजा मरुकी में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	314.21	6.29	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह

2. विज्ञापन निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक-17.09.2024

3. निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 03.10.2024 को 10:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से।

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) दिनांक 04.10.2024 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न में।

5. निविदा अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 08.10.2024 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।

6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 15.10.2024 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न से।

7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 15.10.2024 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न से।

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : (कठिना 5 में उल्लिखित अंतिम तिथि से दो कार्य दिवस के पश्चात् की तिथि)। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

9. निविदा की बैकता अवधि : दिनांक 15.10.2024 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न से।

10. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : (कठिना 5 में उल्लिखित अंतिम तिथि से दो कार्य दिवस के पश्चात् की तिथि)। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

11. ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने हेतु संवेदकों को e-proc2 के साथ निवेदन कराना होगा, वेबसाइट पर आवश्यक निवेदन प्रपत्र उपलब्ध है। इस निवेदन से उन्हें User ID तथा Password मिलेगा। संवेदकों को DSC (Digital Signature Certificates) भी प्राप्त करना होगा। (User ID, Password, DSC एवं इन्टरनेट के उपयोग से ही संवेदक ई-निविदा में भाग ले सकेंगे।)

12. निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर निष्पादित किया जाएगा।

13. निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी ई-नेत आर्इओ-eproc2support@bihar.gov.in, Working Hours 8:00 am to 7:00 pm से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी eproc2.0 helpdesk, Address-mjunction services ltd., R.J. Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S.-Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

14. किसी भी प्रकार का शुद्धि-पत्र को वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जायेगा। अयोधरहासी को बिना पूर्व सूचना के एवं बिना कारण बताए निविदा रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रहेगा।

15. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

16. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

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22. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

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74. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

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76. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

77. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

78. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

79. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

80. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

81. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-02 पुपरी, सीतामढ़ी।

82. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : कार्यालय अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभ

In a first, India invites foreign diplomats to J&K to see polls

Nearly 20 diplomats of select embassies, including of the U.S., France, Germany, Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia, invited; it reflects a confidence in the law and order situation, despite a recent uptick in terror attacks on military camps

**Peerzada Ashiq
Suhasini Haidar**
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

Buoyed by peaceful polling and a higher voter turnout of 61% in the first phase of the Jammu & Kashmir election held on September 18, the External Affairs Ministry has invited a group of senior diplomats, mainly from the U.S., European and ASEAN embassies, to visit Kashmir "for a first-hand account of the ongoing election process in J&K", sources told *The Hindu*.

Official sources said the Ministry extended invitations to nearly 20 diplomats of select embassies functioning in New Delhi, including of the U.S., France, Germany, Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia. So far, 16 diplomats have accepted the invitation. They are expected to arrive in Kashmir on a two-day visit on September 25, the day Srinagar is going to the polls.

Officials called the embassies over the past week,



Ground zero: People standing in a queue to cast votes at a polling station in Anantnag during the first phase of the J&K election. PTI

asking them to nominate diplomats for a visit in the next few days before the second phase of polling to be held in Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam districts on September 25. A section of diplomats is likely to visit Kashmir before the third phase on October 1 as well, when Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts in north Kashmir will go to the polls.

The last time the government conducted such

tours was in 2020, after splitting the erstwhile State into two Union Territories, when groups of Ambassadors from different countries and Members of the European Parliament were taken to Jammu and Srinagar to quell concerns over the security measures taken, the Internet clampdown and hundreds of arrests of political activists in the Valley.

Diplomats were also taken to Srinagar for a visit

during the G-20 Tourism meet in May 2023.

In the run-up to the Assembly election last month, senior diplomats of Germany and the U.S. travelled to Srinagar and met a number of politicians including National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, Peoples Conference chief Sajjad Lone, and a number of other mainstream politicians to assess the ground situation. While the Canadian High Commission has not been included in the latest invitation, sources said a team from the mission may travel to Jammu & Kashmir in the next week.

Short notice

The Ministry did not respond to a request for information about the visits and on what basis the embassies of different countries had been invited. According to an official, some of the embassies have said the invitation had come at "very short notice", while others have expressed misgivings on going on a "guided tour". One diplomat

said that at least one P-5 country had protested against the repeated denial of permission for its earlier requests to travel to Kashmir, while another diplomatic source said their embassy had declined the invite on the grounds that they did not receive enough clarity on the schedule of the programme.

New Delhi's move to conduct tours of diplomats comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in the U.S., where he is attending the Quad Summit and the UN Summit of the Future, and reflects a confidence in the law and order situation, despite an uptick in terror attacks on military camps in recent months. In a recent speech in Srinagar, Mr. Modi said "the world was watching the people of Jammu & Kashmir strengthening the Indian democracy".

This also marks a major policy shift in India's stand on elections in Kashmir from that of the past when foreign diplomats were discouraged from visiting J&K during elections.

Dynastic parties armed the youth of J&K, but BJP gave them laptops: Shah

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for establishing peace on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday warned Pakistan that if it "fired a single bullet at the Indian forces, it will face artillery shells in response".

Mr. Shah addressed poll rallies in five Assembly constituencies close to the LoC in the Pir Panjal range in Jammu division. "Pakistan was scared of PM Modi. It's because of him no ceasefire violation is reported on Jammu borders. If Pakistan fires a single bullet at the Indian forces, artillery shells will be fired in response," Mr. Shah said.

The BJP government at the Centre renewed the 2002 ceasefire agreement with Pakistan in 2020, just months after the special status of the erstwhile State was ended in 2019. "People of border districts are living in peace in J&K. Silence prevails in areas that would witness frequent shelling during [Na-



Hitting out: Union Home Minister Amit Shah being felicitated during an election rally in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. PTI

tional Conference president] Dr. Farooq Abdullah's time. Those roaring sounds of shells have ended," the Minister said. He warned Pakistan against "any misadventure on the borders".

Both Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah have brought up Pakistan to target regional parties and the Congress ahead of the second phase of polls in J&K on September 25. He said three families had been instrumental in allowing terror to spread, and for the "deaths of 40,000 people".

"This election is to put an end to the politics of the Gandhis, the Abdullahs, the Muftis. Terrorism will

never be allowed to revive here. These families armed the youth of J&K, we handed them laptops," he said.

The Home Minister said the Gujjar and Bakerwal communities had been "protecting the borders of J&K since 1947 and even took bullets to fight terrorism". "Our guns will go to Paharis, Gujjars and Bakerwals through police and Army recruitment drives. They will fight terrorism with full might to save their homeland," he said.

Terming the first Assembly election in the Union Territory "historic", he said the Congress and the NC "are going to be wiped out".

NC's Omar Abdullah faces an uphill task in Ganderbal, has the edge in Budgam

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

National Conference (NC) vice-president and scion of the Abdullahs, Omar Abdullah, is fiercely slugging it out from the twin Assembly constituencies of Ganderbal and Budgam in central Kashmir, as a myriad of challenges confront him on both the seats.

For decades, the Abdullahs saw Ganderbal as their home turf. The constituency has been represented by the three generations of the family. However, Mr. Abdullah's fresh bid to retain the turf is blunted by former NC leader and ex-Ganderbal MLA Ishfaq Jabbar, who floated the party J&K United Movement earlier this year. Mr. Jabbar too pledges to fight for restoration of Articles 370 and 35A, Statehood and revocation of the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI).

The second possible dent to Mr. Abdullah's vote bank has come from ally Congress. Sahil Farooq, who was Ganderbal district president of the Congress till the NC-Congress stitched a pre-poll alliance, quit the party and decided to contest as an Independ-



Omar Abdullah

Barkati, who is contesting from Ganderbal, has potential to sway sentimental and emotional votes away from Mr. Abdullah.

The challenge is only compounded by arch rival Peoples Democratic Party's candidate Bashir Ahmad Mir.

"Only PDP and not NC can restore snatched dignity and rights. Candidates are air-dropped but local youth will decide the political destiny," Mr. Farooq said, in a reference to Mr. Abdullah.

In Budgam, Mr. Abdullah has an edge. The party has managed to revive the silent cadre in the Lok Sabha elections and has numbers on its side. In a constituency with 20-25 percent Shia votes, NC MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, a Shia cleric, making efforts to ensure a majority of these votes consolidate in favour of Mr. Abdullah.

Mr. Abdullah is pitted against PDP's Syed Muntazir Mehdi from a family of clerics and a cousin of Mr. Ruhullah. Mr. Mehdi is a formidable candidate. Both the families are revered by Shias and remain central figures.

Cousins and Banshi Lal's heirs lock horns for family stronghold of Tosham

Ashok Kumar
TOSHAM

The Congress's Tosham nominee, Anirudh Chaudhary, does not show any signs of fatigue while addressing his 10th election meeting at Lalawas village in Bhiwani, Haryana on Friday. "It is the beginning of a new era," he declares to the crowd, as he, like his grandfather and former Chief Minister Banshi Lal, starts his political career from the same party and the same constituency.

"Being a grandson of Banshi Lal, I am contesting this election with dignity," says Mr. Chaudhary, a sports administrator-turned-politician, amid loud applause.

"The BJP candidate pitted against me is my cousin, Shruti. I hold her mother and my aunt Kiran Choudhry in great respect. If they come to seek votes, show full respect to them, but vote only for your brother," he quips.

Banshi Lal family's stronghold, Tosham, sees a contest within his family this time around.

Maniram, a resident of Lalawas, however, says the election is not about the "legacy of Chaudhary Banshi Lal" but about "vikas" (development) and "ba-



Clash of cousins: Congress candidate for Tosham Anirudh Chaudhary during his campaign on Friday (left) and BJP candidate Shruti Choudhry speaking to the media. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR & ANI



dav" (change). Despite the village being dominated by Brahmins, considered to be traditional BJP voters, Hanuman, another resident, says irrigation and drinking water issues are the major talking points here, and there is resentment against the Agniveer scheme, unemployment and the way the BJP government treated the "farmers and wrestlers".

Mukesh Sheroan of Sahlevala village says that Ms. Shruti and her mother Ms. Kiran Choudhry, the sitting Tosham MLA, quitting the Congress and joining the BJP a few months ago had turned many party workers against them. "It is easy for leaders to shift loyalties, but not for the workers," he says, adding that "farmers' agitation is a big

issue in this region.

Dharamapal, who runs an auto workshop close to the Congress's election office, says that Tosham had seen a lot of development during Ms. Kiran Choudhry's tenure as MLA, including establishment of a court complex, colleges, a lake and herbal park. "Had she stayed with the Congress, it would have given an edge to her daughter. But then she had little choice, with some party leaders bent on finishing her politically," says the 53-year-old.

Supported by the local BJP MP Dharambir Singh, Ms. Shruti, a former Lok Sabha member, focuses on development.

She also talks about her family's long association with the Assembly consti-

tuency, and her long experience as a politician.

At the BJP's election office in the grains market, Tek Ram, not mincing words, says the contest across the State is "Jat vs non-Jat". "Jobs on merit. Development for all. These are the only issues. People from only one caste got jobs during the previous regimes. BJP voters are silent, and will hit hard with their vote," says Mr. Ram.

As the electorate remain sharply divided, BJP "rebel" Shashi Ranjan Parmar, contesting as an Independent, adds another dimension to the contest.

Mr. Parmar had finished as runner-up in the 2019 Assembly election as a BJP candidate. Mr. Parmar, a Rajput, could alter the equations for the cousins.

Subhankar replaces Adhir as Bengal Cong. chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday replaced Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as its West Bengal chief, appointing Subhankar Sarkar as the new president of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee.

"The party appreciates the contributions of the outgoing PCC president, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury," a statement from general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal read.

Mr. Chowdhury has been in the news for his confrontation with the Mamata Banerjee government despite the Trinamool Congress being a member of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election.

Though there was talk of Mr. Chowdhury being replaced as the Bengal unit chief for a long time, he was actively leading the party's protests over the rape and murder of a young doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College in Kolkata.

The Congress also announced two acting working presidents in Jammu and Kashmir: M.K. Bharadwaj and Bhanu Mahajan.

RSS affiliate holds event for tribal communities

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

As part of its ongoing annual meet, the Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, the tribal wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, on Saturday organised an event at Samalkha in Haryana to showcase various rituals performed by tribal communities.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat attended the event, which was organised with an aim to strengthen the organisation's connect with the tribal population. It also comes ahead of the Assembly election in Jhark-

hand, which has a large tribal population.

The Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, which works for the uplift of tribal population, announced plans to hold year-long celebrations to mark the 500th birth anniversary of Rani Durgawati, a Rajput princess who married a Gond and also fought the Mughals.

Grand fete

The organisation will also hold grand celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda on November 15, which is also celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Di-



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat attended the event held in Haryana. FILE PHOTO

vas, Atul Jog, all-India organising secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, said. Speaking about Satur-

day's event, the Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, in a statement, said that nearly 80 tribes from across the country and Nepal performed their distinct rituals in separate pandals at the camp in Samalkha, 70 km from Delhi. These rituals range from the worship of deities in visible forms (*Saakar*) to the veneration of the formless (*Niraakar*).

The event comes at a time the BJP is also expanding its tribal outreach through various programmes. The Union government earlier this week announced a

package under which ₹5 lakh would be provided to tribal households and villages to turn homes into tourist homestays or to build new ones under the Tourism Ministry's Swadesh Darshan scheme.

'Not linked to polls'

A senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh functionary said the Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram was working for the tribal community for decades and its events and programmes should not be linked to elections.

"We have been remembering the tribal

icons from a time when people didn't use to recognise them. Whatever events are happening in Samalkha or across the country by Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram has nothing to do with elections but an ongoing process to bring the tribals, who are more prone to religious conversions, to Hindu fold and ensure that those who already identify themselves as Sanatani to remain with us," the functionary said.

The event also saw the launch of 14 books on freedom fighters from tribal communities.

अर्मेड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

AVANI
ARMOURD VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

EMPANELMENT OF CORPORATE LEGAL FIRM – CORPORATE TIE UP

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI) (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi (Chennai). It has five (05) constituent production units at Avadi (02), Medak (01), Jabalpur (01) and Ambarnath (01) has around 10,000 employees.

AVNL Corporate Office is inviting the Expression of Interest for empanelment of Corporate Legal firm in Chennai.

Please visit our website www.avnl.co.in for downloading the Expression of Interest for Empanelment with AVNL Units.

Last date for receipt of application: **21 Days from the date of this advertisement.**

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IN BRIEF



At UN summit, India calls for shift to sustainable living

Adopting sustainable lifestyles could tackle many challenges posed by climate change and global success is more likely with affordable solutions, India said at the United Nations "Summit of the Future" in New York. Addressing the summit on Friday, Leela Nandan, secretary in the Union Environment Ministry, said climate change discussions often focus solely on emission reductions, but "we are more likely to succeed if we offer affordable solutions, not simply impose decisions". The summit brings together leaders, policymakers and other stakeholders to discuss global challenges and strengthen multilateral cooperation to tackle emerging threats. PTI

Find lasting peace in Manipur through talks, says Kiren Rijiju

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju requested the people of ethnic violence-hit Manipur on Saturday to shun arms and come to the negotiation table to find a lasting solution in the State. Addressing the North East Students' Festival organised by "My Home India", a non-governmental organisation, he said, "I urge brothers and sisters of Kuki and Meitei communities, the Government of India is ready to make every effort, but you will have to give up arms. There can be no solution if you pick up arms. Solution can be found only through talks. Come what may, you cannot fight. Talk to each other, come to the negotiation table, only then can we have peace." PTI

Massive protests in NIT-Patna after student found dead

A second-year B.Tech. student at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Patna, was found dead in the girls' hostel on Friday. Fellow students first informed the Principal about the incident and later staged a protest, raising slogans on the campus late into the night. Superintendent of Police Sharat R.S. said the incident took place on the night of September 20. The protesting students alleged that neither the police nor the college administration had given any information regarding the incident and that an attempt was made to cover it up. (Those in mental distress can dial 1800-599-0019 for support.)

'Backdoor' appointment of Nagaland constables quashed

The Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court has quashed the appointment of 935 Nagaland police constables recruited without advertisement from January 2018 to October 2019. Setting aside their recruitment, Justice Devashis Baruah issued an order on Friday asking the Nagaland government to initiate a fresh recruitment process and ensure transparency and adherence to legal protocols. A group of indigenous unemployed youth "possessing requisite qualifications and eligibility" filed several petitions in 2022 challenging the recruitment of these constables after learning through a Right to Information (RTI) application that 205 out of 1,140 constables were appointed through open recruitment.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Settle land disputes, prevent Nawada-like violence: Nitish

After 34 houses of Dalits were torched, Bihar CM calls for quick completion of land survey; he says murders over property form a significant chunk of killings recorded by the SCRB in the State

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Days after 34 houses belonging to the Dalit community were set ablaze over a land dispute in Nawada district, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said here on Saturday that the number of killings over land had been coming down in the State from 60% of all murders recorded by the State Crime Records Bureau as of March to 46.69% at present.

"This is a good thing. The work of land survey and settlement should be completed speedily so that the incidents of crime related to land disputes can be eliminated. The administration and the police should keep a close watch on anti-social elements," Mr. Kumar said at a high-level review meeting of the Home Department at his official residence.

In the Nawada incident, both victims and accused belong to the Dalit community.

The police have lodged an FIR against 28 people and arrested 15. The State government has given a compensation of ₹1 lakh



Glimmer of hope: The State government has given a compensation of ₹1 lakh each to the Dalit families whose houses were gutted in Nawada district of Bihar. PTI

each to the families whose houses were gutted.

Mr. Kumar said the State police had 2,29,139 posts with 1,06,436 personnel on the rolls. He told officials to fill the vacant posts soon. There should not be any negligence in tackling crime, he added.

"The police have an important role in maintaining law and order, and recruitment to the vacant posts as soon as possible will help in maintaining law and order," he said.

Mr. Kumar said women had been given 35% reservation in the State police

since 2013, and the number of women personnel had reached nearly 30,000.

Enforcement of law and order was a top priority of the government, he said. "Do not show any negligence in patrolling; intensify night patrolling. To make night and foot patrolling more effective, senior officials should visit the areas and do surprise inspections. Everyone should work with full dedication to maintain law and order. Strict action will be taken against police personnel who show negli-

gence in work. Speed up the crime investigation work and complete it on time so that action can be taken against the culprits soon," he said.

Principal Secretaries Deepak Kumar, S. Siddharth, Arvind Kumar Chaudhary and other officials were present.

Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav has been attacking Mr. Kumar over the law-and-order situation for the past one month. After the recent incident, Mr. Yadav said there is a "jungle raj" in Bihar.

ICGA Foundation launches country's first comprehensive cancer genomics repository

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

In a step towards improving the understanding of genetic variations of cancer in the Indian population, the Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) Foundation has launched a portal that expects to be a repository of information on multiple aspects of cancer.

"The portal will be the first in India to offer data that includes DNA, RNA, and protein profiles of breast cancer patients, integrated with clinical outcomes," Suveera Dhup, Chief Operating Officer, ICGA Foundation, said.

"Historically, cancer treatments in India have

been based on Western data sets. However, cancers in Indian patients can differ significantly at the molecular level," Shekhar Mande, former Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and associated with the initiative, said. "Creating a repository of this sort and openly sharing this data, we are empowering researchers, clinicians, and innovators to collaborate, explore new frontiers, and drive transformative breakthroughs in cancer treatment."

Currently, the platform consists of data from 50 breast cancer patients, with plans to expand to over 500 patients in the com-



ICGA expects researchers to use the data to give India-centric insights into cancer. ISTOCK

by independent researchers who use this data, which will provide insights into unique India-centric insight into breast cancer.

Inspiration from TCGA

"This repository aims to have institutions break out of the approach of hoarding data. The inspiration for this is the U.S.-based Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)," Dr. Dhup said.

Launched in 2006, the TCGA is a major cancer-genomics programme that has molecularly characterised over 20,000 primary cancers. It is funded by the U.S.-based National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Research Institute, and brings together researchers from di-

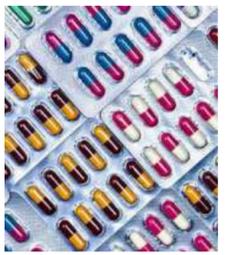
'Typhoid, pneumonia, UTIs show resistance to certain antibiotics'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Drug-resistant and difficult-to-treat urinary tract infections (UTI), blood stream infections, pneumonia, and typhoid are among the diseases showing resistance to commonly used antibiotics, says a report published recently by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (AMRSN).

The data collected by the network provide trends and patterns of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in six key pathogenic groups in the country, along with insights on key mechanisms of resistance prevalent in different pathogenic groups using genomics and whole genome sequencing. This is the seventh detailed report from the ICMR-AMRSN and presents data from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Gram-negative bacilli, which can cause infections anywhere in the body, remain the most isolated pathogens from the most clinically relevant samples, including blood, urine, and respiratory tract samples. In the Outpatient Department, *Escherichia coli*



The data provide patterns of antimicrobial resistance in six pathogenic groups in India.

bacillus was most isolated (30.74%), followed by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (13.63%), *Staphylococcus aureus* (12.15%), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (12.06%), and *Enterococcus faecalis* (4.41%).

Among in-patients or in the ward, again *Escherichia coli* bacillus was the most isolated (22.75%), followed by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (16.21%) and *A. baumannii* (11.87%). In the intensive care unit, *A. baumannii* bacillus was most isolated (23.74%), followed by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (20.88%) and *E. coli* (13.11%).

Twenty-one regional centres from various parts of the country, in both the public and private sectors, participated in the surveillance.

Rahul speaks to parents of deceased E&Y professional

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Speaking with the parents of Anna Sebastian Perayil, a 26-year-old executive at Ernst & Young who died from alleged extreme work pressure, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he would fight for the cause of improving working conditions for the millions of professionals in India.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) also took *suo motu* notice of media reports of the young professional's death and asked for a report from the Union Labour Ministry within four weeks. Mr. Gandhi spoke with the parents of Anna on a video call arranged by All India Professionals' Congress chairperson Praveen Chakravarty, who visited their home in Kochi.

A statement issued by the AIPC said the Congress leader offered his sympathies to the parents at Anna's sudden death, and lauded the family's courage and selflessness to speak up at this extremely difficult moment about this issue in the larger interest of improving working conditions for the millions of professionals in India. Assuring them that he will fight for this cause in his capacity as the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Gandhi also instructed the AIPC chief to create an awareness movement in Anna's memory for all working professionals in India.

"Following Gandhi's instructions, AIPC will announce a helpline soon to collect information from corporate professionals about issues related to work stress and toxic work culture. Post which, AIPC will seek to come up with draft guidelines for better working conditions for professionals in the corporate sector," the AIPC statement said.

Helpline soon

"Following Gandhi's instructions, AIPC will announce a helpline soon to collect information from corporate professionals about issues related to work stress and toxic work culture. Post which, AIPC will seek to come up with draft guidelines for better working conditions for professionals in the corporate sector," the AIPC statement said.

After 42 days of protest, doctors get back to work

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Junior doctors partially resumed work in government hospitals in West Bengal on Saturday morning after 42 days of protests following the rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital (RGMCH) in Kolkata on August 9.

They have returned only to emergency duties and not inpatient or outpatient departments.

A protesting postgraduate trainee doctor at Medical College, Kolkata, Dr. Gauri Seth, who completed 24 hours of Emergency duty on Saturday morning, said that going back to work was filled with mixed feelings and that she felt dissociated for the first few hours since she returned to work after 42 days.

Dr. Seth said that the doctors are now looking out for each other more than before.

No territory lost to China recently, says Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor

Dinakar Peri
LEH

Whatever loss of territory that occurred along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh occurred during the 1962 war or around that period, and "no loss is happening now", the Lieutenant-Governor (LG) of Ladakh, Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd), said on Saturday.

He said the Agniveers are proving "very effective" and anybody who is making propaganda of the many disadvantages about this Agnipath project are "not in national interest" and bordering on "anti-national".

"I find that military preparation is very good and as far as Union Territory administration is concerned we are developing infrastructure, we are developing roads and all the proposals which come to me, from Border Roads Organisation (BRO), are sanctioned without delay," he told presspersons on the



Lieutenant-Governor of Ladakh Brigadier B.D. Mishra (Retd) speaking at a symposium on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sidelines of the Himtech symposium that concluded on Saturday.

Rejecting the "rumours" that say "so much of" territory has gone, he said, "I have been on the ground, to Galwan, to other places, whatever territory was lost in 1962 or around that period that territory is with the adversary. But no losses have taken place now because we are very much determined and China knows that we will defend to the last man

and last bullet."

Since May 2020, India and China have been engaged in a standoff in eastern Ladakh after Chinese People's Liberation Army made ingress at seven locations which resulted in a bloody clash at Galwan in June 2020. Both sides have undertaken disengagement at five locations since after a series of talks at the corps Commander level but disengagement from Depsang and Demchok has been stuck for the last two

years. With the upcoming BRICS summit next month, there has been buzz of a possible movement on this.

To a question on the demand by Ladakhis for Statehood, he said there is no such situation which the Government of India is not ready to listen to the demands.

'Agnipath effective'

On the Agnipath scheme of short-term recruitment into the Indian military announced in June 2022, Brig. Mishra said a plan which was thought of, planned and debated for a very long time. "Agniveers are proving very effective and when they go out they will be very competent people," Brig. Mishra remarked. So anybody who is "making propaganda" of the many "disadvantages" about this Agnipath project are "not in national interest", sorry to say bordering on anti-national, he stated. Agniveer is a very good project, he said.

IN BRIEF



JSW MG Motor India prices MG Windsor EV at ₹13.5 lakh

JSW MG Motor India said its newly introduced MG Windsor electric car has been priced from ₹13,49,800 (ex-showroom). The top-end variant has been priced at ₹15,49,800 (ex-showroom). Bookings will commence from October 2. The EV comes with a 38 kWh Li-ion battery, delivering a 100kW (136ps) power and 200Nm torque in four driving modes (Eco+, Eco, Normal and Sport), with a 332-km ARAI-certified range on a single charge, the company said.

NCLAT rejects post-insolvency tax dues claim against RCom

The NCLAT has set aside a petition filed by the State tax department claiming dues from Reliance Communications (RCom), observing that it was based on the assessment made after the initiation of insolvency resolution process against the debt-ridden firm. A two-member NCLAT bench upheld the earlier order passed by the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which had rejected the State tax department's second claim of ₹6.10 crore.

India, Korea hold discussions on upgrading trade pact

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his Korean counterpart Inkyo Cheong on Saturday discussed upgrading the free trade pact between the 2 countries. Deliberations were held on achieving more balanced trade, upgrading the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, promoting investments linked to job creation and addressing non-tariff barriers to further strengthen our economic ties, Mr. Goyal said in a post on X.

Schwing Stetter India eyes 20% growth in revenue in 2025

N. Anand
CHENNAI

The Indian subsidiary of German concrete construction equipment manufacturer Schwing Stetter India (SSI) said it expects to post a 20% rise in revenue for CY25 due to a boom in the construction sector.



V.G. Sakthikumar

"We are hoping to end CY24 with a 5% growth in revenue at ₹5,700 crore. The next year is going to be a good year for the construction industry and we expect to post 20% increase in our revenue in excess of ₹6,500 crore," CMD V. G. Sakthikumar said during an interaction.

Demand for concrete construction machinery was expected to pick up in the coming months, he said and added that orders were expected to come in from October when excavations begin post monsoon and construction activity picks up during Q4. He said the company posted a 10% growth in HI of CY24 with a revenue of ₹3,300 crore.

Adaptive retail is redefining the industry: Walmart's Global CTO

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

A search bar is no longer the fastest way to a purchase. Instead, people-led and tech-powered adaptive retail, that is centred around why, what and how customers shop, has been redefining the retail industry globally, said Suresh Kumar, Global Chief Technology Officer, Walmart.



Suresh Kumar

"Search bar is appropriate, but search enhanced by Gen AI allows us to narrow a vast online catalog into a handful of recommendations. Machine learning can personalise it based upon customer preferences," he said speaking at Converge, the U.S.-based retailer's annual tech conference.

'Ransomware threats mounting every year'

India's key role in global digital economy makes it a prime target for ransomware, data resilience firm Veeam Software says in a white paper; among three-fourths of firms breached last year 80% ended up paying ransom, and despite paying ransom, 25% never retrieved the breached data, CEO says

Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Ransomware threats are more than doubling every year, both in terms of volume and value of tax and transfer payments, says Anand Eswaran, CEO, Veeam Software, a global leader in data resilience.



Assuming all things would be breached, one must make sure that one's data is recovered without any loss as instantly as possible. The white paper, which was developed in accordance with guidelines from the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In), provides an analysis of the current ransomware landscape.

According to a recent white paper prepared by Veeam, India's crucial role in the global digital economy makes it a prime target for ransomware. The white paper, which was developed in accordance with guidelines from the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In), provides an analysis of the current ransomware landscape.

Cert-In had reported a 53% increase in ransomware incidents in 2022, that particularly affected IT services, finance, manufacturing, and critical infrastructure, disrupting essential services.

"India's crucial role in the global digital economy makes it a prime target for ransomware. Government and private organisations must enhance their data protection and disaster recovery capabilities to mitigate both internal and external threats," said Sandeep Bhambure, VP and MD, Veeam Software India & SAARC.

"Last line of defence" Back-ups are an organisation's last line of defence while ensuring accessibility, availability, and more importantly, business continuity and data integrity," Mr. Bhambure said. "Having a hardened back-up strategy and implementing robust data protection and recovery measures as outlined in the white paper, reduces the risk of ransomware attacks and safeguards organisations' critical data assets," he said further.

In response to rising digital threats, the Centre has enacted the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which introduces stringent data protection measures for public and private entities, enhancing India's cyber resilience, according to the white paper.

China ex c.bank adviser moots \$1.4 tn in stimulus measures

Reuters
HONG KONG

China could issue ultra-long-term treasury bonds within two years to generate at least 10 trillion yuan (\$1.4 trillion) worth of stimulus to the economy, a former central bank adviser said on Saturday, according to state media.

search Center of the State Council, told the China Macro-economy Forum, the Securities Times reported.

Boosting demand Chinese policymakers will likely step up measures to at least help the economy meet this year's increasingly challenging growth target of roughly 5%, analysts and policy advisers have said, with a sharper focus on boosting demand to fight persistent deflationary pressures.

August economic data showed momentum in China's export-led economic recovery remains frail.

FinMin calls for efficient oversight of DRT backlog

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Saturday asked banks to put in place effective monitoring and oversight mechanisms for efficient management of pending cases in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs).

Financial Services Secretary M. Nagaraju chaired a meeting with chairpersons of Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals and presiding officers of DRTs, where it was stressed that all stakeholders should work collectively to reduce pendency.

'Export potential for India's plantation sector is high'

The Hindu Bureau
COONOOR

The export potential of plantation commodities and their value-added products is high, said Neeraj Gaba, Director - Plantations, Department of Commerce.

Tea exports last fiscal were 260 million kg and coffee exports were worth \$1.29 billion. Export of spices was growing at a CAGR of 8.9% consistently, he said on Saturday at the annual meeting of the United Planters Association of Southern India (UPASI).

While almost 50% of spices exported were in value-added form, 38% of



coffee exports were value-added. In tea too, there should be value addition, the official emphasised.

'Allocation increased' Observing that there was an increase in allocation for all the plantation sectors for the current and next financial years, he urged planters and the industry to make use of the new schemes approved recently for these sectors.

The annual allocation for coffee sector, which used to be ₹220 crore, had been enhanced to ₹300 crore with a thrust on mechanisation and quality improvement, a senior official of the Coffee Board told *The Hindu*.

Financial assistance for the tea sector under the 'Tea Development & Promotion Scheme' had been increased from ₹290.81 crore to ₹528.97 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26 and the operational guidelines for the scheme were issued recently, added an official of the Tea Board.

Vivad Se Vishwas 2.0: Lower settlement for those filing by Dec. 31

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department on Saturday said it has notified dispute resolution scheme Vivad Se Vishwas 2.0 that provides for lesser settlement amounts for taxpayers who file declaration on or before 31.12.2024, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

Four separate Forms have been notified - Form-1: Form for filing declaration and Undertaking by the declarant, Form-2: Form for Certificate to be issued by Designated Authority, Form-3: Form for intimation of payment by the declarant and Form-4: Order for Full and Final Settlement of tax arrears by Designated Authority.

The Income Tax Department on Saturday said it has notified dispute resolution scheme Vivad Se Vishwas 2.0 that provides for lesser settlement amounts for taxpayers who file declaration on or before 31.12.2024, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

The scheme provides for lesser settlement amounts for a 'new appellant' in comparison to an 'old appellant'. It also provides for lesser settlement amounts for taxpayers who file declaration on or before 31.12.2024, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

Horticulture output fell a tad, fruits rose in 2023-24

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Horticulture output is estimated to have fallen marginally by 0.65% to 353.19 million tonne in 2023-24, according to the government's third advance estimate released on Saturday.

Fruit production is expected to have risen 2.29% to 112.73 million tonne in 2023-24 (July-June), driven by higher output of mango, banana, lime/lemon, grapes, and custard apple. Vegetable output was put at 205.8 million tonne, with increases in tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower offsetting declines in potatoes and onion, it said.

with everything from sourcing the supply chain, customer discovery, and purchase and delivery changing rapidly," said Mr. Kumar, who is also the executive Vice-President and Chief Development Officer at Walmart. "Retail today looks a whole lot different just from a few years back. We call it adaptive retail, because ultimately, a search bar is no longer the fastest way to a purchase today," the Global CTO said. However, Mr. Kumar said the core things that customers want globally, be it a broad selection of items to choose from, or an enjoyable shopping experience, have always remained the same.

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES: TIRUPATI (A University established by an Act of A.P. State Legislature) TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS. Separate tenders are invited through e-tendering process in ap - a procurement platform (Two bid system) for purchase of Medical Equipment / calibration of Medical Equipment / Lab equipment and QA for radiation equipment.

HIGH POWER COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SABARIMALA MASTER PLAN. III FLOOR, TRANSCORE DEVASWOM BOARD BUILDING, M. ROAD, OPP. GOVT. AYURVEDA COLLEGE, PUTHENCHANTHAL, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 001. NOTICE INVITING e - TENDERS (RE-TENDER) Dated 20.09.2024

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत्त हनुमानगढ़. निविदा सूचना संख्या 09/2024-25. इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त हनुमानगढ़ के अधीन एक आ.पू.बी निर्माण कार्य हेतु (संग्रह चबूतरे के दोष निवारण व सुधार अर्थात्) और स्थान निर्धारण हेतु 23.10.2024 तक 6.00 बजे तक आवेदन को जमा है।

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता एवं परियोजना प्रबंधक वाटरशेड सेल कम डाटा सेंटर जिला परिषद जालोर. NOTICE INVITING BID. Bid for NRM works Under MJA-2 and PMKSY 2.0 project area in Jalore and Sanchores of estimated Value INR 1306.16 Lacs are invited from interested bidders Up to 3.00 PM 08-10-2024.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता एवं परियोजना प्रबंधक वाटरशेड सेल कम डाटा सेंटर जिला परिषद जालोर. NOTICE INVITING BID. Bid for NRM works Under MJA-2 and PMKSY 2.0 project area in Jalore and Sanchores of estimated Value INR 1306.16 Lacs are invited from interested bidders Up to 3.00 PM 08-10-2024.

cmptdi CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) (कोयला विभाग लिमिटेड की एक अर्द्धसंयोजित कंपनी) Gondwana Place, Kamla Road, Ranchi-834 031, Jharkhand, INDIA. NOTICE. All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत्त हनुमानगढ़. निविदा सूचना संख्या 09/2024-25. इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त हनुमानगढ़ के अधीन एक आ.पू.बी निर्माण कार्य हेतु (संग्रह चबूतरे के दोष निवारण व सुधार अर्थात्) और स्थान निर्धारण हेतु 23.10.2024 तक 6.00 बजे तक आवेदन को जमा है।

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE NCR ALWAR. PHED CAMPUS, MANU MARG ALWAR (RAJ.) E-Mail: sencer.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in. NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT No. 39-41 / 2024-25). Bids for Works of Construction of Source PLI of Rilling Main & Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Construction of Reservoir for Various Villages are invited from interested bidders upto 05:00 PM on Date 14.10.2024.

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आर्युविज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान) (An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)

No. JPADMN-1REC03(1)/5/2024 Dated: 22.09.2024. The Director, JIPMER, Puducherry invites applications from eligible officers of Central/State/U.T. Governments/Statutory/Autonomous Bodies/Government Universities/Government Research and Development Organizations etc., for filling the various Group A & B posts on Deputation basis at JIPMER, Puducherry and JIPMER, Karaikal, as under:

SCIENCE

Rugged Falklands landscape was once a lush rainforest

The Hindu Bureau

Researchers have found evidence that the treeless, rugged, grassland landscape of the Falkland Islands was home to a lush, diverse rainforest up to 30 million years ago. The study reveals that the South Atlantic archipelago was once covered in cool, wet woodland – similar to the present-day rainforests

found in Tierra del Fuego, off the tip of South America.

The scientists conducted the research after clues to the whereabouts of buried remains of the ancient forest reached them via word-of-mouth in the tight knit community of Port Stanley, the Falklands' capital. Chance conversations led them to find perfectly preserved prehistoric tree

remains and pollen at a building site in early 2020.

Samples of the peat layers and deposits were removed from the site at Tussac House near Stanley Harbour. These were carefully transported to Australia for laboratory testing at the University of New South Wales, where the sediment was meticulously sampled and the wood analysed with specialised

scanning electron microscopes. The tree remains proved too old to obtain conclusive results from radiocarbon dating, so pollen spores were used instead. The scientists analysed a variety of spores compacted and sealed in the same layers of peat as the wood. Pollen records led them to conclude the tree trunks and branches date to between

15 and 30 million years old. Detailed findings of the research are newly published in the journal *Antarctic Science*.

Tens of millions of years ago the climate in the South Atlantic was much warmer and wetter than today and capable of supporting a rainforest environment. This would have been cooler than tropical rainforests we might typi-

cally think of – such as the Amazon rainforest – but still able to support a rich, diverse ecosystem of plant and animal life.

Many of the tree species growing on the Falklands are now extinct but would have seeded on the islands by being carried on the prevailing westerly winds from rainforests that covered much of the southern hemisphere.

SNAPSHOTS



A study re-envision Earth's mantle as a uniform reservoir

Lavas from hotspots – whether erupting in Hawaii, Samoa, or Iceland – likely originate from a worldwide, uniform reservoir in Earth's mantle, according to an evaluation of volcanic hotspots. The findings indicate Earth's mantle is far more chemically homogenous than scientists previously thought – and that lavas only acquire their chemical “flavours” enroute to the surface. Knowing what the mantle is made of is central to our understanding of how our planet formed and how the mantle has developed over time.



How plants carry environmental clues

A study has revealed the genetic mechanisms behind transgenerational phenotypic plasticity – a crucial factor in plant adaptation to environmental changes. By investigating *Arabidopsis thaliana* grown under different light conditions across generations, researchers demonstrated how maternal environments shape offspring traits. These findings could inform new strategies for crop improvement. The researchers identified critical genetic regions associated with transgenerational phenotypic plasticity.



A study uncovers mechanism for emu's wing reduction

Researchers have uncovered a fascinating mechanism behind the reduction and asymmetry of emu wing bones. The wings not only show significant shortening, but the skeletal elements also fuse asymmetrically. It highlights how differences in embryonic and fetal movement may play a pivotal role in driving morphological evolution, shedding light on the complex developmental processes that shape skeletal structures.

'Commercialisation of health services can be a recipe for disaster'

If contract management is weak, PPPs can end up with public assets going into private hands, and the government abdicating its responsibility to provide affordable/free care to its citizens

INTERVIEW

Sujatha Rao

R. Prasad

A few days ago, Sujatha Rao, former Union Secretary of the Health Ministry, quit the Lancet Citizens' Commission on Reimagining India's Health System. In 2020, the Union government intensified its efforts to privatise health care in India when NITI Aayog proposed and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in her budget speech that district hospitals will be attached with private medical colleges in a public-private partnership (PPP) mode. This came a year after the Health Ministry issued guidelines for setting up private medical colleges in a PPP mode.

In an email, Ms. Rao shares her views on the perils of increased privatisation of health care in the country.

In July 2024, Madhya Pradesh government issued a notification to privatise 10 district hospitals with 25% of beds reserved for paying patients. Can privatisation of district hospitals in PPP mode “improve health infrastructure” while making healthcare freely accessible to poor people?

For Madhya Pradesh, this is the fourth attempt to hand over public facilities to private parties. I am told that each hospital is proposed to be “leased” out



for 30 years against a down payment of about ₹260 crores. This is being executed by the Finance department under the 2019 Central government scheme that consists of providing 60% of the total project cost as viability gap funding, land, and other assets and allowing 100% operational cost recovery in lieu of keeping 75% of the beds for free treatment. The private sector cannot provide free care unless it establishes a medical college charging hefty capitation to cross subsidise. Even then it is difficult. With weak capacity to enforce conditions, this too will go down as the old scheme of giving land and custom duty exemptions in lieu of 10% free beds and 50% free outpatient (OP).

What challenges can arise when district hospitals are attached to private medical colleges in PPP mode?

This hybrid model is unworkable as can be seen in Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere where



India's health system is the most privatised but it is unregulated and makes access to good quality care a privilege

the private party was allowed to establish a medical college by attaching the 300-bed district hospital. The private party has its own staff and uses the hospital for its own requirements, while the hospital is run by the government staff, creating dual control, confusion, and much bitterness. Instead, the private party could have had an MOU with the government and paid fees for using the hospital for training purposes. The government hospital would have earned revenues and improved the infrastructure while being in command of the hospital's functioning. Since it will be impossible for our weak/soft State to dislodge the private party that has access to prime property and assets worth several crores free, over

time, the government will withdraw and the poor in that district will lose access to good care. If contract management is weak, PPPs can end up with public assets going into private hands, and the government abdicating its responsibility to provide cost effective affordable/free care to its citizens.

Can the U.S. model of Managed Care be appropriate for India, considering the large population of poor people?

While all health systems try to follow the principles of Managed Care – keeping people healthy, preventing illness, reducing hospital services, and ensuring a continuum of care in case of chronic disease – the U.S. model of managed care is based on an insurance model where a person becomes a member of the network based on his ability to pay the premium. Such systems are seen to have a selection bias, deny critical and timely care, create several such bar-

riers, and do not help contain the cost of care. Instead, they exacerbate inequality. Given that India's primary care is chaotic with different systems of medicine, varied levels of competencies of providers, and so on, a U.S. style of managed care model can not only further exacerbate the existing inequalities but also make health care costly, more so as we lack the regulatory capacity to manage contradictions and redress grievances.

In the absence of any social security, will privatisation of health care in India be a recipe for disaster?

India's health system is the most privatised but it is unregulated and makes access to good quality care a privilege. In neglecting health by allocating meagre budgets, refusing to put a strong regulatory system to reduce the adverse effects of market failures, allowing brazen profiteering as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, and virtually abdicating the obligatory duty of providing universal access to comprehensive primary healthcare services free at point of service, by taking the easy and lazy route of expanding insurance or selling public hospitals to investors, the Indian State has become unfair and unjust as a fifth of its citizens are unable to avail medical care due to their inability to pay. Nearly 60 million people are driven to penury paying medical bills. So yes, unregulated for-profit commercialisation of health services can be a recipe for disaster.

Are antibiotics responsible for bowel diseases?

The Hindu Bureau

Besides causing antimicrobial resistant bacteria, irrational use of antibiotics can also act directly on host cells. A recent study published in the journal *Science Advances* has found that even a short-course treatment of mice with antibiotics twice a day for three days was sufficient to damage the integrity of the mucus barrier, which separates the immune system from microbes present in the intestine. When the thin layer of mucus is damaged, it allows the microbes to come in close contact with host tissues, triggering an immune response and predisposing the mice to intestinal inflammation. The breakdown of the mucus barrier, which separates the intestinal epithelium from the microbiota, is a hallmark of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBDs).

Mice were orally treated with four different antibiotics belonging to different classes of antibiotics – ampicillin, metronidazole, neomycin, and vancomycin. The study found that all four antibiotics were capable of breaking down the mucus barrier leading to encroachment of bacteria upon the colonic epithelium. The study found that vancomycin could impede mucus secretion of goblet cells in the colon, in a microbiota-independent manner.

'Deleterious effect'

Mice treated with vancomycin lacked a clear mucus in most areas of the colonic epithelium. Of particular concern was the ability of vancomycin to affect mucus secretion by the goblet cells a few minutes following vancomycin infusion. The study suggests that certain anti-



All four antibiotics tested were capable of breaking down the mucus barrier. GETTY IMAGES

biotics induce endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress in colonic cells, thus diminishing mucus production. Based on this observation, the researchers conclude that antibiotics have a deleterious effect on the mucus

barrier by acting directly on the host cells. When the microbiota after antibiotic treatment were transferred to germ-free mice, it did not lead to the transfer of penetration phenotype. This led the researchers to

conclude that the effects of vancomycin on the mucus barrier could not be transferred to germ-free mice by transferring the microbiota. Besides antibiotic treatment of germ-free mice, the researchers also used fecal microbiota transplant, RNA sequencing followed by machine learning, and ex vivo mucus secretion measurements to confirm that antibiotics directly inhibit mucus secretion in a microbiota-independent manner by inducing ER-stress in goblet cells. This effect was completely independent of the microbiota.

The researchers tested whether they could reverse the mucus secretion defect caused by vancomycin treatment. They had previously found that TUDCA (tauroursodeoxycholic acid) treatment could increase mucus secretion rates by reducing endoplasmic reticulum stress in

colonic goblet cells. Since vancomycin treatment induces endoplasmic reticulum stress in the colon, they could restore mucus secretion by alleviating the ER stress using the TUDCA treatment. This reconfirmed that vancomycin treatment indeed inhibits secretion from colonic goblet cells by inducing endoplasmic reticulum stress.

Eroding barrier

“We propose an hypothesis to explain why antibiotic use is a risk factor for the development of IBD. We speculate that repetitive antibiotic treatment, perhaps together with predisposing genetic factors, erode the mucus barrier which can, after time, lead to gut inflammation,” Dr. Shai Bel from the Bar-Ilan University, Safed, Israel and the corresponding author of the paper tweeted.



Question Corner

Cooling off

Can heat-related illnesses be prevented in dogs?

A study has found that voluntary dunking of heads in water maintained at 22 degree C by dogs with limited water ingestion is the most effective method for rapid cooling after exercise. It reduces core body temperature within five minutes. Currently, the recommended cooling strategy after exertional hyperthermia involves full or partial immersion in cool water or using a fan to increase air circulation and evaporation after wetting the skin thoroughly. Voluntary head dunking also prevented dangerous post-exercise temperature

spikes. Cooling the head enables rapid cooling of the whole body with limited amounts of water. Heat-related illness is a serious risk for dogs, especially during warm weather. The research emphasises the critical rule of “cool first, transport second,” which encourages owners to begin cooling dogs immediately if they show signs of heat stress. Allowing the dog to drink controlled amounts of cool water and pouring water on the dog's head may provide some benefit but it warrants further study.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

Is the spike in India's trade deficit a worry?

What are the sectors in which exports have dropped? Is there any significant risk at this point?

Vikas Dhoot

The story so far:

After a positive start to goods exports in the first quarter of 2024-25, there has been a blip in momentum. Outbound shipment values shrank 1.5% in July to an eight-month low, and the contraction deepened to 9.3% in August. This has coincided with a record import bill which hit \$64.4 billion in August, and translated into a merchandise trade deficit of \$29.7 billion, the second highest after the record \$29.9 billion gap in October 2023

What has triggered the wider trade deficit?

While exports have shrank in the past two months, imports have not – they grew 7.5% over last July and 3.3% in August. This lifted the deficit to a nine-month peak of \$23.5 billion in July and that gap widened by around \$6.2 billion last month. On the exports front, 18 of India's top 30 segments recorded growth in July and 19 in August, but the big-ticket sectors like petroleum, and gems and jewellery, have tanked significantly. Oil exports were down 22.2% in July and 37.6% in August, while jewellery exports have dropped well over 20% in both months. In August, growth also slowed significantly in sectors like drugs and pharmaceuticals, and the emerging export growth engine of recent times, electronic goods. With the Chinese economy slowing, some segments like stone, plaster,

As India is growing faster than the world, its demand for global products is bound to outpace the world's demand for its exports, says Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal

deficit to a three-year low, QuantEco Research economists pointed out in a note.

"The widening of the merchandise trade deficit was predominantly led by gems and jewellery, along with a minor impact from miscellaneous products and electronic items," they said. While gems and jewellery exports slipped below \$2 billion, India's gold imports more than doubled in August to an all-time high of \$10.1 billion. This is in sharp contrast to a 10.7% drop in gold imports in July and the range of \$3 billion-3.4 billion seen since April. Top trade officials attributed this surge to the reduction in gold import duty from 15% to 6% announced in the Budget, the recent rise in gold prices, and domestic jewellery players stocking up for the festive season. Economists believe the full impact of the duty cuts announced on gold and other items will continue to play out, weighing on the import bill in coming months.

Could wider trade deficits pose a risk?

There is no significant risk to the economy at this point. As Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal has emphasised, India is growing faster than the world, so its demand for global products is bound to outpace the world's demand for its exports. "The deficit should not be a matter of concern for a developing economy with high growth and to the extent there are no foreign exchange issues, it should not matter," he asserted this week. Foreign capital inflows have stayed positive in recent months, and India's foreign exchange reserves had reached a record high of \$675 billion as of August 2, which the Finance Ministry reckoned last month to be sufficient to cover 11.6 months of imports. That cover may be a tad lower if imports continue to hover over \$60 billion in coming months, but services exports, reckoned to have risen over 10% between April and August, provide some comfort.

What about foreign trade in goods?

Global trade is expected to grow faster in 2024 than 2023, but for now, demand remains tepid in most developed markets. The festering geopolitical risks and conflicts aside, the upcoming election in the U.S. and its tariff hikes on Chinese goods even as Beijing grapples with a faltering domestic economy, presents a double-edged sword for players like India. While China's demand for imports slip, it has more reason to dump its products in non-U.S. markets at throwaway prices. Moreover, this interplay of downward pressures is expected to keep oil prices low, hurting India's oil export hopes, even as concerns about overall global demand impulses have increased. Beyond the short term, the road ahead for India's trade – the government aims to scale up services and goods exports to a trillion dollars each by 2030 – is not likely to be smooth. There are challenges to boosting the export growth engine, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said, with the global economy slowing down, tariffs and non-tariff barriers proliferating with countries adopting "active industrial policies" since the pandemic, and new trade walls such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Deforestation Rules coming into play. There could be a year or two that offer the chance to ramp up exports, but all in all, it's going to be a hard time, he concluded.

Why was Hezbollah attacked through pagers?

How do these low-tech gadgets work? Why was Hezbollah using them? What is the scare for future conflicts? Why is it believed that Israel is responsible? How is the low-tech gadget blitz redrawing the contours of the Israel-Iran conflict?

John Xavier

The story so far:

In September 17, at least nine persons were killed and several thousands injured, including Iran's envoy to Beirut, when pagers used by the armed group Hezbollah detonated simultaneously across Lebanon. The Lebanese Information Minister Ziad Makary condemned the attack as an "Israeli aggression". A day after the pager blasts, walkie-talkies used by the Hezbollah also blew up, killing nearly two dozen and injuring over 450 people.

Why are tensions high in the region?

The low-tech gadget attacks have come at a time when tensions between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah are escalating. The duo have been exchanging fire across the Israel-Lebanon border since the start of the Gaza war in October. This operation could very well start a new phase in the prolonged regional conflict.

CCTV footage and Instagram posts of blasts in multiple parts of Lebanon surprised Hezbollah as two of its fighters and an 8-year-old girl were killed. The militant group vowed to retaliate against Israel for the blasts. The simultaneous explosions occurred largely in southern Lebanon, a Hezbollah stronghold. Israel's military has declined to comment. But the biggest surprise lies in the weapon used by the perpetrator. The devices behind the serial blasts were low-tech gadgets – pagers.

What are pagers and how do they work?

Pagers, often called beepers, are communication devices that emerged in the mid-20th century. Their presence was eclipsed by cellular phones

The low-tech gadget attacks have come at a time when tensions between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah are escalating

that grew in popularity in the 1990s and 2000s. Subsequently, the dawn of smartphones pushed pagers into the shadows. But the humble, palm-sized device has its strengths.

Pagers operate using radio signals, which are transmitted by towers and received by the device. They function as either one-way or two-way systems. One-way pagers receive messages from a central transmitter but cannot send replies. That means a user can receive numeric or alphanumeric messages, which the device alerts them through a beep or vibration. In a two-way system, the pagers are capable of handling communication in both directions. Users can receive and respond to messages, which make them slightly more advanced, but these are still limited in functionality compared to modern smartphones.

Pagers rely on a network of radio towers that broadcast signals over a wide area. In many cases, they are more reliable than mobile phones in certain conditions because their communication system operates over simple, robust radio waves, often penetrating areas where cell coverage might be weak. Despite their technological obsolescence in mainstream use, pagers are still valued in healthcare, emergency services, and remote locations where cellular networks are unreliable. Their simplicity ensures they are more energy-efficient and less prone to network outages.

How are they useful in covert operations?

Pagers are relatively unsophisticated compared to smartphones or other modern gadgets, which make them less susceptible to high-tech surveillance techniques. They don't have GPS or internet connectivity, reducing the risk of location tracking and hacking. Intelligence agencies rely heavily on digital footprints, but pagers are harder to monitor remotely.

Secondly, pagers use radio frequencies, which make it harder for interception compared to cellular or internet-based communication devices. This feature makes them ideal for sending short, encrypted, or coded messages in sensitive situations. With one-way pagers, the risk of being detected is lower since the device does not transmit a response, making it difficult for intelligence agencies or adversaries to trace the origin or location of the message.

Thirdly, their simplicity plays a key role on how they can be manipulated, which could be a likely reason why it was used in the Hezbollah attack. Pagers can be modified to include circuits that trigger a signal when a specific message is received. These modifications are used in covert operations to activate explosives or send alerts without raising immediate

suspicion. "The belief among Hezbollah was that their phone systems, cell phones, were compromised by the Israelis," Bruce Schneier, Adjunct Lecturer of Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, said in *The Interface* podcast interview. "To maintain security, they used older technology like pagers, thinking they weren't as vulnerable."

"The Israelis preyed on that belief and manipulated the pagers. They could have just eavesdropped, but they used them for destructive purposes instead," he told *The Hindu*. Speaking about low-tech gadgets, Mr. Schneier said: "It's not the vintage tech that matters – it just happened to be vintage because Hezbollah wanted it. The tampering could have been done with any technology."

Will pagers be a new tool in armed conflict?

Their small size and outdated look make pagers an ideal device to send short, encrypted texts that can't be picked up by intelligence agencies. While Israel has declined to comment on both the pager and the walkie-talkie blasts, it is clear who could have pulled off such an operation.

A *Reuters* report revealed that the pagers in the explosion bore Gold Apollo's branding. While the Taiwan-based company has denied making the pagers used in the blasts in Lebanon, the company's founder, Hsu Ching-Kuang, clarified that the devices were manufactured by a European firm licensed to use their brand. Gold Apollo insists it was not responsible for the product and expressed embarrassment over the incident. Hezbollah reportedly ordered thousands of pagers, which they believed could help evade Israeli tracking systems.

Experts are hypothesising myriad ways by which this attack could have been planned and executed. But there is nothing conclusive yet. It is unclear whether the devices were bugged at the manufacturing level or at the supply chain level. Mr. Schneier noted that "the Israelis were able to set up a front company, selling pagers to Hezbollah, and those pagers were created in Taiwan and modified by the Israelis to have explosives in them."

How could the attack have been pulled off?

Mr. Schneier pointed out that these pagers may have been intercepted and modified by Israeli engineers. The modification could have involved adding explosives, specifically PETN (a chemical explosive), to the pagers. Since reports suggest that the Israelis controlled the sale through their front company, they would have had full access to tamper with the devices in a lab before delivering them to Hezbollah. In addition to pagers, it's believed that Israel used a similar method with walkie-talkies, intercepting them and configuring them for remote detonation.

The entire operation was a sophisticated supply chain manipulation, leveraging Israel's control over the sale and distribution of the devices to Hezbollah.



Covert attack: A man holds a walkie-talkie, during the funeral of persons killed during the explosion of pagers across Lebanon, on September 18. AFP

What is the Nipah protocol in Kerala?

How did the State respond after a fresh scare in Malappuram? How does the deadly zoonotic virus spread? What are the restrictions that need to be followed once a patient is diagnosed? Who are at risk of contracting the virus? Why is the September death a cause for concern?

Abdul Latheef Naha

The story so far:

In September 14, a fresh Nipah scare erupted in Malappuram, the largest populated district of Kerala, when a 24-year-old man who died at MES Medical College Hospital, Perinthalmanna, on September 9 was found positive for the deadly virus. The health authorities in the State remained silent on that day as they waited for the final test results from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune. But they were almost certain about the final results after the State virology laboratory at the Government Medical College, Kozhikode, flagged the test positive.

What followed the positive test?

The health department adopted the Nipah protocol by forming 16 committees as specified in the standard operating procedure for Nipah and started identifying the people who had come in close contact with the victim after he started showing symptoms about 10 days ago. On September 15, Kerala's Minister for Health Veena George, based on the test result from NIV, Pune, declared that the man, who was a student in Bengaluru, had died of Nipah, a deadly zoonotic virus that causes a range of serious

The latest Nipah incidents have occurred within two months in the Malappuram district

illnesses from respiratory infection to fatal encephalitis. With official confirmation, restrictions on social movement were imposed and face masks were made mandatory in public places in Malappuram district.

This is the second Nipah death in the Malappuram district in less than two months. On July 21, a 14-year-old boy from Chemrassery died of Nipah at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode. Although it had triggered alarm and government-imposed restrictions, the focus shifted when the neighbouring Wayanad district witnessed Kerala's worst landslide on July 30. The Nipah cases of July 21 and September 9 were hardly 10 km apart in a highly populated district. While the schoolboy was presumed to have contracted the virus after he ate a hog plum, it is not clear how the Bengaluru student was infected.

What is the case history of Nipah in the State?

This was the sixth Nipah virus spillover in Kerala since 2018, when the State reported its first case. As many as 22 people in Kerala have died of Nipah so far. While the first outbreak claimed 17 lives in Kozhikode and Malappuram, the second incident at Pazhur in Kozhikode claimed only one life in 2021. Another outbreak that took place in Kozhikode in August 2023 claimed two lives. The latest Nipah incidents within two months in Malappuram have sent an ominous message that Nipah could be here to stay.

Why was there a delay to identify the virus?

The 24-year-old man had reached home from Bengaluru in the last week of August. He visited several clinics after he developed a fever and had difficulty walking on September 5. He was admitted to MES Medical College on September 8 with symptoms of meningitis or encephalitis, where he died on the morning of September 9. A doubt that arose in the doctor who examined the 24-year-old man at this private medical college led him to contact the District Medical Officer and send the body fluid sample for an examination to the Kozhikode virology lab.

How did the government respond?

The government, particularly the health

department and the district administration, was quick to respond by declaring five civic wards in the adjoining grama panchayats of Tiruvalli and Mampad as containment zones. Schools, madrasas, coaching and tuition centres, and anganwadis in the region were closed. Cinema halls too were shut. Shops were allowed to open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. only. Social gatherings were banned. Masks were made mandatory in the district, especially for students and teachers on campuses. The health department prepared a route map of the Nipah victim, traced 267 persons who had come in contact with him, and put them in quarantine. Several of them, particularly his parents, close friends and the doctors and nurses who took care of him at the hospital, were closely monitored. Their serum was collected and tested at the virology lab. So far all results have been negative. As many as 30 of the victim's classmates in Bengaluru too were advised to self-quarantine.

The government also opened a Nipah control room at Malappuram and started closely monitoring the developments. Senior health officers led by health department director K.J. Reena have been camping at Malappuram. Health workers in 66 teams have undertaken a field survey within a three kilometre radius from the victim's house in Tiruvalli panchayat and reached out to 7,953 houses within four days. As many as 175 cases of fever were reported during the survey, and they were put under surveillance. The health department also reached out to nearly 300 persons with psychological support.

Where did Nipah come from?

Bats are considered to be the carriers of the Nipah virus. The primary pathways of transmission from bats to people are through contamination of fruits eaten by bats with subsequent consumption by humans. The virus can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly from human-to-human through close contact with people's secretions and excretions. Healthcare workers, friends and family members of an infected person are at high risk of contracting the virus.

It is unclear where the 24-year-old Nipah victim contracted the virus. Experts have been divided on attributing the virus exclusively to bats. Following the outbreak of 2018, there was a drive to destroy bat colonies, but in vain. The definitive connection between Nipah and bats is yet to be ascertained in Kerala.



Quick to spread: The patient suffering from Nipah infection being shifted to a Nipah isolation ward in Kozhikode Medical College on July 20. REUTERS

TEHRAN
Iran unveils new drone, ballistic missile amid rising tensions



Iran unveiled a new ballistic missile and an upgraded one-way attack drone at a military parade on Saturday, amid soaring regional tensions and allegations of arming Russia. The solid-fuel Jihad missile has an operational range of 1,000 km while the Shahed-136B drone has an operational range of 4,000 km. AFP

KYIV
Arms depot in northwest Russia on fire after Ukrainian drone strike



A blaze tore through a Russian arms depot deep inside the country, triggering explosions and the closure of a major highway, after Ukraine overnight launched over 100 drones at Russia and occupied Crimea. The depot was just kilometres from another that was struck by Ukrainian drones on Wednesday, which caused a huge fire. AP

NAIROBI
Kenyan court rules that Meta can be sued over moderator sackings



A Kenyan court has ruled that U.S. social media giant Meta can be sued over poor working conditions and lay-offs, paving the way for a legal battle in the East African nation. The Nairobi Court of Appeal ruling on Friday concerns the sacking of content moderators for Facebook by Sama, a Meta contractor. AFP

PHNOM PENH
Cambodia is no longer part of border development deal



Cambodia has withdrawn from a regional economic development deal with Vietnam and Laos, Prime Minister Hun Manet said, in a surprise concession to critics concerned about the kingdom losing territory to its neighbours. The 25-year-old CLV-DTA agreement has been the focus of criticism and overseas protests recently. AFP

At least 22 killed in Israeli attack on a Gaza school

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

An Israeli strike on a school in northern Gaza on Saturday killed at least 22 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, while the Israeli Army said it targeted a Hamas' command center in what used to be a school. Another 30 were wounded in the strike on the school in the Zeitoun area of Gaza City, the Ministry said in a statement. Most of the casualties were women and children, it said.

The Israeli Army said earlier on Saturday it struck Hamas' "command and control center, which was embedded inside a compound that previously served" as a school. It said steps were taken to limit harming civilians, including the use of precise munitions and aerial surveillance.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, the Israeli Army has struck a number of schools, packed with tens of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes by Israeli offensives and evacuation orders. The conflict has left 90% of Palestinians in Gaza displaced, according to figures from the United Nations. Earlier this month, an Israeli strike hit a school in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 14.

In July, Israeli airstrikes hit a girls' school in Deir al-Balah, killing at least 30 people sheltering inside. Israel's military said it targeted a Hamas command centre used to direct attacks against its troops and store weapons.

Two commanders killed in Israel's Beirut hit: Hezbollah

Three children were among the 37 people killed in Israel's air strike on Friday; the militant group said it targeted seven military positions in northern Israel and the occupied Golan with rockets

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, which has been exchanging fire with Israel for months, on Saturday announced that two commanders of its elite operations unit had been killed by an Israeli strike on Beirut, which authorities said left 37 people dead.

Health Minister Firass Abiad said three children were also killed in Friday's strike on an underground meeting room.

Israel said the strike killed the head of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force,



Early scar: A child wears a headband during a funeral for the three Hezbollah members killed in Israeli strike on Beirut. REUTERS

Ibrahim Aqil, and several other commanders.

The military said on Saturday it was again hitting targets "belonging to the

Hezbollah terrorist organisation in Lebanon", without elaborating.

The Iran-backed group later said it targeted at least

seven military positions in northern Israel and the annexed Golan Heights with rockets.

Mr. Abiad, Lebanon's Health Minister, said emergency services worked "through the night" to recover victims from the Beirut strike, adding that "a residential building collapsed on top of occupants".

Hezbollah said a second senior commander, Ahmed Mahmud Wahbi, was also killed on Friday. He said he headed the group's operations against Israel from the onset of the Gaza war in October until the start of this year.

U.S. lawmakers announce bipartisan Quad caucus

Sriram Lakshman
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators and members of the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday announced the formation of a caucus to promote the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), a group comprising of India, the U.S., Australia and Japan, on the eve of a summit-level meeting of the group's leaders in Wilmington in the U.S. State of Delaware.

The caucus was launched on Friday by Democrat Representative Ami Bera, ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Indo-Pacific Subcommittee, Representative Rob Wittman (Republican) and Senators Tammy Duckworth (Democrat) and Pete

It was essential for the U.S. to strengthen its relationship with Quad countries, said Rep. Ami Bera

Ricketts (Republican), who are both members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It was essential for the U.S. to strengthen its relationship with Quad countries, Mr. Bera said, given the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific region.

'Malign aggression' Making a veiled reference to China, Mr. Ricketts said groups like Quad were the "greatest strength against coercion and malign aggression". The White House had

said China would be an important part of the agenda when U.S. President Joe Biden hosts Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for talks on Saturday.

'Here for long haul' "Together, we're sending a strong message to our allies and partners – and our competitors – that the United States is here for the long haul," Ms. Duckworth said in a statement to mark the launch of the congressional caucus.

The Quad has been supported across administrations; it was revived at the Foreign Minister level during the Donald Trump presidency.

No go-ahead from U.K., U.S. to use long-range missiles: Zelenskyy

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

The U.S. and Britain have not authorised Ukraine to use long-range missiles on targets inside Russia possibly fearing an "escalation", President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that firing long-range weapons into Russia would signify that NATO countries were at war with Moscow.

"Neither America nor the United Kingdom gave us permission to use these weapons on the territory of Russia, on any targets, at any distance," Mr. Zelenskyy told reporters late on Friday.

"I think they are worried about an escalation of

hostilities," he said. The weapons are supplied by Ukraine's Western allies.

Mr. Zelenskyy also said Ukraine's allies had increased their military support to the Ukrainian Army, which is struggling to stop the advance of Russian forces in the east of their country.

"(Aid) accelerated in September. We are glad. We can feel the difference," he said.

Delays in the supply of weapons due to political divisions between allies left Ukrainian forces short of supplies early this year.

Kyiv is heavily dependent on this military support.

Its Army has fewer men and weapons than the Rus-



Delays in the supply of weapons due to political divisions between allies left Ukraine short of supplies early this year. REUTERS

sian forces it has been fighting since Moscow launched a full-fledged invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Efforts to end the war have not yet proved successful.

Mr. Zelenskyy dismissed

anything something," he told reporters.

China and Brazil had promoted the idea of an international peace conference acceptable to both Russia and Ukraine, in which both sides would participate equally and all options would be on the table.

Russia-China ties Beijing and Moscow have close ties which have strengthened since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The U.S. alleges that while China does not supply weapons to Russia directly, it helps Moscow increase domestic production of missiles, military drone and tanks.

Mr. Zelenskyy hopes to

propose his so-called "victory plan" to end the war when he meets President Joe Biden in the U.S. next week.

"The plan is designed for decisions that will have to happen from October to December... We would like that very much. Then we believe that the plan will work," he had said earlier.

The Ukrainian leader also said he would meet Donald Trump probably on September 26 or 27.

Mr. Trump, who was U.S. President between 2017 and 2021, has been very critical of the billions of dollars Washington has provided to Kyiv in aid and has claimed he can help end the war within 24 hours without ever explaining how.

Russia, China begin naval exercises in Sea of Japan

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia and China started naval exercises in the Sea of Japan on Saturday, Russian news agencies cited Russia's Pacific Fleet as saying.

"A joint detachment of warships of the Pacific Fleet and Chinese Navy set out from Vladivostok to conduct the joint Russian-Chinese "BeiBu/Interaction - 2024" naval exercise," the RIA news agency quoted the Pacific Fleet. The exercises will include anti-aircraft and anti-submarine weapons.

Sport

Indian Army holds Railways

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

A last-gasp goal by Jobanpreet Singh ensured Indian Army drew 2-2 with defending champion Indian Railways in a Pool-A contest of the 95th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament held here on Saturday.

In another Pool-A tie, host Tamil Nadu scripted a convincing 4-1 victory over Maharashtra for its first win while in a Pool-B match, former champion IOC eked out a 3-2 win over Karnataka.

Railways looked aggressive in the first quarter with the team looking like a well-oiled unit. Army, too, was up to the task. Though not as flashy as its oppo-

nent, Army remained competitive with its in-the-trenches approach. Trailering 1-2, Army equalised with a peach of a goal by Jobanpreet, who made a short and quick run from inside the circle to flick it home.

It was a morale-boosting victory for Tamil Nadu, and it came against a side that just the other day, upset former champion BPCL with a come-from-behind win.

The results: Pool-A: HUTN 4 (B. P. Somanna 15, Shanmugavel 29, Abishek 33, Balachandrar 50) bt Maharashtra 1 (Mayur Dhanavde 26); Indian Railways 2 (Shivam Anand 10, Pardeep Singh 44) drew with Indian Army 2 (Budut Tuti 42, Jobanpreet Singh 60). B: IOC 3 (Talwinder Singh 2, Aarman Qureshi 43, Gujinder Singh 53) bt Karnataka 2 (Abharan Sudev 7, Desh Poovaliah 53).



All in: Shivam Anand, who scored one of the goals for Indian Railways, tries to get past Pratap Shinde of Indian Army. R. RAVINDRAN

Sadiku denies Mohammedan a victory

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohammedan Sporting picked up the first point of the ISL II after it was held to a 1-1 draw by the visiting FC Goa at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Saturday. The host went ahead through a penalty converted by Alexis Gomez but could not hold on for its first win as Armando Sadiku restored parity in injury-time.

Mohammedan Sporting showed a remarkable transformation from being a defensive side in the debut match (against North-East United FC) to a fiercely attacking side against Goa.

The host's performance showed a nice interchang-



Special one: Gomez netted Mohammedan's first ISL goal. DEBASISH BHADURI

ing of positions among its attackers while it made clever use of the flanks to create numerous openings to keep Goa's seasoned goalkeeper Laxmikant Kattimani terribly busy.

The home team created three clear openings through striker Gomez, but it was Kattimani on two occasions and the cross-piece once denying the

crafty Argentine striker.

The change of ends saw Mohammedan Sporting continuing its search for the elusive goal, which came in the 66th minute when Goa's Spanish centre-back made the mistake of pulling down Gomez inside box.

Kattimani was finally beaten as Gomez found the net from the resultant pe-

nalty. Just when it looked like the ISL debutant would take home full points, Goa found the equaliser through Sadiku in injury-time after substitute Aakash Sangwan had set him up with a nice cross.

PTI reports: Spaniard Javi Hernandez struck a brace as Jamshedpur FC eked out a hard-fought 3-2 win over Mumbai City FC after falling a goal behind to secure its first home victory in Jamshedpur.

Hernandez scored in the 44th and 50th minutes while Jordan Murray (36th minute) got the other goal for the home side.

The results: Mohammedan Sporting 1 (Gomez 66-pen) drew with FC Goa 1 (Sadiku 90+4). Jamshedpur FC 3 (Murray 36, Hernandez 44, 50) bt Mumbai City FC 2 (Karelis 18, van Nieff 77).

HANDLE WITH CARE

Gill's lucky willow and the bat-tap celebrations with Pant



R. RAGU

Gill revealed that he asked Pant not to do the bat-tap celebrations too hard during their partnership. "I was telling him not to because I was playing with a bat I had played against England, which was quite old. He was hitting my bat hard, and I told him I was trying to save it. If he didn't middle it, he would say, 'let's do it again'".

BIG GLOVES, BIG BATS

Pant draws level with Dhoni for most tons by an Indian 'keeper



R. RAGU

Rishabh Pant, who slammed his sixth Test century, drew level with former skipper M.S. Dhoni for most tons by an Indian wicket-keeper. The 25-year-old achieved this feat on the third day of the first Test against Bangladesh in Chennai on his comeback to Test cricket after nearly two years following a life-threatening accident in Dec. 2022.

DOUBLE DELIGHT

Ashwin goes past Kumble in fourth innings scalps, equals Walsh's tally



R. RAGU

R. Ashwin overtook Anil Kumble for most wickets in the fourth innings of a Test for India. The off-spinner, with 96 scalps, went past the leg-spinner who had 94. His tally of 519 wickets helped Ashwin draw level with Courtney Walsh as the eighth highest wicket-taker in the longest format.

CRUCIAL

Carey's knock sets up Australia's win over England



GETTY IMAGES

Australia was indebted to Alex Carey as it beat England by 68 runs in the second ODI at Headingley on Saturday to go 2-0 up in a five-match series. **The scores:** Australia 270 in 44.4 overs (Marsh 60, Carey 74, Carse 3/75) bt England 202 in 40.2 overs (Jamie Smith 49, Starc 3/50). **Toss:** England; **PoM:** Carey.

Bangladesh has a mountain to climb after the Gill-Pant show

While the India No. 3 scores an unbeaten hundred, the wicketkeeper-batter makes an incredible return to the Test fold with his sixth century; chasing a mammoth target of 515, Najmul's team reaches 158 for four; Ashwin takes three wickets

BANGLADESH IN INDIA

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

India maintained its incremental progress in the first Test with Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant setting the base for an inevitable triumph. At close on the third day here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, chasing a gargantuan 515, Bangladesh scored 158 for four in the second innings.

The visitor commenced the second essay on a brisk note through openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam. The former kept finding the ropes and Bangladesh remained unscathed at tea. However, after the caffeine break, the cookie began to crumble as Jasprit Bumrah drew an edge from Zakir and Yashasvi Jaiswal dived low to pluck a fine catch.

Later R. Ashwin scalped Shadman, who found an agile Gill at short mid-wicket. Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto danced down the wicket twice and smote Ashwin. The wily spinner, though, kept India in the hunt, knocking back Mominul Haque's stumps and accounting for Mushfiqur Rahim. And then the skies darkened, a Saturday waned and most probably a triumphant Sunday awaits India.

Earlier in the morning under overcast conditions following overnight rains, India resumed its second innings at 81 for three. A weekend crowd trooped in mostly attired in Virat or Rohit jerseys, while some wore shirts featuring the city's eternal favourite Dhoni.



Calling the shots: Gill and Pant's alliance deflated the Bangladesh bowlers. R. RAGU



ni. If fans made their fondness obvious for the senior troika, it was India's junior crop that led the way on the pitch.

Forward march

The forward march was led by Gill, all aesthetic delight and effective shots, and Pant, the hustling southpaw with his spirit of irreverence, a throwback to the Virender Sehwag era.

Bangladesh opened with spin as Mehidy Hasan Miraz wheeled his arm over. Pant pulled a four, Gill hoisted two sixes and the first session's cruise-mode was truly on. In one instance, Pant lost his grip but still went through with a one-handed six.

The two batters ensured that India kept soaring. Their respective fifties

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1st innings
376 in 91.2 overs

BANGLADESH — 1st innings
149 in 47.1 overs

INDIA — 2nd innings
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Litton b Nahid 10 (17b, 2x4), Rohit Sharma c Zakir b Taskin 5 (7b, 1x4), Shubman Gill (not out) 119 (176b, 10x4, 4x6), Virat Kohli lbw b Miraz 17 (37b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant c & b Miraz 109 (128b, 13x4, 4x6), K.L. Rahul (not out) 22 (19b, 4x4); Extras (lb-4, w-1): 5; Total (for four wickets, decl. in 64 overs): 287.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-15 (Rohit, 2.3 overs), 2-28 (Jaiswal, 6.4), 3-67 (Kohli, 19.2), 4-234 (Pant, 55.3).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Taskin 7-1-22-1, Mahmud 11-1-43-0, Nahid 6-0-21-1, Shakib

were etched much to the delight of the home dressing room while Najmul swapped his bowlers around in vain. The cap-

13-0-79-0, Miraz 25-3-103-2, Mominul 2-0-15-0.

BANGLADESH — 2nd innings
Zakir Hasan c Jaiswal b Bumrah 33 (47b, 5x4, 1x6), Shadman Islam c Gill b Ashwin 35 (68b, 3x4), Najmul Hossain Shanto

(batting) 51 (60b, 4x4, 3x6), Mominul Haque b Ashwin 13 (24b, 3x4), Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahul b Ashwin 13 (11b, 1x4, 1x6), Shakib Al Hasan (batting) 5 (14b); Extras (b-4, lb-4): 8; Total (for four wickets, in 37.2 overs): 158.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-62 (Zakir, 16.2), 2-86 (Shadman, 21.3), 3-124 (Mominul, 29.6), 4-146 (Mushfiqur, 33.4).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 7-2-18-1, Siraj 3.2-1-20-0, Akash 6-0-20-0, Ashwin 15-0-63-3, Jadeja 6-0-29-0.

tain was also guilty of dropping Pant on 72, when the latter miscued a lofted shot off Shakib Al Hasan.

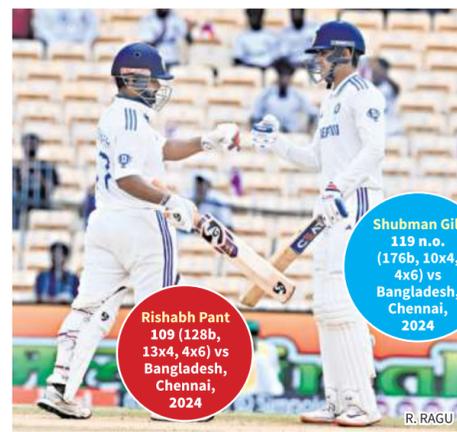
Heading into lunch, In-

dia was well placed at 205 for three. After the break, Pant rushed towards his sixth Test ton and soon the helmet was removed while he kept gazing at the skies. To survive a life-threatening accident and play cricket again was never easy but Pant did that with a perseverance that is the stuff of legend.

Shortly after his emotionally charged sixth Test hundred, Pant (109) struck one back to Miraz and re-treated. By then he and Gill had added 167 runs for the fourth wicket and the stage was set for the latter to reach his fifth Test ton.

With K.L. Rahul being an able foil, Gill (119 n.o.) pocketed the runs with elan and Rohit Sharma declared at 287 for four leaving Bangladesh staring at a steep target.

Pant and Gill's Test centuries



Rishabh Pant

114 (146b, 15x4, 4x6) vs England, The Oval, 2018

159 n.o. (189b, 15x4, 1x6) vs Australia, Sydney, 2019

101 (118b, 13x4, 2x6) vs England, Ahmedabad, 2021

100 n.o. (139b, 6x4, 4x6) vs South Africa, Cape Town, 2022

146 (111b, 19x4, 4x6) vs England, Birmingham, 2022

Shubman Gill

110 (152b, 10x4, 3x6) vs England, The Oval, 2018

128 (235b, 12x4, 1x6) vs Australia, Ahmedabad, 2023

104 (147b, 11x4, 2x6) vs England, Visakhapatnam, 2024

110 (150b, 12x4, 5x6) vs England, Dharamsala, 2024

The series against England gave me confidence: Gill

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

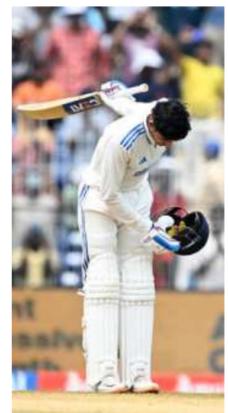
Shubman Gill put behind him the disappointment of a first innings duck by slamming his fifth Test century in India's second essay against Bangladesh on Saturday.

"Having got out the way I got out in the first innings (caught behind while flicking off his pads), I was very disappointed. It further motivated me to be able to spend a lot of time at the crease and put extra value on my wicket," said Gill after recording his third century of the year.

About his knock and the preparations leading into the series, Gill remarked, "I had certain plans, and I think I executed them. It's about having a good defence but also not missing out on the opportunities you get as a batter to score runs."

A striking feature of his knock was how he used his feet to charge at the spinners, to drive them down the ground, or go aerial.

"It's something that I started practising when I was very young because I



Gill. R. RAGU

was always a tall guy, so it was easier for me to use my feet and play along the ground," Gill explained.

"Playing in the air and hitting sixes came a bit later when I got more power in my body. But initially, when I used to practice, especially against spinners, it used to be a lot more me stepping down trying to rotate strike because it's then hard for bowlers to settle on a pitch like this, where the odd one is turning but not all the balls are turn-

ing," he added.

On the gameplan he and his fellow centurion Rishabh Pant had at the start of day three, Gill said they decided to dominate after being watchful for the first few overs.

"We spoke about trying to spend a little bit more time today because there might be some extra moisture in the wicket after the (overnight) rain. But once we played three to four overs, we tried to dominate because it was not about runs for us at that point. We wanted to give a certain amount of time for our bowlers to bowl," said Gill.

The 25-year-old has had a good run in the longest format in 2024, scoring 617 runs in seven matches (13 innings). He cited the England series earlier this year, where he scored 452 runs, as pivotal in cementing his place.

"I think the series I had against England gave me confidence. And I felt it was a long time coming for me, especially batting at that position (number three)," said Gill before signing off saying "my best is yet to come".

India in with a chance for historic twin golds

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Sports Bureau

India will go into Sunday's final round of the Chess Olympiad in Budapest with chances of striking gold in both the open and women's sections.

The second-seeded Indian men shocked the top seed United States 2.5-1.5, to retain their two-point lead. They have 19 points, out of a maximum of 20.

India's win was spearheaded by D. Gukesh, who turned the table on the World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana on the top board. The 18-year-old has been in top form in the tournament, continuing from



Gukesh. FIDE

where he left off at the last Olympiad, which India hosted in 2022.

It was Arjun Erigaisi who ensured India's victory against the Americans. He beat Leinier Dominguez on the third board. R. Praggnanandhaa had

lost on the second board to Wesley So. On the fourth board, Vidit Gujrathi held Levon Aronian to a draw.

The Indian women bounced back to the joint lead after beating China 2.5-1.5. Not for the first time, it was Divya Deshmukh who turned out to be the heroine for the top seed.

She scored India's lone victory, as she prevailed over Ni Shiquan on the third board.

All the other games were drawn — D. Harika vs Zhu Jiner; R. Vaishali vs Guo Qi; Vantika Agrawal vs Lu Miaoyi.

India was joined at the top of the table by Kazakhstan, which drew with Georgia 2-2.

Team World and Europe tied 2-2

LAVER CUP

Associated Press
BERLIN

American pair Taylor Fritz and Ben Shelton edged Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev in doubles to tie the Laver Cup after the first day's play on Friday.

Alcaraz and Zverev, who faced each other in the French Open final three months ago, had a point for 5-4 in the second set but lost it and the game, and Fritz and Shelton served out to win 7-6(5), 6-4. That left Team Europe and Team World at 2-2 with two more days to go in a format reminiscent of golf's Ryder Cup.

Liverpool and Chelsea sizzle; Bayern hammers Werder Bremen

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
LIVERPOOL

A quick-fire double from Luis Diaz set Liverpool on course for a comprehensive 3-0 Premier League home win against Bournemouth on Saturday.

Nicolas Jackson scored twice to help Chelsea to a second straight away win with a 3-0 victory at West Ham United.

Dominic Solanke scored his first goal for Tottenham Hotspur as Ange Postecoglou's team recovered from conceding inside the opening minute to beat Brentford 3-1.

Fulham's Raul Jimenez,



On fire: Diaz's brace helped Liverpool ease past Bournemouth. GETTY IMAGES

Emile Smith Rowe and Reiss Nelson all scored in a 3-1 victory over Newcastle United at Craven Cottage.

Free-scoring Bayern Munich extended its peripatetic Bundesliga start when Michael Olise scored two goals and set up two more

to give it a 5-0 victory over Werder Bremen.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 3 (Watkins 73, Konsa 88, Duran 90+4) bt Wolves 1 (Cunha 25); Fulham 3 (Jimenez 5, Smith Rowe 22, Nelson 90+2) bt Newcastle 1 (Barnes 46); Leicester 1 (Mavididi 73) drew

with Everton 1 (Ndiaye 12); Liverpool 3 (Diaz 26, 28, Nunez 37) bt Bournemouth 0; Southampton 1 (Dibling 5) drew with Ipswich 1 (Morsy 90+5); Tottenham 3 (Solanke 8, Johnson 28, Maddison 85) bt Brentford 1 (Mbeumo 1); West Ham 0 lost to Chelsea 3 (Jackson 4, 18, Palmer 47); Crystal Palace 0 drew with Manchester United 0.

Serie A: Juventus 0 drew with Napoli 0.

Bundesliga: Heidenheim 0 lost to Freiburg 3 (Doan 54, Grifo 59, 65); Werder Bremen 0 lost to Bayern Munich 5 (Olise 23, 60, Musiala 32, Kane 57, Gnabry 65); Union Berlin 2 (Roth 4, Jeong 6) bt Hoffenheim 1 (Buelter 67); VfL Bochum 2 (Bero 22, Daschner 35) drew with Holstein Kiel 2 (Pichler 15, Machino 89).

On Friday: La Liga: Alaves 2 (Vicente 17, Martin 60) bt Sevilla 1 (Lukebaki 83).

IN BRIEF



Norris pips Verstappen to pole after Sainz crash

McLaren's Lando Norris beat Red Bull's Max Verstappen to pole position on Saturday for the Singapore Grand Prix in a dramatic qualifying session red-flagged when Carlos Sainz crashed.

The grid: Row 1: Norris (McLaren), Verstappen (Red Bull); **Row 2:** Hamilton (Mercedes), Russell (Mercedes); **Row 3:** Piastri (McLaren), Hulkenberg (Haas); **Row 4:** Alonso (Aston Martin), Tsunoda (RB); **Row 5:** Leclerc (Ferrari), Sainz (Ferrari); **Row 6:** Albon (Williams), Colapinto (Williams); **Row 7:** Perez (Red Bull), Magnussen (Haas); **Row 8:** Ocon (Alpine), Ricciardo (RB); **Row 9:** Stroll (Aston Martin), Gasly (Alpine); **Row 10:** Bottas (Kick F1); Zhou (Kick F1).

Wham wins HCL International Bridge

Wham comprising Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung, Michael Whibley and Matthew Brown beat Shourie (Rajath Shourie, Gavin Wolpert, John Kranyak, Vincent Demuy, Kevin Bathurst and John Hurd) 117-98 in the final of the Team of Four Gold event in the 21st HCL International Bridge championship here on Saturday. WBT Bridge App beat Vedic 116-58 for the third place. In the Team of Four Silver event, Rscs, comprising Ramopasad Das, Subrata Chakraborty, Sanjay Raha and Chandan Choudhury, beat Jackalls (D.P. Acharya, Shubham Acharya, Mridul Das, Mukesh Ghatia, Shubrajit Mukhopadhyay and Hemant Kumar Sarm) 119-84.6 in the final. Sahyadri beat Sabass 77-58 for the third place.

LIVE TELECAST

- Duleep Trophy:** Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
- India vs Bangladesh:** 1st Test, day 4, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema.
- Sri Lanka vs New Zealand:** 1st Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
- Badminton:** China Open, Sports 18-2 & JioCinema, 10.30 a.m. onwards.
- Serie A:** gxr.world, 4 p.m. 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday).
- Tennis:** Laver Cup, Sony LIV, 4.30 p.m. onwards.
- Afghanistan vs South Africa:** 3rd ODI, Eurosport (SD & HD) & FanCode, 5.30 p.m.
- Formula One:** Singapore GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 5.30 p.m.
- Premier League:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
- LaLiga:** gxr.world, 5.30 p.m., 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday).
- Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (LIV, 7 p.m., 9 & 11 p.m.
- ISL:** Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

Parag, Rawat put India-A in command

The former's 101-ball 73 and the latter's breezy half-century propel the side to 270 for six in its second innings

DULEEP TROPHY

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ANANTAPUR

Cricket is a lot about adaptability. Riyan Parag and Shashwat Rawat showed that quality in ample measure on the third day of the Duleep Trophy match at the Rural Development Trust Stadium on Saturday.

Parag was a bit more cautious than usual, Rawat was a lot more aggressive than usual. Their 105-run partnership for the fourth wicket ensured India-A had a good chance to force a win against India-C.

India-A was 270 for six in its second innings, a lead of 333. It should be just about enough to consider an overnight declaration. An interesting final day beckons.

After making 30, 31, 37, 20 and two on his previous visits to the crease here, Parag must be relieved that he could play a significant innings - his first fifty in the Duleep Trophy.

Rawat already has two fifties and a hundred from just four innings in the competition. The stocky left-hander from Baroda looks promising. After making a 250-ball 124 in the first innings, at a strike-rate of 49.6, he was scoring at more than run-a-ball at times in the second, and went on to hit 53 off 67 balls (4x4, 1x6). He came down the track to take on the spinners, but it also proved his downfall: he was bowled by a ball that turned sharply in from left-armed Manav Suthar.

Three overs earlier, Parag (73, 101b, 5x4, 1x6) had fallen to a terrific one-handed catch by Rituraj Gaikwad off Gaurav Yadav.

The India-C captain ran and timed his jump at extra cover to perfection to



Purple patch: Rawat, who scored a century in the first innings, had another decent outing. FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

take what was his third catch of the day.

The first of those brought his team the first wicket - Pratham Singh. The other opener Mayank Agarwal (34, 60b, 2x4) was bowled by a ball from Anshul Kamboj that came a long way in.

Earlier, India-C's first innings, which resumed at the overnight 216 for seven, ended with the fall of its ninth wicket with the score on 234, as B. Indrajith was ruled out of the match after he retired hurt on Friday.

Avesh Khan picked up both the wickets to finish with three for 64.

The scores: India-A — 1st Innings: 297. **India-C — 1st Innings:** Rituraj Gaikwad c Kushagra b Aaqib 17, B. Sai Sudharsan c Kushagra b Aaqib 17, Rajat Patidar b Aaqib 0, Ishan Kishan b Avesh 5, B. Indrajith (ret ht) 34, Abishek

Porel c Mayank b Mulani 82, Manav Suthar b Kotian 2, Pulkit Narang c Kotian b Avesh 41, Anshul Kamboj b Mulani 1, Vyshak Vijaykumar b Avesh 18, Gaurav Yadav (not out) 7; Extras (b-4, nb-6) 10; Total (in 71 overs): 234.

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-29, 3-39, 4-41, 5-136, 6-165, 7-167, 8-225, 9-234.

India-A bowling: Prasidh 17-1-55-0, Avesh 16-3-64-3 Aaqib 13-1-43-3, Kotian 15-2-38-1, Mulani 10-1-30-2.

India-A — 2nd Innings: Pratham Singh c Rituraj b Gaurav 11, Mayank Agarwal b Kamboj 34, Tilak Varma c Rituraj b Kamboj 19, Riyan Parag c Rituraj b Gaurav 73, Shashwat Rawat b Suthar 53, Kumar Kushagra (batting) 40, Shams Mulani c Kamboj b Suthar 8, Tanush Kotian (batting) 13; Extras (b-3, lb-14, w-2): 19; Total (for six wkts. in 64 overs): 270.

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-73, 3-94, 4-199, 5-209, 6-234.

India-C bowling: Kamboj 16-3-52-2, Gaurav 14-0-60-2, Vyshak 6-0-36-0, Narang 8-1-30-0, Suthar 20-0-75-2.

A battling Bhui and Shreyas take India-D to a strong position

Abhishek Saini
ANANTAPUR

Ricky Bhui (90 batting, 87b, 10x4, 3x6) braved a searing spell from Navdeep Saini on a two-paced day three strip to all but secure India-D three consolation points for a first-innings lead in its third-round Duleep Trophy fixture against India-B at the Rural Trust Development Stadium B-ground.

Bhui, trying to duck under short-pitched deliveries from Saini, made the error of turning his head away and got struck on the back of his helmet in consecutive overs. He retired hurt with India-D at 107 for four, but returned stronger and took his team from 161 for five to 244 for five at stumps, 311 ahead in the second innings.

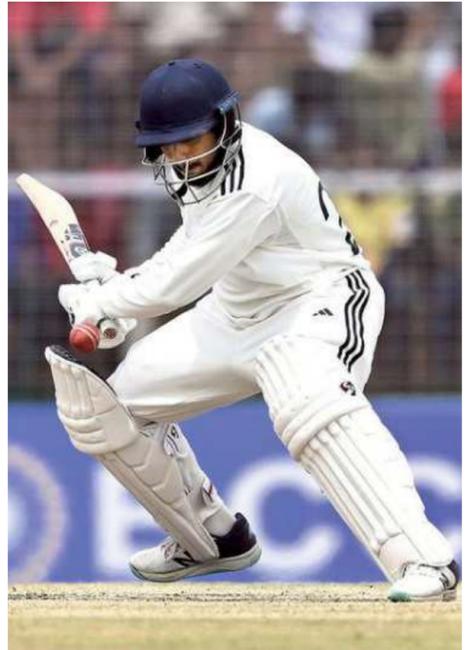
India-B, sitting second with seven points and needing an outright win to secure six more and win the title, faces an uphill task in wrapping India-D's innings and shooting down the total on the final day on Sunday.

Bhui pocketed sixes off leg-spinner Rahul Chahar and left-arm orthodox Musheer Khan, drilling them back over their heads. He had answers for Saini's bouncers too as he pulled him twice through the mid-wicket region.

Shreyas Iyer's whirlwind 50 (40b, 7x4, 1x6) was as eventful as it was disorderly but was the need of the hour with India-D in dire straits at 18 for three.

While he swayed away from most bouncers, he was lured into one by Mukesh and ended up uppercutting to third man.

Sanju Samson perished looking for a third aerial strike in Mukesh's over and was caught at deep mid-wicket on 45. Samson's wicket, however, allowed Bhui to return and exact revenge.



Fighter: Bhui got struck on the back of the helmet twice, took an injury but returned stronger. FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

India-B could have cut its 67-run deficit further in the morning had Washington Sundar (87, 140b, 7x4, 1x6) not run out partners.

Chahar was an able second fiddle before he perished trying a half-hearted slog against off-spinner Saurabh Kumar.

Navdeep glanced Saurabh to the fine leg fence but was cleaned up in the same over.

Washington had no option but to go big in the company of last man Mukesh. He cleared long-on when Aditya Thakare gifted him a slot ball but another swing against Saurabh was caught at the same spot, ending India-B at 282.

The scores: India-D — 1st Innings: 349.

India-B — 1st Innings: Abhimanyu Easwaran c Samson b Thakare 116, N. Jagadeesan c Bhui b Thakare 13, Suyash Prabhudessai lbw b Saurabh 5, Musheer Khan lbw b Arshdeep 5,

Suryakumar Yadav c Thakare b Arshdeep 5, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Samson b Arshdeep 0, Washington Sundar c Sengupta b Saurabh 87, Rahul Chahar b Saurabh 9, Navdeep Saini b Saurabh 7, Mohit Avasthi lbw b Saurabh 8, Mukesh (not out) 0; Extras (b-6, lb-3, nb-7): 16; Total (in 76.2 overs): 282.

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-65, 3-88, 4-96, 5-100, 6-205, 7-245, 8-255, 9-275.

India-D bowling: Arshdeep 18-4-50-3, Thakare 19-3-52-2, Sengupta 8-0-53-0, Saurabh 19-2-0-73-5, Saransh 8-1-23-0, Nishant 4-0-22-0.

India-D — 2nd Innings: Devdutt Padikkal c Jagadeesan b Saini 3, K.S. Bharat b Mukesh 2, Ricky Bhui (batting) 90, Nishant Sindhu c & b Saini 5, Shreyas Iyer c Avasthi b Mukesh 50, Sanju Samson c Prabhudessai b Mukesh 45, Akash Sengupta (batting) 28; Extras (b-13, lb-6, w-2): 21; Total (for five wkts, in 44 overs): 244.

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-13, 3-18, 4-93, 5-161.

India-B bowling: Mukesh 13-0-80-3, Saini 11-2-40-2, Avasthi 9-2-41-0, Nitish 3-0-19-0, Chahar 5-0-27-0, Musheer 3-0-18-0.

Karthikeya and Amaan guide India under-19 to seven-wicket victory

YOUTH ODI

Press Trust of India
PUDUCHERRY

K.P. Karthikeya hit a sparkling unbeaten 85 while skipper Mohammed Amaan also scored a half-century in India under-19's seven-wicket victory over Australia u-19 in the first Youth ODI on Saturday.

Batting first, Australia scored 184 in 49.4 overs with right-arm leg-break bowler Mohamed Enaan taking four for 32 in 10 overs. Steve Hogan (42) and

Riley Kingsell (36) got starts but couldn't convert. There was a middle order collapse and it was No. 10 Thomas Brown's 29 that took the Aussie colts past the 180-run mark.

In reply, India lost its top three for only 32 before Karthikeya and Amaan (58 n.o., 89b) added 153 for the unbroken fourth wicket with hosts coasting home with 14 overs to spare.

The scores: Australia u-19 184 in 49.4 overs (Kingsell 36, Hogan 42, Enaan 4/32) lost to India u-19 185/3 in 36 overs (Amaan 58 n.o., Karthikeya 85 n.o.). *Second match on Sept. 23.*

Gurbaz, Rashid lead Afghanistan's rout of SA

AFGHANISTAN VS SA

Agence France-Presse
SHARJAH

Rahmanullah Gurbaz hit a superb century before leg-spinner Rashid Khan marked his 26th birthday by taking five wickets as Afghanistan thrashed South Africa by 177 runs in the second One-Day International here on Friday.

Gurbaz made 105 as Afghanistan made 311 for four before South Africa lost nine wickets for 61 runs to be bowled out for just 134 in the 35th over. It was the seventh century in

the 22-year-old's Gurbaz's ODI career and included 10 fours and three sixes.

Rashid took five for 19 from nine overs and was ably supported by rookie off-spinner Nangeyalia Kharote who enjoyed figures of four for 26 in just his third ODI.

Rashid's haul took his career total to 190 wickets in the format.

Afghanistan will look to complete a whitewash in the third and final match here on Sunday.

The scores: Afghanistan 311/4 in 50 overs (Gurbaz 105, Omarzai 86, Rahmat 50) bt South Africa 134 in 34.2 overs (Rashid 5/19, Kharote 4/26).



Kalikesh, right, with Raninder on Saturday.

Kalikesh Singh Deo elected NRAI president

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) elected Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo as its president during its general body meeting here on Saturday.

The election was conducted by retired Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Anil Dev Singh as the Returning Officer. Kalikesh defeated his opponent V.K. Dhall 36-21.

The post had become vacant following the ruling that Raninder Singh who had been functioning as president from 2010 could not continue even though he had won the last election in 2021.

Kalikesh will hold the post for a year, when the regular election of NRAI would be due.

The immediate task of the NRAI would be to host the World Cup Finals at the Dr. Karni Singh Range from October 13 to 18.

Blasters desperate to get back to winning ways against EB



East Bengal coach Cuadrat feels the contest against Blasters will be tough. THULASI KAKKAT

ISL

Stan Ravan
KOCHI

After a weak show in its ISL season-opener against Punjab FC, Kerala Blasters will be desperate to get back to winning ways when it takes on East Bengal FC at the Nehru Stadium here on Sunday.

But once again, Blasters will be without their mid-field general Adrian Luna who is yet to recover fully from his illness. Without Luna, Blasters looked a disjointed side in a 1-2 loss against Punjab.

"We came out pretty poor, it was a hard loss in the dying seconds, hard to handle but we have to move forward," said Blasters head coach Mikael Stahre on Saturday.

"There are too many things that we need to focus on. We have to cross the halfway and more often, with control, so that we can bring more numbers higher up, create more crosses and have more players inside the box."

Both Blasters and EBFC lost their season-opener but the Kochi side could be under more pressure.

"We we have to do a good job in front of the Blasters fans. Kerala is going to be under pressure, they have to fight a lot too," said EBFC coach Carles Cuadrat.

Jeevan & Vijay Sundar enter the semifinals

Sports Bureau

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth defeated second seeds Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool 6-7(4), 7-6 (6), [10-8] in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$1,081,395 ATP tournament at Hangzhou (China) on Saturday.

In the Chengdu ATP event, Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti made doubles last four with a 12-10 victory in super tie-break.

The results: \$1,269,245 ATP, Chengdu: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Yuki Bhambri & Albano Olivetti (Fra) bt Gonzalo Escobar & Diego Hidalgo (Ecu) 5-7, 6-3, [12-10].

\$1,081,395 ATP, Hangzhou: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Julian Cash & Lloyd Glasspool (GBR) 6-7(4), 7-6(6), [10-8].

€148,625 Challenger, Bad Waltersdorf: Doubles: Final: Petr Nouza & Patrik Rikl (Cze) bt Guido Andreozzi (Arg) & Sriram Balaji 6-4, 4-6, [10-5].

\$60,000 ITF women, Perth: Doubles: Final: Sakura Hosogi & Misaki Matsuda (Jpn) w/o Naiktha Bains (GBR) & Anikita Raina.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Semifinals: Omni Kumar (USA) bt Karan Singh 6-4, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Tehran: Semifinals: Denis Klok bt Dev Javia 6-3, 7-5; **Doubles:** Martin van der Meerschen (Bel) & Stefan Ujic (Aus) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev & Javia 7-6(2), 7-5.

Ashoka poised for a hat-trick in the Governor's Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's top horse Ashoka, who won two races from his last two starts, is poised for a hat-trick in the Governor's Cup, the main attraction of Sunday's (Sept. 22) races.

1. P.V.G. RAJU MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) - 1.40 p.m.: 1. Desert Hero (1) Kuldeep Sr 56, 2. Hawk Wing (7) G. Naresh 56, 3. Talking Stick (2) P. Sai K 56, 4. Freedom Touch (5) Hindu Singh 54.5, 5. Gloria (4) P. Ajeeth K 54.5, 6. Maigira (6) Mukesh 54.5 and 7. Rani Ruckus (3) Md. Ismail 54.5. **1. DESERT HERO, 2. GLORIA, 3. FREEDOM TOUCH**

fect (3) G. Naresh 57.5, 6. Cherish The Lady (7) Santosh Raj 56.5, 7. Jet Falcon (2) B. Nikhil 55, 8. Darling's Boy (4) Shivansh 54 and 9. Anahita (6) Ajay K 51. **1. DARLING'S BOY, 2. MR. PERFECT, 3. JET FALCON**

3. S.N. REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (2,000m) (Terms) 3-y-o and upward (Cat. II) - 2.45: 1. N R Superpower (3) Abhay Singh 60.5, 2. Magnum (4) Akshay K 60, 3. Delhi Heights (1) B. Nikhil 56.5, 4. Divine Destiny (6) Surya Prakash 55, 5. Alpine Girl (5) Kuldeep Jr. 53.5, 6. Original Sin (7) P. Sai K 53.5 and 7. Kancha (2) Mukesh 52. **1. ORIGINAL SIN, 2. MAGNUM, 3. KANCHA**

Likith Appu 55, 6. Burgundy Black (6) Mukesh 54 and 7. Crown Witness (2) Ajay K 54. **1. SACRED BOND, 2. CROWN WITNESS, 3. NOBLE HEART**

5. JATPROLE CUP (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) - 3.45: 1. Midsummer Star (1) P. Sai K 60, 2. Bangor On Dee (2) Shivansh 58, 3. Dyanooosh (10) M. Mark 56.5, 4. Nucleus (7) Mohit 56.5, 5. Amyra (5) Md. Ekram 55, 6. Mark My Day (9) R.S. Jodha 55, 7. Sopranos (6) P. Ajeeth K 55, 8. Winning Attitude (8) Likith Appu 54, 9. Classical Music (3) Akshay K 52.5 and 10. Coming Home (4) B. Nikhil 51.5. **1. BANGOR ON DEE, 2. MIDSUMMER STAR, 3. CLASSICAL MUSIC**

57.5, 6. Best Buddy (2) Md. Ekram 54.5, 7. Strauss (6) B. Nikhil 51 and 8. Baisa (8) Arjun 50. **1. ASHOKA, 2. MALAALA, 3. STRAUSS**

7. NAWAB SULTAN ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 25 (Cat. III) - 4.45: 1. Char Ek Char (5) Shivansh 60, 2. Exponent (4) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Lucky Fiero (11) P. Sai K 60, 4. Master Touch (2) Mukesh 60, 5. Tortilla Chip (10) Santosh Raj 60, 6. Arba Wahed Arba (7) Kuldeep Sr. 58.5, 8. Soorya Vahan (3) Md. Ismail 58.5, 9. Dal's Champion (1) Surya Prakash 58, 10. MN's Council (8) M. Mark 56.5 and 11. Stoli (9) Md. Ekram 54. **1. CHAR EK CHAR, 2. EXPONENT, 3. DAL'S CHAMPION**

PURE GOODNESS IN EVERY SPOONFUL

The kitchen is the heart of every home, where love is infused into meals and memories are created around the table. To keep us healthy and happy, our daily food deserves an extra touch of goodness. Amul Ghee brings that perfect blend of love and nourishment to every dish.

Just a spoonful of pure Amul Ghee every day can work wonders for your health. Packed with essential vitamins, it promotes good health. So, whether you're a fitness enthusiast, skincare lover or simply seeking more energy, a spoonful of Amul Ghee is enough to make all the difference.

Amul Ghee

GOLDEN PURITY IN EVERY DROP

Amul Ghee embodies purity and trust. It passes through Gas Chromatography (GC) testing to ensure the highest purity. Our Tamper proof pack safeguards against duplication and spurious products. Free from adulteration, it's a safe choice for your family.

GOLDEN FACTS ABOUT GHEE

Source of vitamins A, D, E and K	Promotes digestion	Healthy fats with Omega 3 fatty acid	Helps in external nourishment

COMING SOON

AMUL DESI COW GHEE

Made from Gir cow milk sourced from the Saurashtra region, this delightful ghee is arriving soon.



DISCOVER GOLDEN GOODNESS WITH THE AMUL GHEE RANGE

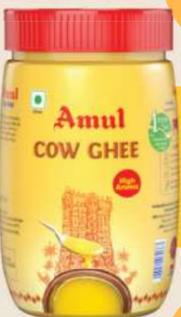
Amul Pure Ghee, with a legacy spanning years, is India's most trusted ghee. It's known for its purity and rich aroma. And it is proudly exported to over 30 countries, including the USA, the Middle East, and Australia.

Culinary Usages: पराठा, दाल मखनी, हलवा, लिट्टी चोखा, और भी बहुत से डिशेस.



Amul Cow Ghee, a staple in Indian households, is made from cow milk and has a yellow colour. It promotes good health while enriching the flavour of your dishes.

Culinary Usages: मोदक, पुरणपोळी, शिरा, लापशी, डाळ व्ण्ट वी०, ङलरल.



High Aroma Cow Ghee is made from cow milk. It boasts a rich aroma and enhances South Indian dishes with its granular texture.

Culinary Usages: మృశురూపాక, పుళుకులు, పంయగుం, శరక్కరెరప పులంకులు



Amul Brown Ghee, with its deep brown colour, is favoured in Eastern India for its nutty aroma and caramelized taste.

Culinary Usages: వీ బల, ఙులలర ఙల, కుుు మిడు



Amul Buffalo Ghee, with its pearl-white colour and daanedar texture, is made from Saurashtra region's buffalo milk that adds a rich flavour.

Culinary Usages: లుు, గులల బలమం, కుు, పిడి



Amul Sagar Ghee, a pride of Gujarat, is crafted to enhance your cooking with its granular texture and purity.

Culinary Usages: బియడి, కుుడి, ముులు



Amul Ghee offers a variety of pack sizes in 100 mL, 200 mL, 500 mL, 1 L, 2 L, 5 L, 10 kg, and 15 kg. There are also single-use sachets available for ₹10 and ₹20.

MYTH

Ghee causes cardiovascular problems.

Ghee is A2 in nature.

FACT

Ghee contains monounsaturated omega-3 fatty acids that support heart health.

A2 is a type of protein that can be present in milk but ghee contains only fat and does not have any A2 Protein. Hence, ghee is not A2.



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Drought assessment: A man is seen on a boat in front of the sandbanks at the Solimoes river during a Greenpeace flyover, to inspect the severe drought near Tefe in Brazil. REUTERS



Critical crisis: Sandbanks on the Madeira river in Brazil are seen as over a thousand localities are on alert amid the country's worst drought, with fires continuing to rage. AFP



Cloud of smoke: Smoke from a forest fire covers El Panecillo hill in Quito in Ecuador, creating a thick haze. AP



Long way: Residents transport drinking water from Humaita to the Paraizinho community along the Madeira river, a tributary of the Amazon, during the dry season in Amazonas state, Brazil. AP

South America's annus horribilis

Wildfires rage and smoke rises in several countries in the northern part of the region as a severe drought has taken hold and the likely setting in of a La Nina

A severe drought has taken hold of the northern part of South America with countries such as Paraguay, Brazil and Ecuador grappling with falling water levels in their rivers. Compounding the troubles are the wildfires raging through Brazil, Peru and Bolivia, and the rising smoke has clouded the skies as far as Uruguay and Colombia.

Brazil's drought that began last year and has persisted until now has been the worst on record. Leading to a ripple effect downstream, the Paraguay river and Argentina's Parana river have also witnessed a dip in their water levels.

Since these are key transport routes for soy, grains and other trade, the shallow waters should have spawned more woes but fortunately, the peak trading season had already passed. Still, vessels could carry only less than their average cargo volumes, leading to hold-ups and delays. At the receiving end are Indigenous communities which run the risk of being isolated.

The irony offered by climate change was on display in May when Brazil's southern city of Porto Alegre was beset by floods killing 95 people, while its Amazonian basin was experiencing the worst drought.

In politically and economically fraught countries such as Venezuela, these natural disasters stemming from climate change have led to a further crunch in food and other commodities. In Bolivia, this manifested into a mass uprising earlier this month when its people took to the streets of La Paz demanding action against the fires. The rainfall predicted for October-November are expected to alleviate the situation. However, experts say there is a likelihood of a La Nina leading to less than-normal rainfall. A warming climate comes with concomitant diseases such as dengue and chikungunya, South America is looking at difficult times ahead.

(Text by Adithya Narayan)



Lights go out: Soldiers patrol the streets as the government implements a nationwide blackout for maintenance of Ecuador's electricity system. REUTERS



Parched condition: Barges are stuck on the riverbed next to a tributary into the Paraguay river amid a drought in Lambare, Paraguay. AP



In jeopardy: Alligators are stuck in the mud of the dry Pilcomayo river, which is facing its worst drought in almost two decades, in Boqueron, on the border between Paraguay and Argentina. REUTERS



Putting on control: Members of Civil Defence, firefighters, and volunteers trying to extinguish a forest fire outbreak affecting the territory in the Amazon Region in northern Peru. Forest fires affecting Andean and Amazonian areas of Peru have caused the deaths of 15 people so far this year. AFP



Alarming state: People protest against wildfires as Bolivia is on track for potentially a record year of fires, exacerbated by drought and land clearances linked to booming production of cattle and grains, in La Paz, Bolivia. REUTERS