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IN BRIEF



Atishi takes charge, leaves CM's chair empty

NEW DELHI
AAP leader Atishi on Monday assumed charge as Delhi Chief Minister but sat next to an empty chair used by her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal, saying she would work like Bharat, who had ruled Ayodhya by placing Lord Ram's wooden sandals on the throne. » Page 2

Selja dismisses rumours of quitting Cong.

GURUGRAM
Putting to rest speculation that she was quitting the Congress, the party's prominent Scheduled Caste leader and Sirsa MP, Kumari Selja, on Monday said she would leave this world "draped in the party's flag". » Page 13

Watching 'child sex abuse' material is an offence: SC

Court advocates using the term 'Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material' instead of 'child pornography' to avoid trivialisation of the crime, calls for suitable amendment to POCSO Act

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that viewing in private, downloading, storing, possessing, distributing or displaying pornographic acts involving children attract criminal liability under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Information Technology Act.

The verdict was based on an appeal filed by Just Right for Children Alliance, a non-governmental organisation, against a Madras High Court decision that mere possession or storage of any pornographic material was not an offence under the Act. The High Court had concluded that watching or down-

loading pornographic acts involving children in private domains was not a crime.

A three-judge Bench, headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, said the sexual act was only the beginning of a child's victimisation. "It continues through its recording, and perpetuates as photographs and videos that float through cyberspace, freely accessible to anyone

who has the ability to surf the Internet... The knowledge that their abuse is being watched by countless strangers, sometimes years after the actual event, exacerbates the psychological wounds on top of the trauma that was already induced by the act in the first place. This perpetuating violation deprives the victim of any remaining hope or chance to heal, recover from the abuse and find

closure," Justice J.B. Pardiwala, who authored the 200-page judgment termed as groundbreaking by the Chief Justice, observed.

The Supreme Court urged Parliament to "seriously consider" amending the POCSO Act to substitute the term "child pornography" with "Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material" or CSEAM.

The court said the government must promulgate an ordinance in the meantime to bring about the suggested amendment. It directed courts across the country to replace 'child pornography' with CSEAM in their judgments and orders.

CONTINUED ON
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356 killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon



Smoke billows over southern Lebanon following Israeli strikes, as pictured from Marjayoun, near the border with Israel. REUTERS

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israeli air strikes killed at least 356 people and left over 1,200 injured in Lebanon on Monday, the Lebanese government said, in the deadliest cross-border escalation since the Gaza war erupted. Health Minister Firass Abiad said "thousands of families" had been displaced.

Israel said it hit about 1,300 Hezbollah sites in southern and eastern Lebanon in 24 hours, includ-

ing a "targeted strike" in Beirut. A source close to Hezbollah said the strike in the Lebanese capital targeted Ali Karake, the group's third-in-command. State media reported new raids in eastern Lebanon, while Hezbollah said it targeted five sites in Israel. In the coastal Israeli city of Haifa, people were seen running for cover when air raid sirens sounded.

DEADLIEST DAY OF CONFLICT
» PAGE 16

Badlapur accused killed in 'retaliatory' firing by police

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Akshay Shinde, 24, accused of sexually assaulting two girls at a school in Badlapur town of Maharashtra, was shot dead on Monday in retaliatory firing after he snatched a police officer's pistol and opened fire, officials said.

The incident occurred around 6.30 p.m. when Akshay was being taken from Taloja Jail in Navi Mumbai to Badlapur to investigate a sexual assault complaint lodged against him by his wife. Akshay allegedly snatched the pistol of an officer and fired two-three rounds, injuring Assistant Police Inspector Nilesh More. In response, another officer opened fire on Akshay. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said police opened fire in self-defence.

MAHAYUTI VS OPPOSITION
» PAGE 7

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INBRIEF



L-G's unveils 'Dust-free Delhi' drive to combat air pollution

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena has directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Public Works Department (PWD), and other agencies to organise a 'Dust-free Delhi Drive' over the next 10 days to combat air pollution in the national capital. The L-G has advised the agencies, such as the MCD and the PWD, to clear the roads of dust. Meanwhile, Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said the Winter Action Plan will be rolled out on Wednesday. The plan was earlier scheduled to be released on September 27 but was rescheduled due to the Assembly session beginning on September 26.

UPSC aspirant found dead in forest near Mukherjee Nagar

The body of a Civil Services aspirant was found in a forested ground near the Capital's coaching hub, Mukherjee Nagar, the police said on Monday. The deceased was a native of Rajasthan's Dausa and had moved to Delhi in July to prepare for the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) mains exam, said an officer. The matter came to light when the aspirant's father filed a missing person's complaint. While the case prima facie appears to be that of suicide, all other angles are being probed, the police said. *Those in distress may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline 011-40769002.*

Atishi takes charge, sits next to empty chair used by former CM Kejriwal

Will work like Bharat, who ruled Ayodhya by placing Lord Ram's wooden sandals on the throne till his return from exile, says CM; BJP terms move 'sycophancy'; Kejriwal's exile to last forever: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Am Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi on Monday assumed charge as Delhi Chief Minister but sat next to an empty chair used by her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal, saying she would work like Bharat, who had ruled Ayodhya by placing Lord Ram's wooden sandals on the throne.

Ms. Atishi occupied a white chair placed next to the red one used by the former CM as she drew a parallel with the Ramayana chapter in which Bharat refuses to sit on the Ayodhya throne when his elder brother Lord Ram goes into exile.

"This chair of the Chief Minister of Delhi belongs to Arvind Kejriwalji," she said, pointing to the empty chair.

"Just as Bharat ruled Ayodhya by placing Lord Ram's *khadaun* (wooden sandals) [on the throne] for 14 years, in the same way, I will run the Delhi go-



Senior AAP leader Atishi assuming charge as the Chief Minister at the Delhi Secretariat on Monday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

vernment for the next four months," the 43-year-old CM added.

'Unconstitutional'

The move drew sharp criticism from the BJP, which termed it "sycophancy" and "unconstitutional". The Congress also took potshots at the CM, saying she would have to "wait endlessly" as Mr. Kejriwal's exile is "set to last forever".

However, Ms. Atishi said she has complete faith that

people will once again vote for her party during the Delhi Assembly poll in February next year. "Till then, this chair will remain in this room [CM Office] waiting for Kejriwalji," she said.

She also attacked the BJP, which is in power at the Centre, saying it had "left no stone unturned" to tarnish her predecessor's image by implicating him in "false corruption cases".

"The BJP filed false cas-

es against him, arrested him, and kept him in jail for six months. When Supreme Court granted bail to Arvind Kejriwal, it said that his arrest was made with malicious intent," she said.

Reacting to it, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said though it was amply clear that she would be "remote-controlled" by Mr. Kejriwal, they did not anticipate that the AAP regime would turn into a "government of sycophancy". He said placing two chairs in the CM Office is a "violation of constitutional protocols".

'Skewed priorities'

Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said Ms. Atishi seems to have skewed priorities.

"Her primary concern seems to be to whitewash the corruption of the former CM, and not the welfare of people," he said, adding that people have made up their minds to banish Mr. Kejriwal from the political landscape of the Capital.

BJP launches public outreach drive ahead of Assembly session



Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva (right) helping a woman fill a 'complaint form' against AAP govt. on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Monday launched a three-day public outreach campaign to take stock of people's issues, which the party promised to raise vociferously during the two-day Assembly session beginning on September 26.

The BJP said it will also highlight the issues raised by people during the 'Janta Mudda Assembly Mein' in its campaign for the upcoming Assembly election.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the drive will continue till September 25, under which residents will be asked to fill "complaint forms" mentioning the problems they face.

"Unfortunately, the previous Arvind Kejriwal go-

vernment always denied Question Hour, but now, on the strength of these complaint forms, we will raise the issues and stall the Assembly till Chief Minister Atishi responds," said Vijender Gupta, the Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly.

He said most people who filled forms wanted BJP MLAs to raise the issues of "inflated electricity bills", dirty water, irregular social welfare pension, encroachments, and the "poor condition" of health and education facilities.

Meanwhile, AAP, in a statement, said that people see former Chief Minister Kejriwal as their "true son" who has ensured the lowest inflation, highest per capita income, and affordable electricity in the national capital.

Coaching centre deaths: CEO gets interim bail

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday granted interim bail to Rau's IAS Study Circle CEO Abhishek Gupta and its coordinator Deshpal Singh till December 7 in a case related to the deaths of three Civil Services aspirants in the basement of the institute.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna directed Mr. Gupta to deposit ₹2.5 crore with the Red Cross Society

by November 30, stating that as per the lease agreement of the premises, the accused as the CEO of the institute would be responsible for any loss claim and damages to any person or material.

The judge granted relief to the accused persons on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh each with two sureties of the like amount while noting the Supreme Court's observation that bail must be the rule and jail the exception.

The judge also observed

that there "is no doubt that the basement of the premises were being used in contravention to the rules and regulations, however, at the same time, the failure of civic authorities cannot be ignored".

'Failure of agencies'

The judge also recalled the observation of the Delhi High Court that the rainwater drain in the area was dysfunctional and that the de-silting of the drain in front of the coaching centre, which was found to

be encroached upon and covered by ramps, had not been done.

"The civic authorities have failed to take any action against unauthorised activities," the sessions court judge said.

Three civil service aspirants - Shreya Yadav, 25, from Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni, 25, from Telangana, and Nevin Delvin, 24, from Kerala - died after the institute's basement was flooded following heavy rain in central Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar on July 27.

DU student's turban removed; police lodge FIR

Samridhi Tewari
Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

A Sikh student was thrashed and his turban removed by a group of students during a clash with another group at Delhi University (DU)'s North Campus on Saturday, the police said.

The incident happened when the second-year student, Pavit Singh Gujral, was on his way to file his nomination as a candidate of the Student Organisa-

tion of India, the Shiromani Akali Dal's student wing, for the DU Students' Union (DUSU) elections, an officer said.

A purported video of the incident, which went viral on social media, showed Mr. Gujral being kicked and assaulted by a group of students till his turban fell to the ground. He was subsequently dragged by the assailants.

DCP (North) Manoj Meena said an FIR under BNS Sections 299 (deliberate act to outrage religious

feelings), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 351 (2) (criminal intimidation), and 3(5) (common intention) had been registered at the Maurice Nagar police station.

No arrests have been made yet.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Gurdwara Sikh Management Committee said that the incident had caused "deep distress" to the community students.

The student body polls are scheduled for Friday.

In his complaint to the police, Mr. Gujral stated, "They hit me and forcibly removed my turban. They beat me and pulled my kesh (hair). I feel that my life is at risk."

DU Proctor Rajni Abbi said, "The university has not taken cognisance of the incident as no complaint has been filed." The college principal did not respond to *The Hindu's* queries. Sources said the college has set up a disciplinary committee and is looking into the matter.

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

E-WASTE COLLECTION DRIVE

DPS International students undertook an inspiring initiative to address the growing issue of e-waste. Through educational sessions, they learned about responsible disposal and the environmental impact of discarded electronics. Students conducted local surveys to assess e-waste awareness, organised a collection drive, and encouraged peers and the community to participate. They also created posters to spread awareness on recycling methods. The project concluded with a collaboration with a recycling organisation, ensuring responsible processing and making a meaningful contribution to environmental sustainability.



RMJM FELICITATION



St. Joseph's Senior Secondary School, Sector 44D, Chandigarh, was honoured by Rashtriya Mahila Jagriti Mission (RMJM) for their commitment to education through its mission 'Teaching beyond the Classroom.' Led by RMJM Founder Dr. Ambika Sharma, the event recognised Principal Ms. Monica Chawla for her visionary leadership. Teachers, including Ms. Ritu Sharma, Ms. Dimple Kalra, and others, were also felicitated for their dedication. Chief Guest Mrs. Savita Khindri shared inspiring stories, motivating educators. The school community expressed pride in their achievements, emphasising that such recognitions inspire teachers to continue shaping young minds with passion and excellence.

EDUTAINMENT AT ITS BEST FOR YOUNG READERS

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UGMAC-2024 से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना

माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय, नई दिल्ली द्वारा विहित अपील संख्या- 18802/2017, डॉ. भीम राव अम्बेडकर विचार मंच, बिहार बनाम राज्य सरकार एवं अन्य तथा सम्बद्ध एस. एल.पी. (सी.) संख्या-18294/2021, आशीष रजक बनाम राज्य सरकार एवं अन्य के मामले में दिनांक 15.07.2024 को तृती (तबवा) जाति को SC कोटि से EBC कोटि में सम्मिलित करने का आदेश तदनुसार बिहार सरकार के पत्र संख्या-11/आ.-न्याय-73/2024-12679(स.प्र.) गजट सं. 764 दिनांक 12.08.2024 द्वारा तृती (तबवा) जाति को पान / स्वासी से हटा कर EBC कोटि में पुनर्स्थापित करने सम्बन्धित आदेश के आलोक में विज्ञापन संख्या BCECEB(UGMAC)-2024/08 दिनांक 15.09.2024 द्वारा UGMAC-2024 के तृती (तबवा) जाति को अपने Online Application Form में SC कोटि अंतर्गत किये थे, उन्हें Edit करने का मौका देते हुए SC से EBC कोटि में परिवर्तन करने का निर्देश दिया गया था। उसके आलोक में SC के कुल 30 अर्थात्तः द्वारा EBC कोटि में परिवर्तन किया गया जिसके कारण UGMAC-2024 के विज्ञापन संख्या BCECEB(UGMAC)-2024/03 दिनांक 21.08.2024 को प्रकाशित मेधासूची में परिवर्तन हो गया।

उक्त के आलोक में UGMAC-2024 से सम्बन्धित सभी अर्थात्तः, चिकित्सा संस्थानों एवं सर्वे साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि तृती (तबवा) जाति के अर्थात्तः द्वारा Online Application Form में दिनांक 17.09.2024 से दिनांक 18.09.2024 तक को अर्थात्तः में अपना आरक्षण कोटि को SC से EBC में सुधार करने के कारण अर्थात्तः का कोटिदार मेधासूची में परिवर्तन हुआ है, जिसके फलस्वरूप UGMAC-2024 को पूर्व प्रकाशित मेधासूची को संशोधित किया गया। संशोधित मेधासूची परफॉर्म के वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध कर दिया गया है। सम्बन्धित अर्थात्तः परफॉर्म पर उपलब्ध Link "Revised Rank Card of UGMAC-2024" पर click कर अपना UGMAC ID एवं अन्य विधि डाउन कर Revised Rank Card download कर लें।

1. पूर्व प्रकाशित मेधासूची में परिवर्तन होने के कारण Round-1 Counselling को रद्द किया जाता है। जिसके फलस्वरूप Round-1 Counselling द्वारा आवंटित सभी अर्थात्तः का नामांकन भी रद्द हो गया है।
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3. वेबे अर्थात्तः को Round-1 Counselling हेतु Choice filling किये थे एवं वे अगर अपने द्वारा भरे गये Choices में किसी तरह का संशोधन करना चाहते हैं तो वे दिनांक 24.09.2024 (12.00 P.M.) से 25.09.2024 (12.00 P.M.) तक को अर्थात्तः में अपने Choices को Unlock कर Edit कर सकते हैं।
4. Round-1 Counselling हेतु Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result का प्रकाशन दिनांक 27.09.2024 को जायेगी। अर्थात्तः Online Counselling Portal of UGMAC-2024 के माध्यम से अपने Account में login कर अपना Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result देखें और अगर उन्हें सौट आवंटन हुआ है एवं वे अपने आवंटित सौट से संतुष्ट हैं तो वे Round-2 Counselling हेतु अपना upgrade "NO" अथवा संतुष्ट नहीं हैं तो Round-2 Counselling हेतु अपना upgrade "YES" देते हुए Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Order download कर प्राल कर लेंगे तथा Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Order पर ऑनलाइन Reporting Centre / Nodal Centre पर जा कर अपना Document Verification / Admission की प्रक्रिया को पूरी करेंगे।
5. वेबे अर्थात्तः को पूर्व में आयोजित Round-1 Counselling द्वारा किसी संस्थान में नामांकित हैं या Upgraded हैं अथवा Round-1 Provisional Seat Allotment Result में College / Course में परिवर्तन हुआ है अथवा पूर्व के संस्थान में ही पुनः सौट आवंटन हुआ है तो वेबे सभी अर्थात्तः अपने पूर्व के आवंटित / नामांकित संस्थान से जा कर अपना सभी मूल अभिलेख (यदि संस्थान में जमा है) प्राल कर लेंगे तथा Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result द्वारा आवंटित संस्थान में जा कर विभाजित अर्थात्तः में Document Verification / Admission की प्रक्रिया को पूरी करेंगे।
6. वेबे अर्थात्तः जिसका Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result के द्वारा सौट आवंटन हुआ है और पूर्व के Round-1 Counselling द्वारा Free Exit से चुके हैं, अगर वे Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result द्वारा आवंटित सौट से संतुष्ट हैं तो वे अपने मूल अभिलेखों के साथ Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Order पर ऑनलाइन Reporting Centre पर जा कर Document Verification / Admission की प्रक्रिया को पूरी करेंगे अथवा उनका Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result द्वारा आवंटित सौट रद्द हो जायेगा।
7. वेबे अर्थात्तः जिसका Revised Round-1 Seat Allotment Result द्वारा सौट आवंटन हुआ है परन्तु किसी कारणवश वे अपने आवंटित संस्थान में जाकर Document Verification / Admission नहीं करते हैं (यदि उनका Upgrade का विकल्प "YES" अथवा "NO" है), तो वेबे सभी अर्थात्तः को स्वतः Free Exit मान लिया जायेगा और इनका पूर्व का पत्र हुआ Choices "Null & Void" हो जायेगा एवं अगर वे Round-2 Counselling में Participate करना चाहेंगे तो उन्हें पुनः Fresh Choices भरना अनिवार्य होगा अथवा वे Round-2 Counselling हेतु पात्रता-प्राप्त (Eligible) नहीं होंगे।
8. Important dates for UGMAC-2024 Revised Round-1 Counselling :

(i) Editing of Choices (Round-1)	24.09.2024 (12.00 P.M.) to 25.09.2024 (12.00 P.M.)
(ii) Publication of Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Result for Round-1	27.09.2024
(iii) Downloading of Revised Allotment Order (Round-1)	27.09.2024 to 30.09.2024
(iv) Round-1 Document Verification / Admission Date	28.09.2024 to 30.09.2024
9. Round-2 Counselling से सम्बन्धित कार्यक्रम की सूचना यथासमय अलग से दी जायेगी।
10. पूर्व प्रकाशित विज्ञापनों को अन्य शर्तें / नियम / प्रक्रिया यथावत् रहेंगी।

परीक्षा नियंत्रक

DU CEO orders the removal of printed posters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the student union elections, the Delhi University's Chief Election Officer on Monday directed the removal of all printed posters within 24 hours.

Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, SEP. 24	RISE	06:11	SET	18:15
	RISE	23:04	SET	12:57
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 25	RISE	06:11	SET	18:14
	RISE	00:00	SET	13:54
THURSDAY, SEP. 26	RISE	06:12	SET	18:13
	RISE	00:03	SET	14:44

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 35 25
Safdarjang 35 25
Palam 34 25

Delhi Palam Today
32°C Day will be little warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with strong winds and moderate lightning will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

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Amit Shah rakes up 1984 anti-Sikh riots to target Congress in Haryana

The party has a long history of insulting Sikhs, Rahul should apologise to them; Cong. is 'anti-Dalit', its opposition over reservation has been exposed, says Union Home Minister in poll-bound State

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH



Amit Shah addressing a rally in Tohana, Haryana. ANI

In the run-up to the Assembly election in Haryana, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday raked up the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to target the Congress, asking Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to seek an apology from Sikhs.

At the party's election rally in Haryana's Tohana, Mr. Shah alleged that the Congress has a long history of insulting Sikhs. He also accused the Congress of being "anti-Dalit" as well. "Haryana is a State connected to Punjab, and Sikh Gurus are respected and worshipped in every household here. But Rahul 'baba' says that Sikhs in India do not have the freedom to

wear turbans and 'kada', Sikhs do not have permission to visit gurdwaras, who are you insulting?... Be it the insult of Sikhism abroad by Rahul Gandhi, or the insult of Sri Harmandir Sahib by the Congress, or the killing of Sikhs in Delhi... Congress has a long history of insulting Sikhs," he said.

"Rahul Gandhi should go to a gurdwara and apologise to Sikh sisters and brothers," he added.

Terming the Congress as "anti-Dalit", Mr. Shah said the Congress is the biggest opponent of Dalits, and its opposition surrounding reservation has been exposed. "If there is any party that can protect the reservation of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, it is only the BJP," he said.

The Congress always insulted Dalit leaders like Kumari Selja and Ashok Tanwar, he added. Ms. Selja is the Congress Lok Sabha MP while Mr. Tanwar is now a member of the BJP.

Mr. Shah said under the BJP regime there has been eradication of corruption, nepotism, and regional politics in Haryana. "The Congress government led by Bhupinder Singh Hooda was dominated by dealers,

son-in-laws and corrupt people. The BJP ended it," he said.

'Making false promises' Mr. Shah also accused the Congress of making false promises to grab power. "They promised the 'One Rank, One Pension' scheme for Army men but never implemented it. Congress has a history of betraying our Army and soldiers. In 2014, when the BJP came to power, we implemented OROP," he said.

Addressing another rally in Yamunanagar's Jagadhri, the Union Home Minister said the Congress has never worked in the interest of farmers. "They speak about the MSP but is there any Congress-ruled State where all crops are purchased at MSP?"

Dhangars demand ST status, hold protest rally

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Dhangar community in Maharashtra on Monday staged a 'rasta roko' demanding that the State government issue a Government Resolution (GR) for their inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category.

The six community leaders, sitting on an indefinite hunger strike for the past 15 days, have also demanded that the GR should mention that there is no difference between 'Dhangars' and 'Dhangads'.

Delay in GR

On September 15, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had held a meeting on the issue. After the delay in passing a GR, the Dhangar community members intensified their protest.

BJP MLC Gopinath Paldarkar, who has been mediating between the government and the community, also participated in the protest.

Protest in U.P. college over thrashing of Dalit student

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Hundreds of students protested at Lal Bahadur Shastri Post Graduate College in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli on Monday alleging that a Dalit student was thrashed by a section of students belonging to dominant social

groups. They also demanded that the accused be arrested. The college administration then alerted the local police. "One BA student alleged that Gaurav Pandey and Brajesh Yadav beat him and used derogatory language. Many students came out in his support," said a police officer.

2 more bridges collapse in Bihar

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Two more bridges collapsed in Bihar's Munger and Patna districts on Sunday night, though no casualty was reported from both the incidents.

In Patna district, a portion of an under-construction bridge across the Ganga river, connecting

National Highway-28 to National Highway-31 in Samastipur district, collapsed. A bridge constructed in 2012 across the Gandak river in Bariyapur block of Munger district too was swept away. The bridge was the link for the residents of Harinmar and Jhovabahiya panchayats to Gogri Main Road to reach the neigh-

bouring Khagaria district. Leader of the Opposition and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, in a post on X, said, "The incident proves that the very foundation of the NDA government is based on commission, bribery, institutional corruption, financial irregularities, illegal extortion and organised loot by criminals and officials."

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IN BRIEF



R.G. Kar case: Trinamool MLA Nirmal Ghosh quizzed by CBI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has questioned Trinamool Congress MLA Nirmal Ghosh in connection with the R.G. Kar rape-murder case. Mr. Ghosh is accused of pressuring the family for speedy cremation of the victim. A MLA from Panihati, he was questioned by the CBI at the CGO complex near Kolkata on Monday. When asked why he was at the CBI office, Mr. Ghosh said, "I have come here for a few submissions." On Sunday, a doctor named Apurba Biswas was also summoned. He was one of the members of the forensic team that performed the initial post-mortem.

Adulteration in Mathura's khoya, alleges Dimple Yadav

Amid controversy over alleged adulteration in Tirupati laddus, Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav has alleged that shops in Mathura are selling adulterated khoya and demanded an inquiry. "Due to failure of the Food Department, adulterated food and oil are causing serious illness to people. The department is negligent and silent over it," she said. "There are reports there that khoya being sold in Mathura is also adulterated. The BJP government should institute an inquiry," she said. In Uttar Pradesh, the Food Safety and Drug Administration has collected 13 samples of 'prasadam' from prominent temples in Mathura for testing. PTI

Key appointments in Maharashtra to quell dissent ahead of poll

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In a bid to contain potential unrest within the Shiv Sena ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly election, the Eknath Shinde-led government has made key appointments.

Party MLAs Sanjay Shirat and Bharat Gogavale, who were overlooked for Cabinet posts, have been appointed as chairpersons of the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) and the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation, respectively.

Former party MP Anandrao Adsul, who claimed he was promised a gubernatorial role, was appointed as the chairman of the State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. "The decision to appoint Shirat as CIDCO chairman is notable. The CM has neutral-

ised a potentially influential critic. Mr. Shirat has repeatedly expressed his desire for a ministerial position," a party leader said.

The elevation of the Balasaheb Thackeray Turmeric Research and Training Centre's chairman post to Cabinet rank and appointment of Hemant Patil to the role reflect the CM's effort to reward loyalists and consolidate power. Mr. Patil was expecting a berth in the Rajya Sabha or Legislative Council.

These appointments reveal Mr. Shinde's attempts to ensure that the Sena's internal rifts do not weaken its poll prospects. However, if the poll is held in mid-November, the appointees will barely get a month to take decisions as the model code of conduct will come into effect. The new government has to appoint new chairpersons as the tenures are coterminous.

Panel led by CEC meets representatives of parties in poll-bound Jharkhand

BJP urges the EC team not to engage senior Jharkhand bureaucrat in any election work and to cancel voter cards of alleged Bangladeshi infiltrators; JMM seeks Central forces to maintain peace

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A 12-member delegation of the Election Commission (EC) led by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar visited Ranchi on Monday to review poll preparedness ahead of the Assembly election later this year.

The delegation held a meeting with representatives of nine national and regional parties of Jharkhand, including the Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU).

While the BJP demanded that Vandana Dadel, Principal Secretary of the Jharkhand Home Department, be kept away from election work, JMM ally Congress said BJP leaders who "spread fear" should be stopped from entering the State.

BJP leaders Rakesh Prasad and Sudhir Shrivastava



An Election Commission team led by CEC Rajiv Kumar arrives in Ranchi on Monday to review Assembly poll preparedness. ANI

requested the EC to cancel the voter cards of alleged Bangladeshi infiltrators and that it announce voting dates keeping festivals in mind. They demanded the conduct of the election in a minimum number of phases.

Mr. Prasad raised an objection before the EC citing a letter written to it by Ms. Dadel against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan who she wrote "have a tendency to spread hatred

across communities and threaten bureaucrats of the State". He alleged that the official was "misusing her position and working for a political party" and should not be engaged in any election work.

On behalf of BJP ally AJSU, Harsad Ansari said elections should be held in several phases since Jharkhand is a "Naxal-affected State".

The ruling JMM suggested that the date of voting should be fixed keeping the State's foundation day, No-

vember 15, in mind. The party's central general secretary, Supriyo Bhattacharya, said Central forces should be deputed along with the State police during the election so that peace is not disturbed. He demanded a ban on "casteist and communal speeches".

Nadda rally

Addressing a rally in Khunti district on Monday, BJP national president and Union Minister J.P. Nadda accused the Hemant Soren-led JMM government of giving Aadhaar cards to illegal Rohingya immigrants and said the number of tribals in Jharkhand has decreased from 44% to 28%. "What is happening? Rohingyas are being settled here, people are marrying illegally, lands of tribals are being taken over. It is being done in a planned manner and the State government is allowing this," he said.

He also attacked the Congress, calling it a "highly corrupt party" that supports "anti-national and separatist elements".

'MVA to decide on Maharashtra CM face after Assembly election'

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala on Monday said discussions on Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance's chief ministerial candidate in Maharashtra will take place after the upcoming Assembly election.

Speaking to mediapersons in Nagpur, Mr. Chennithala, who is the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Maharashtra, said, "We will discuss about the Chief Minister's post after the Assembly poll. Right now, our only goal is to form the government and oust the corrupt BJP regime."

Earlier in the day, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, too, said there was no need for the MVA to declare a chief ministerial face before the election. "I don't think that is an immediate concern right now. When the Janata Par-



Ramesh Chennithala



Sharad Pawar

ty was created, nobody thought that Morarji Desai was going to be the Prime Minister. He was elected as Prime Minister after the election. Today, we want to give people the confidence that we can offer them an alternative that works for their welfare. After the election, we can decide who will be the CM, who will part of the Cabinet," he said.

Seat sharing

Addressing concerns about seat sharing within the MVA coalition, Mr. Pawar said a structured process is in place. "Any party

and their *karyakartas* (functionaries) have the right to think that their party should be the largest party in the State. I can't make any comment on this. We have created a committee on seat sharing with all three alliance partners. The final decision will be taken on September 30 and October 1."

He also light-heartedly responded to a question on the number of seats the NCP (SP) is expected to contest in the Konkan region, saying, "Whichever seats are left to us by other parties, we are happy to contest on all of those."

Akhilesh flays U.P. govt. over death of another accused in encounter

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday reacted sharply to killing of another accused in the Sultanpur jewellery shop robbery case in a police encounter.

He accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of deliberately creating unrest in Uttar Pradesh. In an indirect reference to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr. Yadav said those in power knowing well that they will never be re-elected want to create such a situation that no one enters or invests in the State.

The Special Task Force (STF) of the U.P. police on Monday morning shot dead Anuj Pratap Singh in Unnao district after he allegedly opened fire at them at a check post. In the retaliatory fire, he was

'Secularism European concept introduced during Emergency'

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Secularism is a European concept, evolved following a conflict between the church and the king, whereas Bharat is a dharmacentric nation and there was no such conflict; it was, hence, not included in the Constitution, but added to it during the Emergency, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has said.

"A lot of frauds have been committed on the people of the country, and one of them was a wrong interpretation of secularism," he said addressing an event in Kanyakumari district on Sunday.

At the time of Independence, when the Constitution was being drafted, a discussion came up on secularism and the Constituent Assembly rejected it, Mr. Ravi said.

Citing the Constituent Assembly discussions, he said it was deliberated that Bharat is a country of dharma. "How can there be a conflict with dharma? How can Bharat be away from dharma? It cannot be. Hence, they said secularism was a European concept and let it be there. In India, there was no need for secularism, they said, and hence, it was not in-



T.N. Governor R.N. Ravi

cluded in the Constitution," the Governor said.

"Decades later, during the Emergency (1975-77), one 'insecure' Prime Minister introduced secularism in the Constitution to appease some sections of people," Mr. Ravi alleged.

The Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan said in a statement that at the convocation of the Hindu Dharma Vidya Peetham at Thiruvattar in Kanyakumari district, the Governor had elaborated the evolution of Bharat "on the backbone of humane values enshrined in the all-inclusive Sanatan Dharma and how under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a compassionate and muscular Bharat is re-emerging with pride in our cultural and spiritual heritage".

Comprehensive growth in the past decade is steadily improving the lives of the poor and lower middle class people, it said.

Mamata warns of more rain, urges officials to stay alert

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday chaired an administrative review meeting in Purba Bardhaman to assess the flood situation in the region and urged the administration to remain alert in the wake of cyclonic storm formations in the Bay of Bengal.

The Chief Minister distributed relief material to the people and said all officers and staff have been asked to work proactively to control the flood situation. "There are cyclonic storm formations in the Bay of Bengal. If it rains more, and DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation) releases more water, flooding will occur. In such areas I have asked officials to convince people to move from their homes if it is too risky," she said.

Adhir unfazed by new Bengal Cong. chief's olive branch to TMC, says he will continue to protest

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Monday said he will continue to hit the streets and protest against the Trinamool Congress even as newly appointed West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee (WBPC) president Subhankar Sarkar extended an olive branch to the State's ruling party.

Mr. Chowdhury, a five-time Congress MP and former chief of the Congress's State unit, led a procession in Howrah district on Sunday against the rape and murder of the doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital and will spearhead a sit-in at Esplanade over the issue from



The party hasn't forbidden us from protesting against the Trinamool, said former WBPC chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. FILE PHOTO

Wednesday.

"The party has issued no directions prohibiting us from protesting against the Trinamool. These (protest) events were planned earlier, and we cannot go back on the commitment made to the

people. Also, I continue to be a member of the Congress Working Committee," Mr. Chowdhury told *The Hindu*.

The West Bengal Congress veteran, who lost his Lok Sabha seat to the Trinamool Congress earlier

this year, has served as the State Congress president twice for a total of almost eight years.

The 68-year-old Congress leader said that while the party's national leadership may look at the "larger picture" in deciding how to engage with the Trinamool Congress, for him, the party's interests in the State are paramount.

Political observers said that by appointing Mr. Sarkar, the Congress leadership has suggested a truce with the Trinamool Congress.

However, fitting in the shoes of Mr. Chowdhury will be a tough ask for Mr. Sarkar as the former WBPC chief has been one of the biggest Congress leaders in the State with his

own support base.

Mr. Sarkar, however, has not had any electoral success, and some Congress leaders continue to back Mr. Chowdhury.

'No change in ties'

The CPI(M) leadership in West Bengal has described the change of guard as Congress's internal affair and said that it will not have any major impact on their alliance.

Md. Salim, the CPI(M) State secretary, said Mr. Sarkar's appointment "has nothing to do with the Left Congress ties". He added that with the entire State erupting in protests over the R.G. Kar incident, the future of the alliance will depend on how things pan out on the ground.

Odisha all set to join Ayushman Bharat health coverage scheme

Bindu Shajan
Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Odisha is all set to join the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), which aims to provide health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation. Confirming this, a senior Health Ministry official on Monday said "some technical issues are being ironed out with the State" before its implementation.

"Odisha is running its own health scheme, which will now run alongside this Central scheme. Under the scheme, the Centre and State share the financial burden and States like Punjab, which

haven't posted their audit report from 2019-2020 onwards, are also being engaged with. Bihar has joined recently, and we are seeing many enrolments from the State," said a Health Ministry official on Monday.

He added that while 18 States have converged their State-specific schemes with AB PM-JAY, and Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Nagaland run their State employee schemes in convergence with AB PM-JAY hospitals and IT platform. The integration of Karnataka Arogya Sanjeevani Scheme in the National Health Authority's IT platform is in progress.

The official said as on September 1, a total of 29,648 hospitals, includ-

ing 12,696 private ones, have been empanelled under the scheme. It is being implemented in 33 States and Union Territories currently excluding Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal.

"Forty-nine percent of the Ayushman cards are issued to women and out of 7.79 crore hospital admissions, about 3.61 crore are utilised by women. Under the public-private utilisation - 57% is under public health care, while the utilised specialties include cancer, nephrology, cardiology, general medicine, gastroenterology, etc.," said a release issued by the Health Ministry.

The scheme, according to the Ministry, provides cashless inpatient services to beneficiaries at empanelled hospitals.

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Heartfelt Greetings to all carpenter brothers on the
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INBRIEF



Venu appointed chairperson of Kochi Biennale Foundation

The Board of Trustees of the Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF) has appointed V. Venu (left in picture), former Chief Secretary, as its chairperson. Bose Krishnamachari, president of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale and trustee of the KBF, said in a communication that Mr. Venu would work *pro bono* – on an honorary basis – and his appointment had come into effect from September 21. He has been associated with the Biennale since its first edition in 2012.

Police officers foisted false case upon actor, says report

The NTR Police Commissionerate, which is investigating the harassment of Bollywood actor Kadambari Jethwani and her family members in an alleged false case, said that the police officers colluded with main accused Kukkala Vidyasagar. The officers arrested her and her family allegedly with the intent of conspiracy, it said. The police said in the remand report that the other accused in the case were senior police officers and there were chances of tampering of evidence.

SIT starts investigation against Karnataka BJP legislator

The SIT launched probe against BJP MLA Muniathna on Monday. The first challenge is growing concerns over intimidation of witnesses and destruction of evidence. On a complaint by the son of a key witness in a rape case against Mr. Muniathna, the police registered an FIR against Sunandamma, the MLA's aide, for threatening the witness. She was also arrested in 2018 along with former councillor G.K. Venkatesh, with over 10,000 voter ID cards.

CPI mounts pressure on CPI(M) to remove ADGP Ajith Kumar

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The controversy surrounding Kerala Additional Director-General of Police, Law and Order, M.R. Ajith Kumar's alleged clandestine meeting with RSS leaders seems to have spiralled into a political battle that appeared to cut across the government-Opposition divide on Monday.

In what appeared to be a war of nerves in the Left Democratic Front (LDF), the Communist Party of India (CPI) used an opinion column in the party newspaper *Janayugom*, for the second time in the past week, to fire a shot across the bow of the government, seemingly reinforcing the party leadership's increasingly strident demand for Mr. Ajith's removal from the top post.

The column, written under an assumed name, termed the yet-to-be-published findings of Mr. Ajith's inquiry into the controversial Thrissur Pooram "disruption" a sham.

It pointed to a purported conflict of interest between the ADGP's role as the chief investigation officer and his position as the principal conductor of the "impeded" Pooram.

The opinion piece accused Mr. Ajith of deliberately disorganising the Thrissur Pooram to help BJP candidate Suresh Gopi in the Lok Sabha election.

The CPI appeared to have found an unlikely ally in the United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition in its foray against the ADGP and, arguably by proxy, the police administration.

FSSAI issues notice to T.N. firm over 'ghee adulteration'

Action initiated after four samples from company failed to meet food standard parameters, says Health Ministry; TTD had sent samples to NDDB lab; BJP leader seeks court-monitored probe

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/TIRUMALA

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a show-cause notice to Tamil Nadu-based A.R. Dairy, one of the companies which supplied ghee to the Tirupati temple, for allegedly providing substandard product to the temple.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) had got samples of its laddu *prasadam* tested and they allegedly did not meet the set standards and were found "adulterated" with palm oil and animal fat.

"This action has been initiated after four samples from the company failed to



Priests performing purification rituals at the Lord Venkateswara temple at Tirumala on Monday. ANI

meet the food standard parameters," said a senior Health Ministry official.

In its notice, the food regulator asked A.R. Dairy Food Private Ltd. why its Central licence should not be suspended under the Food Safety and Standards

(Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011.

Further, the ghee procurement committee of the TTD has sent all the samples supplied for testing to the NDDB CALF Lab at Anand, Gujarat.

"After analysis, the sample from your firm A.R. Dairy Food Private Ltd, has failed to meet the parameters and your firm has been blacklisted by EO, TTD," the notice said.

The A.R. Dairy said, "The daily requirement of ghee in the temple is 10 tonnes. We have supplied not even 0.1% of it."

Meanwhile, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy moved the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored probe into the alleged use of animal fat in making the laddus.

Following concerns over the alleged use of adulterated ghee, *Shanti Homam* was organised at the temple on Monday. (With PTI inputs)

Man dies of amoeba infection in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

A 38-year-old man from Kasaragod district of Kerala died from suspected amoebic meningoencephalitis while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Kannur on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as M. Manikandan.

Manikandan, who had been working in Mumbai, returned home with fever and initially sought treat-

ment at Government General Hospital, Kasaragod.

As his condition failed to improve, he was transferred to a hospital in Kannur, where a cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) test raised suspicion of amoebic meningoencephalitis. Further confirmation will depend on the results of an amoebic PCR test. Manikandan was treated with miltefosine, a medication typically used to manage amoebic infections.

Kerala reports case of Clade 1b Mpox strain

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India has reported its first case of the Clade 1b strain of Mpox which, according to Health Ministry sources, has been confirmed in a 38-year-old man who landed in Kerala last week from the United Arab Emirates.

The man was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Malappuram district of the State last week after he de-

veloped symptoms of the disease.

The WHO declared Mpox a global public health emergency again in August this year due to the spread of a new and deadlier strain of the virus, Clade 1b. The earlier case of Mpox that emerged in Delhi was of a 26-year-old resident of Haryana's Hisar district who had tested positive for the previous West African Clade 2 strain earlier this month.

Railway staffer held in M.P. for setting off detonators on tracks

The Hindu Bureau
BHOHAL

A railway staffer was arrested and another detained on Monday for allegedly stealing and setting off 10 detonators on the route of a special Army train in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district, which resulted in the train being stopped for about 30 minutes, senior officials said.

Central Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Swapnil Nila told *The Hindu* that a staffer from the engineering department, identified as Sabir alias Shabbir, was detained for questioning and arrested by the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Mr. Shabbir is posted as a mate, responsible for patrolling tracks.

On September 18 around 2 p.m., 10 of Railways' own detonators went off on the route of the special train, providing services to the Indian Army, prompting the authorities to stop the train to conduct inspection of the tracks. The incident took place between Napanagar and Khandwa stations on the Delhi-Mumbai route.

The detonators, which produce a loud sound, are used by Railways to alert loco pilots for any possible risks on the tracks like fog or mist. However, only a few departments are allowed to possess these detonators, officials said.

Mr. Nila said there was no need to place the detonators on the tracks concerned and that location. After the incident came to light last week, the RPF



The accused, Sabir aka Shabbir, being taken to the court on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

launched an investigation into the incident.

Mr. Nila also said an FIR under Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act has also been registered.

3-day RPF remand
Mr. Shabbir was produced before a special court and sent to three-day custody of the RPF.

"The court granted Mr. Shabbir's custody to us in order to question him," said Central Railway RPF commandant Manoj Kumar, who has additional charge of the RPF unit of Bhusawal division. "The signal detonators do not cause harm. They are just crackers. There is no explosive matter in it. It is just a mixture," he said.

A railway official in Khandwa said they have also detained a staffer who works as a gangman and patrols the tracks.

"We are currently interrogating them to understand their intent behind it. It is possible that the two were under the influence of alcohol but we are exploring all angles," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Drenched in rain



Another downpour: Motorists travelling in Hyderabad during a spell of rain on Monday. The IMD has said that the city is likely to receive light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied with gusty winds. RAMAKRISHNA G.

HC steps in after Lawrence's daughter objects to giving his body for medical studies

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The handing over of the body of veteran CPI(M) leader M.M. Lawrence for medical education was put on hold after the Kerala High Court directed the Principal of the Government Medical College Hospital (MCH) in Ernakulam to consider the objections raised by his daughter Asha Lawrence, against the decision of her siblings to hand over the body to the college.

The hospital authorities took over the possession of the body to preserve it till a decision on the conten-



Asha Lawrence, daughter of M.M. Lawrence, opposes giving of his body to a hospital in Ernakulam on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tious issue is taken. The Principal will hear the three children before taking a decision.

M.L. Sajeevan and Sujatha Boban had submitted

a consent letter to the authorities expressing their willingness to donate the body, which according to them, was also the wish of the veteran leader.

BRS fact-finding team out to probe mortality rates detained

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Tension escalated at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad as the BRS MLAs part of a fact-finding team, attempted to investigate the reported increase in maternal and infant mortality rates, but were prevented by the police from entering the hospital.

The opinion piece accused Mr. Ajith of deliberately disorganising the Thrissur Pooram to help BJP candidate Suresh Gopi in the Lok Sabha election.

The BRS had formed a three-member fact-finding committee, including Mr. Rajaiah, Mr. Anand, and



BRS MLAs, who were going to hospital in Hyderabad to probe mortality rates, were prevented by the police on Monday.

BRS Hyderabad city president and MLA Maganti Gopinath was also detained at the hospital, and the arrested leaders were later shifted to the Narayana-naguda Police Station.

Mr. Sanjay, to examine alleged failures in medical services across the State. The party has earlier questioned why the Congress government was attempting to block the probe, suggesting it feared revelations about maternal and infant deaths at the hospital would come to light.

A collective for young artists to learn nuances of different Koodiyattom styles

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Cholliyattom, a collective of young Koodiyattom artists in Kerala, which was launched on a modest note during the COVID-19 pandemic, has now evolved into a platform where artists following different styles come together to preserve the art form and also to impart knowledge about techniques followed by different Koodiyattom schools in the State.

The collective recently conducted the second edition of Natya Yauvanam-2024, a Koodiyattom festival, at Ammannur Gurukulam in Irinjilakuda in association with Dr. K.N. Pisharody Smaraka Kathakali Club.



A scene from Natya Yauvanam-2024. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ammannur Madhav Chakkar, president of the collective, says *Cholliyattom* is an attempt to bring younger generation of artists trained in different styles on a common platform so as to give them a hands-on experience on different styles and nuances of the

art form. It is also an attempt to ensure that various Koodiyattom traditions are passed on to future generations, he says.

There are different styles or traditions in Koodiyattom, chiefly Kalamandalam or Painkulam style, Ammannur style, and Ma-

ni Gurukulam style. The audience may find it difficult to grasp the art form if not familiar with the art's intricacies, including its vocabulary, says Nepathya Sreehari Chakkar, an artist and member of *Cholliyattom*. Though there is no big difference in costumes, there are slight changes in sign languages and deviations in acting styles in some Koodiyattom traditions, he says.

The art form was earlier confined to the temple precincts in Kerala. As part of an outreach programme among the younger generation of Koodiyattom artists, the collective helps artists from different social backgrounds to come together and strive for a common cause.

Mahayuti vs Oppn. over Badlapur 'encounter'

Cong., NCP (SP), Sena (UBT) question if Akshay was shot dead to 'shield' the other accused; CM Eknath Shinde asks how they can take the side of accused

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The death of the main accused in the Badlapur sexual assault case on Monday snowballed into a major political controversy as the Maharashtra government locked horns with the Opposition, which alleged foul play.

Opposition leaders asked if 24-year-old Akshay Shinde, accused of sexually assaulting two girls at a school in Badlapur town in Thane district, was killed to shield the other accused in the case that had triggered Statewide outrage.

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole, in a post on X, said, "The school's trustees have not yet been arrested in the case. They are absconding.



A silent protest against the alleged sexual assault of two schoolgirls at Badlapur in Thane district. FILE PHOTO

Is there an attempt to save the absconding accused or to wrap up the case by encountering the main accused? This matter should be investigated by a sitting judge of the Bombay High Court."

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) chief Sharad Pawar said the government seems to have failed in instilling

fear of the law among the accused. "To ensure justice to the two girls in the Badlapur case, the accused should have been hanged as per legal provisions. But the laxity shown by the Home Department while transferring the accused [from Talaja Jail to Badlapur] is questionable," he said in a post on X.

His daughter and MP Su-

priya Sule called the government's approach "shocking". "First, there was a delay in the filing of an FIR [first information report], and now the prime accused is killed in custody. This is an absolute failure of the law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system."

Bursting crackers

Akshay, a contractual sweeper at the school in Badlapur, was arrested on August 17, five days after he allegedly sexually abused the two girls in the school toilet. The alleged delay in lodging an FIR in the case by the police had led to massive protests by local residents. As the news of his killing spread, several people burst crackers in Badlapur town on Monday night. However, Opposi-

tion leaders said several questions remained unanswered in the case and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who also holds the Home portfolio, must throw some light on these questions.

Maha Vikas Aghadi constituent Shiv Sena (UBT)'s spokesperson Sushama Andhare questioned how a handcuffed accused could snatch a revolver.

Shiv Sena UBT, in a post on its X handle, said, "Is the Badlapur accused's death in front of the police not a ploy to save the school's director who is a BJP office-bearer?"

Accusing the Opposition of politicising the incident, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "This was the same Opposition that had sought that a cruel accused like him should be hanged.

Someone did such a terrible act to the little girls. How can the Opposition take the side of such an accused?"

His party's Rajya Sabha member Milind Deora said on X, "The hue and cry raised by the Opposition is both despicable and irresponsible. The Badlapur accused opened fire on policemen and seriously injured API Niles More. What exactly does the Opposition expect? Should our police officers lay down their lives at the hand of a rape accused?"

Meanwhile, a credit war has already begun within the ruling Mahayuti alliance, with Shiv Sena leaders glorifying the Chief Minister as a "Dharmaveer (upholder of righteousness), who gives justice to young children".

T.N. govt. makes flip-flop on A-G's statements in Madras Race Club case

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government made a major flip-flop in the Madras High Court on Monday. In the forenoon session, a submission was made on behalf of the government that it stood by the statements made by Advocate-General P.S. Raman in the Madras Race Club (MRC) case. However, in the afternoon, it was argued that the A-G's statements "were wrong both in law and on facts".

When an application filed by MRC was listed before Justice R.M.T. Teekaa Raman in the forenoon session, Additional Advocate-General J. Ravindran said: "I am instructed to say that this government stands by the undertaking given by

the A-G. We respect his words and the government stands by them."

The AAG clarified the issue since senior counsel P. Wilson, representing the Revenue Secretary, had on September 19 told the judge that the government had resumed the leased lands at Guindy from MRC on September 9 itself, and that a statement made to the contrary by the A-G before a Division Bench of Justices S.S. Sundar and K. Rajasekar on the same day was "not a correct statement".

Immediately after the AAG's submissions, senior counsel A.L. Somayaji and Gopal Sankaranarayanan requested Justice Raman to record the submissions as they were crucial to prove that MRC continued to be in possession of the lands.

Outrage over 'threat culture' in Bengali film industry after technician's bid to end life

Movurie Som
KOLKATA

A hairstylist working in the Bengali film industry attempted to end her life on Saturday. The hairstylist has allegedly been deprived of work opportunities for the last few months by the technicians' union body.

After her daughter intervened and rescued her, the hairstylist was rushed to Kolkata's M.R. Bangur Superspecialty Hospital. Prominent Bengali actors and directors, including Sudipta Chakraborty, Chaiti Ghoshal, Daminee Benny Basu, and Sudeshna Roy, reached the hospital to express support.

The incident sparked outrage in the film fraternity over the alleged culture of pressure and intimidation perpetuated by the technicians' bodies.

A complaint was lodged at the Haridevpur police station against members of the Cine and Video Hair Stylist Guild, a part of the larger Federation of Cine Technicians and Workers of Eastern India (FCTWEI).

In a note, the hairstylist named 11 members of FCTWEI and held them responsible for lack of work. She also alleged that she was suspended for around three months since May 1 by the guild and denied opportunities even after the suspension was lifted, which led to severe financial distress.

'Completely illegal'

"The guild told her that even though her suspension had been lifted, she would only be allowed to work on projects assigned to her by them. This cannot happen, it is completely illegal," Sudeshna Roy, director and member of the Directors' Association of Eastern India (DAEI), told mediapersons.

In a statement, DAEI alleged that the hairstylist was suspended for raising questions about the democratic procedures of FCTWEI and the guild.

"She did not have a lot of work for the last four to five months, even after the guild lifted her suspension. She came under debt," Ms. Chakraborty

said. "I was shocked to hear what she was going through. There is no doubt about the prevalence of 'threat culture' in this industry," she said.

'Burning example'

In a social media post, Ms. Chakraborty said the hairstylist's attempt is a "burning example" of the damage caused by workplace harassment. "This cannot go on like this. I will see to the end of it."

In July, a rift between FCTWEI and directors brought the film industry to a halt. Most film and television shoots stood cancelled across Tollywood studios for days after Bengali film directors boycotted shoots to protest against FCTWEI's "stringent regulations".

The protest came after a walkout by film technicians from the set of director Rahul Mukherjee over his alleged violation of FCTWEI norms.

(Those in distress may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline: 011-40769002.)

T.N. Speaker seeks reforms to make Centre respect Bills adopted by States

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Speaker M. Appavu on Monday advocated a system to make the Governors follow the President in giving assent to the Bills adopted by the Legislature as soon as possible. He also called for reforms to make the Union government respect the Bills and resolutions passed by the Assemblies.

Speaking at the 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Region Conference in New Delhi, he referred to some Bills that had been stalled by the Governor's office for years without any reason, after they went through the Assembly.

Pointing to the President giving assent to Bills adopted in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha within a couple of hours, and the Governors of some States not giving assent even to Bills passed unanimously by Assemblies, the Speaker said, "In this regard, a system should be created for Governors to follow the

A system should be created for Governors to follow the President in giving assent to the Bills as soon as possible

M. APPAVU
Tamil Nadu Speaker

President in giving assent to Bills as soon as possible, thereby upholding the constitutional provisions. Only then could the confusion caused by the intervention of the Governors in States ruled by the Opposition parties be avoided."

Referring to the Bills on the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test adopted by the Tamil Nadu Assembly multiple times, Mr. Appavu said, "The Governor, who was bound by the constitutional provisions to give his assent to the Bills, took a shortcut and sent them to the President's Office. The President has withheld assent for many Bills without assigning any reason."

Jharkhand HC hands over probe into appointment 'scam' to CBI

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Jharkhand High Court on Monday handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) the probe into the alleged illegal appointments made in the State Assembly between 2005 and 2007.

A Division Bench had reserved its order on June 20 after hearing a public interest litigation petition that stated that 274 people were "illegally" appointed during the tenure of the first Assembly Speaker, Inder Singh Namdhari, and 324 during the tenure of Speaker Alamgir Alam.

It was also alleged that during the tenure of Mr. Namdhari, 70% of the people who got jobs in the Assembly were from a single district, whereas during the tenure of Mr. Alam, a case of money transaction for appointment came to light. The then Governor, Syed Sibte Razi, had ordered an inquiry into these irregularities.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, ASSAM
SIXMILE, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22

No. DME.E- 557207/1

REQUEST FOR BIDS
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Directorate of Medical Education, Khanapara Sixmile on behalf of O/O Project Director, Assam Health Infrastructure Development and Management Society (AHIDMS) invites "Request for Bid" from reputed suppliers for supply of the following advance medical equipments funded by Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh and Sitchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) Assam:

1. Surgical Robotics.

The details may be seen in the Request for Bid document uploaded in the Assam E-procurement portal (<https://assamtenders.gov.in>) & <https://ahidms.assam.gov.in>

The applicant must be registered with the E-Tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (Website: <https://assamtenders.gov.in>). The Project Director, AHIDMS reserves the right to accept or reject all bids without showing any reasons whatsoever.

Janasanyog /C/3256/ 24/24-Sep-24 Directorate of Medical Education, Assam

Office of Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate, Dumka.
(Mining Section)
District- Dumka, Jharkhand- 814101, Website- <https://dumka.nic.in>

Very Urgent Notice Inviting Tender

Notice No. : 1076 Dated : -20.09.2024
Subject: Invitation of Financial Proposal from Empanelled Agencies for Category A & B Sand Ghats of Dumka District.

With reference to the Notice Inviting EoI for Empanelment of MDOs dated 30.09.2021 regarding Empanelled Agencies, JSMDC wishes to appoint MDO from amongst the Empanelled Agencies for Category A & B Sand Ghats as defined in the Notice Inviting EoI.

Empanelled Agencies for Category A, which are interested, shall submit their Financial Proposal separately for each Category A Sand Ghats of JSMDC as under :-

Sl.No	Name	Circle	River	Area(Ha.)
1	KalipurangaSand Ghat	Jama	Tepra	3.49
2	Kenduabahiarsand Ghat	Jama	Tepra	1.24
3	Phulsaharisand Ghat	Masalia	Nunbil	4.03
4	Kusumghata Sand Ghat	Masalia	Nunbil	3.82

For every ghat a separate Bid is to be submitted.
Empanelled Agencies for Category B which are interested, shall submit their Financial Proposal for Category B Sand Ghats of JSMDC as under :-

Sl.No	Name	Circle	River	Area(Ha.)
1	Digulisand Ghat	Raneshwar	Mayurakshi	38.4
2	MahulpurSand Ghat	Raneshwar	Mayurakshi	31.92
3	Murlichaksand Ghat	Jama	Mayurakshi	11.41
4	Jarka-Nawadihsand Ghat	Jama&Jarmundi	Matihara	17.19

Detail information of above sand ghats can be viewed in approved DSR from district website (<https://dumka.nic.in>)

The Financial Proposal shall be submitted with all the required documents on e-procurement portal of Government of Jharkhand (<https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>) from 23 September, 2024 11:00 AM. The documents shall be scanned, uploaded and signed digitally for bid submission. All terms and conditions shall be applicable as per the Tender document. The complete set of Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded from the Dumka District website (<https://dumka.nic.in>) also. The last date for submission of tender is on 30 September, 2024, 11:00 AM and the same shall be opened at 30 September, 12:00 PM for further information contact District Mining Office Dumka.

नोट- 1. JSMDC, Ranchi द्वारा Category-A एवं Category-B के तहत वर्गित Empanelled Agency के द्वारा <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> के वेबसाइट पर ही ई-निविदा स्वीकार किया जाएगा।
2. बिना एचJSMDC, Ranchi द्वारा निविदा नियमवली, शर्तों एवं अद्यतन परिचय निविदा में लागू रहेंगे।
3. शर्तों एवं विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए ई-निविदा वेबसाइट पर देखा जा सकता है।

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner
-Cum- District Magistrate, Dumka.
PR 336645 Mines and Geology(24-25)D

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित भूमि को नौएडा प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी समझौते के आधार पर क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है-

ग्राम का नाम	खाला संख्या	खसरा संख्या	क्षेत्रफल (हे. मी.)	नाम कारतकार पत्ता	क्रय करने का उद्देश्य
1 मोहियापुर	45	42	0.1840 मे से 0.0970	श्रीमती ब्रह्मवती पत्नी निवासी ग्राम मोहियापुर जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	सैक्टर-163 व 164 के अन्तर्गत नौएडा के सुनियोजित विकास के दृष्टिगत सड़क निर्माण हेतु।

उपरोक्त भूमि के क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी जन साधारण को संबंधित भूमि के सम्बन्ध में कोई दावा/आपत्ति देनी हो, तो सार्वजनिक प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अन्दर कार्यालय भूलेख विभाग, नौएडा, मुख्य प्रशासनिक भवन सैक्टर-6, नौएडा, जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर-201301 में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

विशेष कार्याधिकारी (ए०के०) नौएडा

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No. 12-1/2019-M&T (Admn.) (Vol.II) (E-84047)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

ADVT.No.: CFMTTI/04/2024

Applications are invited from eligible candidates belonging to Officers under the Central Government or State Government or Union Territories or Public Sector Undertakings or Agricultural Universities or recognised research institutions or semi-Government or autonomous or statutory organisations for filling up of two posts of Farm Superintendent (General Central Service, Group 'B' Gazetted in Level 7 (Rs. 44900-142400) in the pay matrix), one each at Northern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute, Hisar (Haryana) and Southern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute, Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) subordinate offices under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on deputation (including short term contract) basis urgently. Complete details about eligibility conditions including format of application, place of posting etc. are available on the website of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare website www.agrifwelfare.gov.in, and the website of Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes fmmttbudni.gov.in / nrfmtti.gov.in / srfmtti.dacnet.nic.in / nrfmtti.gov.in.

Application (in triplicate) in prescribed proforma with complete details/documents should be forwarded through proper channel to the Under Secretary (M&T), Room No. 12A, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110001 within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

M.P. Madhyam/116525/2024

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)
SATNA CITY TRANSPORT SERVICES LTD.
REGD. OFFICE:- OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, SATNA
(SWAMI VIVEKANAND BHAWAN, DIVERSION ROAD, SATNA, MADHYA PRADESH)

Email - commsatna@mpurban.gov.in Website- www.mpurban.gov.in,
Tel No. - 07672-228818

NIT No. 03/01 & 03/02/Transport/Municipal Corporation Satna, Dated 20.09.2024

Tender No. 2024_UAD_370870_1, Tender No. 2024_UAD_370872_1, Invitation for Services of Bus Operator (Inad Call)

"Selection of Bus Operators for Bus Transport System in Satna city (on cluster basis) on Operate and Maintain Basis For Cluster 'B and C'"

Satna city transport services ltd. Satna has envisaged to improve and facillit the scenario of Intra and Inter City Public Transport in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The Recipient hereby invites proposals from reputed and eligible firms through the Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the CEO, SCTSL Satna titled "Selection of Bus Operator for Bus Transport System in Satna city on Operate and Maintain Basis For Cluster 'B and C'".

Interested bidders may submit their duly filled proposals in the prescribed format available on e-procurement website no later than **Dated: 21/10/2024** Further details of the services can be referred from the RFP/ Terms of Reference which can be downloaded from e-procurement website: www.mptenders.gov.in of Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Amendments to NIT/RFP, if any, would be published on e-procurement website only, and not in newspaper. SCTSL/Municipal Corporation, Satna reserves all the rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Note:

1. Joint Venture/Consortium shall be allowed.
2. The bus operator shall operate and maintain buses during Agreement period. Bus operator will also be responsible for all statutory, regulatory, legal, tax and other requirements associated with the bus operation and maintenance. The fare-box revenue collection shall be done by the operator.
3. Selected bidder will have to form a SPV to avoid transfer of any past litigation/obligation of the Company to the project entity.

CEO
Satna City Transport Services Ltd.
Satna (M.P.)
Satna, Dated 20.09.2024
N.I.T. No. 03/01 and 03/02/Transport/E-Tender/2024-25



Politicising the laddu

The Tirupati laddu issue should be limited to one of quality control

In the face of it, the allegations are rather serious – the adulteration of ghee (clarified butter) – used in the making of Tirupati's famed laddu *prasadam* – with 'foreign fat'. The charges were made by no less than Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu himself, and his son and Minister Nara Lokesh, on September 18, against his predecessor and Leader of the Opposition, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of the Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP). Since then, the issue has snowballed into a free-for-all, with leaders of Mr. Naidu's central alliance partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), seeking an 'independent investigation'. Former BJP MP Subramanian Swamy has even sought a Supreme Court-monitored probe. Unsurprisingly, as *The Hindu* has reported, the adulteration charges do not seem to have deterred devotees from making the arduous journey to the hilltop temple, nor has it slowed down the sale of the laddus. The timing of these charges, close to State elections, where the BJP faces tough challenges to retain power in Haryana and Maharashtra, raises concerns of their being politically motivated, and indeed irresponsible, having been made by a constitutional authority of Andhra Pradesh.

In the quality test by the Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF), in Anand, Gujarat (National Dairy Development Board affiliated) the laddu samples were received on July 9, and the results submitted on July 16. But Mr. Naidu announced its findings in September. Moreover, the analysis mentions a range of what it considers to be 'foreign fat' – from soybean, olive, sunflower, rapeseed, and cotton seed, to fish oil, palm oil and beef tallow and lard. The extent of the contamination ('foreign fat') in the ghee which was sent by the Tamil Nadu-based supplier A.R. Dairy in Dindigul, is unclear. The CALF has also added an array of caveats. The apex body for food quality checks is the Ghaziabad-based National Food Laboratory (NFL). So, why did the State government not send the samples to the NFL for final verification? It is to be noted that on July 29, an executive officer of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) had said that A.R. Dairy would be blacklisted as its samples had contaminants beyond 'vegetable oil'. In the wake of this controversy, the argument from the Hindutva right to remove temple administration, including the TTD, from the state's purview and return it to 'hereditary custodians', is opportunistic and faulty, as the Supreme Court has upheld the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments laws across States. An issue that must be limited to quality control should not be allowed to metamorphose into one of communal muck-raking.

Triumph squared

India's chess double win was fashioned by its young generation of players

India's double gold at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest is an extraordinary feat: only two other countries could do it in history. It came as no surprise to the serious followers of the game, though. The Indian women began as the first seed and the men as the second in the mind sport's most prestigious team event, for which most of the world's countries flew down to the Hungarian capital. While the women's campaign suffered a couple of setbacks towards the end, the men were absolutely dominant right through. The men were so good that they scored four points more than their nearest rivals, the top-seeded United States. What stood out is the fact that India's twin triumph was fashioned by a bunch of youngsters belonging to the golden generation of Indian chess. That should be a worrying thought for India's opponents on the chessboard as these champions can only get better and will be playing at the Olympiad and other global competitions for another decade or two. Besides the team golds, India also won the individual golds through D. Gukesh (aged 18), Arjun Erigaisi (21), Divya Deshmukh (18) and Vantika Agrawal (21). The Indian teams also included Chennai's Grandmaster siblings R. Praggnanandhaa (19) and R. Vaishali (23). It is also worth mentioning that the Indian women's team did not have Koneru Humpy, one of the strongest female players in chess history.

Having stressed that, India's depth in the women's game is nowhere near that of the men's. While there are several promising male players outside the Olympiad teams, such as Nihal Sarin and Raunak Sadhwani, it is not quite so in Indian women's chess. India's chess administration should try to use the great success of its women at Budapest to promote the game more aggressively among girls. The women's bench needs to get stronger. The administrators also have to organise elite tournaments in India. The big stars of Indian chess hardly ever play in the country, for there are no events good enough for them. Viswanathan Anand, the man who single-handedly revolutionised chess in India, never had an opportunity to play in a tournament other than a World Championship or World Cup at home after he became one of the superstars of world chess. There is the Tata Steel Chess India tournament in Kolkata, but its format is rapid and blitz, and not the classical variety of the Olympiad. Players like Arjun and Divya have shown in the eastern metropolis how much a top-quality event like that helps Indian players. Indian chess surely could soar higher with more support from the government and corporates.

Weighing in on business as usual with China

Recent media pieces have speculated on whether India's fraught relations with China are headed towards a relative thaw and suggestions are being put forward for a more liberal attitude towards foreign direct investment (FDI) from that country. Such a policy prescription of doing away with restrictions on Chinese FDI involves a radical departure from the policy of linkage between the state of borders and the state of overall relations.

Speaking in Geneva on September 12, India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar remarked that about 75% of "disengagement problems" with China have been sorted out but the "bigger issue" has been the increasing militarisation of the border. Hours later, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval met Member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Political Bureau and Director of the Office of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission, Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Meeting of BRICS NSAs in St. Petersburg, Russia. The readout of the Ministry of External Affairs noted that "both sides agreed to work with urgency and redouble their efforts to realize complete disengagement in the remaining areas". However, there was no indication of a breakthrough in negotiations on disengagement in Dipsang Plains and Demchok. Nor was there any indication that India is reviewing its stance of not normalising relations with China unless there is restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

Following China's transgressions of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at multiple locations and disturbing the status quo in Eastern Ladakh in 2020, what will constitute restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas remains unclear. Restoration of the status quo ante along the LAC, which India insisted on while resolving earlier stand-off situations, is not being mentioned. There is little visibility in the public domain on the terms of disengagement that have been worked out so far along the so-called "friction points". Reportedly, Indian border forces are unable to access at least 15 patrolling points they were traditionally visiting in Ladakh. Are we prepared to accept the "new normal" created by China?

The economic commentary

Despite this national security situation, the Economic Survey 2024 has favoured India plugging itself into China's supply chains through Chinese investments in India rather than importing from China. This view has been echoed by some economists and industry members who seem to think of FDI from China as a panacea for meeting India's investment gaps and insufficient presence in global supply chains. Most of these commentaries fail to factor in the complex dynamics of both India-China relations and the



Ashok K. Kantha

a former Ambassador to China, now associated with think tanks

imperative of economic derisking *vis-à-vis* China.

The supposed dividends from closer integration with the Chinese supply chains and wooing investments from China are questionable.

China's demands

One, in recent Track-1.5 and Track-2 dialogues, Chinese scholars and officials did not deny that the status quo had been changed but expected India to accept the altered facts and to move on to full normalcy in relations. They reiterated four specific demands: a level playing field for Chinese companies; facilitation of visas; resumption of direct flights; and permitting Chinese journalists to be stationed in India. India pointed out that these issues were merely symptoms of a more fundamental problem that they had created, and that they must redress it first.

India came away with the clear indication that the Chinese were not yet prepared to accommodate India either on the issue of the border or on other structural challenges in the relationship. They appear to be engaged in a game of attrition and expect the Indian side to cave in incrementally and acquiesce to the new facts on the ground they have created in Eastern Ladakh. Their playbook is one they have successfully deployed in other theatres, particularly the South China Sea.

The Chinese mindset is revealed in an intemperate opinion piece in the *Global Times* of September 8 ("India's diplomacy has a 'S. Jaishankar problem'"). Though the article has since been removed from the English edition of the *People's Daily*-linked newspaper, it is available in the far more influential Chinese edition.

Second, the Chinese are not inclined to address India's long-standing problem of a huge bilateral trade deficit and the impediments faced by Indian companies in accessing the Chinese market. According to International Trade Centre data, India's trade deficit with China exceeded \$105 billion in 2023 (up from \$64 billion in 2021), while its exports declined to \$16 billion in 2023 from \$23 billion in 2021. There has been no improvement in India's import dependencies *vis-à-vis* China in critical sectors, which is a source of great vulnerability, as China has an established track record of weaponising such dependencies.

Third, both the United States-led West and China are increasingly securitising their economies and de-risking and diversifying *vis-à-vis* each other. According to a Rhodium Group report, India has the highest score (2.86) of all emerging and developing countries as a potential alternative investment destination to China. If India seeks closer integration with Chinese supply chains, global companies might be discouraged from considering India as their alternate node for global value chains.

Fourth, China is still not a market economy. The Third Plenum of the CPC in July 2024

From strategic, security and economic angles, India would do well to take a differentiated policy towards economic relations with China

India's defence exports and humanitarian law

The Supreme Court of India, earlier this month, dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) asking that the central government be directed to stop exporting defence equipment to Israel as Tel Aviv is allegedly committing war crimes in Gaza. The top court refused to intervene, reportedly because foreign policy is not its domain. However, the issue that the PIL raised is a normative one that goes beyond Israel. It must be clearly understood given India's aspirations to become a major defence exporting nation.

It is critical to recall that quite a few countries have curbed defence exports to Israel. For instance, a court in the Netherlands ordered the Dutch government to block the export of all F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel. The basis of this order is a European Union (EU) regulation, which prohibits military equipment export to a country if there is a clear risk that the recipient country would use such equipment to violate international humanitarian law (IHL). Likewise, the United Kingdom government, acting under the Export Control Act, reviewed Israel's compliance with IHL concerning the ongoing conflict in Gaza. It concluded that there is a clear risk: if certain arms are exported to Israel, they would be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of IHL.

Legal gap

There is no equivalent of the U.K.'s Export Control Act or the EU regulations in Indian law requiring an assessment of a country's compliance with IHL obligations in deciding whether to export defence equipment to such a country. The Indian Foreign Trade Act, 1992 (FTA) read with the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of



Prabhesh Ranjan

Professor at the Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University

Unlawful Activities) (WMDA) Act, 2005 empowers the central government to regulate the export of designated goods relevant to India for various reasons. These reasons are listed in Sections 3(5) and 2(l) of the WMDA and FTA, respectively. In addition to things such as India's national security, an important factor listed in these sections is India's "international obligations under any bilateral, multilateral or international treaty, Covenant, Convention". In short, the central government can prohibit the export of defence goods due to India's international law obligations. This is the closest Indian law gets to connecting the export of defence goods with international law. As per India's domestic law, the central government, unlike in the U.K. and the EU countries, is not under an obligation to review the IHL compliance of the country to which India is exporting defence goods. Thus, the legal gap.

The Supreme Court, in several cases, such as *Vishakha vs State of Rajasthan*, has not just used international law to enlarge the content of domestic law but has also judicially incorporated international law to fill the vacuum created by the absence of domestic law on the subject. The current situation falls squarely in this category. This is how we need to legally frame this issue instead of making it a foreign policy topic. So, the next question is about what the international law on arms trade is and how it binds India.

International law

The most important treaty in this regard is the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), aimed at regulating international trade in conventional arms. Article 6(3) of the ATT bars a country from supplying conventional arms if it has the "knowledge" that these arms "would be used" to inter alia commit war crimes. Article 7 obligates states to assess

doubled down on industrial policy, with a growing role for the state sector and co-option of the private sector to subservise the strategic objectives of the party-state.

China's objective of dominating future industries, including critical sectors such as electric vehicles, solar equipment and lithium-ion batteries, and its preference for exporting its way out of its economic difficulties, rather than prioritising domestic consumption, would aggravate existing tensions in economic relations with both advanced economies and emerging economies such as India.

The game plan

Fifth, China's rigorous scrutiny of outward flows of investment and technology by its companies aims to maximise domestic value chains and make the country indispensable in global technology production, as a recent Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) study brings out. Another credible report suggests that China has strongly advised its carmakers to ensure that advanced electric vehicle technology stays in the country and they produce key parts domestically and export so-called knock-down kits to their foreign plants. India has been specifically mentioned in this regard.

Going by past experience, it would be naive to expect that China will help build India's manufacturing capacities. Instead, Chinese companies have preferred to invest in sensitive sectors in India, including through acquisitions, which led to Press Note 3 in April 2020, before border tensions escalated. Giving free access to Chinese companies will attract low value-addition investments and be a recipe for retarded industrialisation in a large number of sectors that China seeks to dominate the world globally.

Sixth, the expectation that imports from China can be reduced by boosting FDI from China is not borne out by the experience of other geographies which have received substantial Chinese investments. For instance, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) imports from China increased from \$386 billion in 2021 to \$438 billion in 2023, as sourcing of intermediates from China soared. China has rerouted its exports through countries such as Vietnam and Mexico to circumvent tariffs imposed by the U.S., but this loophole is being progressively plugged.

Thus, from strategic, security and economic perspectives, India would do well to take a differentiated policy towards economic relations with China. India cannot decouple itself from the economy of China, the world's largest manufacturer and exporter. But India must decide which sectors of its economy it can selectively allow Chinese FDI based on its manufacturing strengths and strategies, and keep in mind the interests of its national security and industrial development.

Having India amend its domestic laws would be a better way to strengthen its credibility and assess the international humanitarian law-compliance of countries importing its defence goods

whether the conventional arms they export would be used by the importing country to commit or facilitate a serious violation of IHL.

Interestingly, India is not a signatory to this treaty. As a result, this treaty is not binding on India and cannot be judicially incorporated, though some provisions of the ATT reflect customary international law.

The obligation

What about India's liability under the IHL? Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, which is binding on India, obligates all states 'to respect and to ensure respect for' IHL. As it was held by the International Court of Justice in *Nicaragua vs United States*, this provision imposes a negative obligation on states. Thus, countries are under obligation not to supply weapons to a country 'if there is an expectation, based on facts or knowledge of past patterns, that such weapons would be used to violate the Conventions'. Scholars argue that the certainty required for the exporting state that its weapons will be used by the importing state to commit violations of the Geneva Conventions is quite high.

When India's domestic laws, the WMDA and the FTA, are read in light of India's IHL obligations, a clear duty arises not to supply weapons to a country that would use them to breach its IHL obligations. But rather than deriving this obligation using international law, it would be better for India to amend the WMDA and the FTA, to explicitly assess the IHL compliance of countries importing Indian defence goods. This way, India will shore up its credibility as a responsible defence-exporting nation.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Change in Sri Lanka

India is undergoing a challenging phase in its relations with its immediate neighbours. The main obstacle lies in navigating the relationship with the new President of Sri Lanka, Anura Dissanayake. So far, no Sri Lankan political party has evinced great interest in addressing the problems of the Lankan Tamils. With a leader who has leftist leanings at the helm of affairs, it remains to be seen how China might exploit the

situation in Sri Lanka.

A. Thirugnanasambantham, Coimbatore

It was no doubt a peaceful election, giving every votary of democracy much hope. Electorates across the democratic landscape are clearly signalling the pre-eminence of economic issues. Mr. Dissanayake must appreciate the finer nuances of the verdict, which means a revamp of the economy and giving a leg-up to federalism,

overcoming the temptation of unbridled centralisation. The Tamil-majority districts did not flock to him, which is a sober reminder that national consensus is important for people who want a healing touch.

Angara Venkata Girija Kumar, Chennai

Tirupati laddu

There is a committee in Tirupati to supervise the daily pooja and sale of the laddu *prasadam*. In these circumstances, how did

'adulteration' take place? A temple or place of worship is not a place to earn money through unethical means. There has to be a fair probe.

Dr. Arunachalam, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

Seeking information

It was very bizarre to read the report, "Confusion over alert on 'entry of 900 Kuki militants'" (September 23). Does the Indian Army not have a better way of asking for information? Does

sensitive information have to be put out on X (Twitter)? Mahender Singh, Chennai

At Budapest

History has been made in Indian chess with Team India winning gold in both the men and women's categories at Budapest. The victories show India's growing prowess in the world of chess which will inspire future generations. Sanjit Pal Singh, Ichhapur, West Bengal

With perseverance and dedication, India's young talents in chess have fetched the country glory. It is a moment to cherish for all Indians and the moment will linger for long. The light kindled by Viswanathan Anand has increased its glow manifold through his worthy successors.

Ayyaseri Raveendranath, Aranmula, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

A provision fraught with practical problems

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, introduced Section 107, which deals with properties which are “proceeds of crime”. Until recently, this term was known by its mention either in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, or in the chapter, ‘Reciprocal Arrangements for Assistance in Certain Matters and Procedure for Attachment and Forfeiture of Property’, under the erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). While the provisions of attachment of property of a person absconding under Sections 82 and 83 of the CrPC are also replicated under Sections 84 and 85 of the BNSS (with some minor changes), the provision in Section 107 of the BNSS did not feature in the CrPC. Section 107 of the BNSS gives unbridled powers to the court to not only attach any property (on the request of the police during investigation), but also to forfeit the proceeds of crime to the government under certain conditions.



R.K. Vij

former Indian Police Service officer

no such condition prescribed under Section 107 of the BNSS. Further, while the property may be attached by an authorised officer only after forwarding the report to a magistrate under Section 173 of the CrPC (i.e., on completion of investigation), the property under Section 107 of the BNSS may be attached during the investigation itself.

The PMLA provides that the property involved in money laundering shall be disposed of by the Adjudicating Authority only on the conclusion of a trial of the offence. However, Section 107 of the BNSS is silent about the stage of disposal of such property. It says that if the court or magistrate “finds the attached or seized properties to be the proceeds of crime”, it shall order the District Magistrate to identify the claimants to do the needful. Thus, theoretically, the proceeds of crime or property may be disposed of in about three months of time, without the investigation or trial coming to an end. This section is silent about the stage at which the court or the magistrate has to take this call.

Article 300A of the Constitution says “no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law”. It has been given the status of a basic human right. It is also a settled principle that “law” means a validly enacted law which is just, fair, and reasonable. There is no provision in the BNS which defines or deals with the ‘proceeds of crime’ except for the use of similar terms in sections dealing with ‘organised crime’ and ‘terrorist act’. The legislative intent of introducing Section 107 in the BNSS appears to be to empower States (as the PMLA is a Central Act) to undertake expeditious disposal and distribution of the proceeds of crime to its rightful claimants. But it is fraught with legal and practical problems. While identifying the rightful claimants may not be easy for the investigating officer, final disposal of such property by the court without a proper trial does not appear to be a just, fair, and reasonable procedure.

An entire chapter of the BNSS deals with the disposal of property. These provisions replicate the CrPC provisions except that Section 497 of the BNSS mandates the court or the magistrate to take a photo or video of the property to enable these to be used as evidence during trial or inquiry. The Supreme Court in *Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai v. State of Gujarat* (2003) had dealt with the jurisdiction of the court to record evidence promptly to avoid tampering, so that the police or the court would not be required to keep the article in safe custody and the owner of the article would not suffer.

This chapter deals with contingencies such as the custody and disposal of property pending trial, the disposal of property at the conclusion of the trial, and restoration of possession of immovable property. Even if the property is perishable, it may be sold, but the final disposal is to be done only on the conclusion of

trial or inquiry by the court.

Safeguards

Section 107 of the BNSS requires the court to issue a show-cause notice returnable within 14 days on why an order of attachment of property (i.e., proceeds of crime) shall not be made. If the person concerned does not represent his case, the court may proceed to pass the ex parte order. Further, if the court finds the attached properties to be the proceeds of the crime and it orders the District Magistrate to distribute the property to its claimants, the District Magistrate shall distribute such property within 60 days of the order. There are no guidelines for the District Magistrate to identify the claimants to do the needful. Thus, theoretically, the proceeds of crime or property may be disposed of in about three months of time, without the investigation or trial coming to an end. This section is silent about the stage at which the court or the magistrate has to take this call.

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On the margins of the political sphere

The political representation of women is an exception and not a norm in J&K

STATE OF PLAY

Bilal Ahmad Wagay
Binish Qadri



As Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) enters the second phase of the Assembly elections on September 25, the persistent marginalisation of women in the political sphere demands critical scrutiny.

Despite women comprising almost 48% of the electorate in the Union Territory, their political representation has remained poor. In the 2014 J&K Assembly elections, only 3.6% of the total candidates were women. In the 2024 elections, there were only nine women out of the 219 candidates in the first phase. The political landscape is deeply rooted in J&K’s patriarchal social structure that views public and political life as male-dominated. Further, political instability and concerns about safety in a volatile atmosphere have kept women at the margins.

While there have been legal and advocacy efforts in expanding the representation of women, such as granting 33% reservation to women in the J&K Assembly, they often fall short in addressing the deep-seated cultural and institutional barriers that limit women’s political engagement. The two main political parties in the region – the National Conference and the People’s Democratic Party – have historically sidelined women. Even female leaders, including former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, have failed to effect the needed transformation, as they often conform to the male-dominated political structures themselves.

When women are fielded as candidates, it is often in constituencies considered unwin-

nable or in token positions within party structures. In the 2020 District Development Council elections, though 33% of the seats were reserved for women, actual representation barely crossed 10%.

No women-centric policies

Further, there are no dedicated women-centric policies. Neither the major political parties nor the local governance institutions have implemented policies that specifically address the economic, social, and political empowerment of women, such as reserving seats for women in legislative bodies, introducing gender-sensitive economic schemes, or supporting women entrepreneurs in J&K.

While women’s literacy in J&K has improved over time, the gender gap remains significant – 66% of women are literate compared to 84% of men. Additionally, women’s labour force participation is abysmal, hovering around 25%. The absence of gender-responsive budgeting, economic empowerment initiatives, or electoral reforms contribute to the ongoing political exclusion of women.

Elections are a mechanism to ensure that all sections of society are represented, but when half the population is under-represented, the very foundation of democracy is undermined. In J&K, where women’s participation is notably low, the absence of female voices results in policies that

fail to comprehensively address gender disparities, further entrenching patriarchal norms. The formulation and implementation of incisive, women-centric policies are imperative for ensuring equitable representation in democratic governance.

Making women’s perspectives integral to peace-building, education, healthcare, and employment will ensure that their voices are heard and encourage political involvement. Providing free childcare, healthcare benefits, and family support policies for female politicians would ease the burden of familial responsibilities, enabling more women to enter and stay in politics. A push for political quotas in J&K, as implemented in post-conflict Rwanda where 60% of parliamentarians today are women, including electoral reforms and capacity-building initiatives for women, could substantially alter the status quo.

After the dilution of Article 370 in J&K in 2019, the UT came under the scope of Central laws, including the National Policy for Empowerment of Women (2001). There is a strong foundation now to support women in participating more actively in politics. These laws offer a chance to not only boost women’s involvement in decision-making but also to secure their rights and dignity. By focusing on political participation, we can empower women to shape their own futures and create a more inclusive society in J&K.

Our hope is that it will slowly become a norm to see women represented politically in J&K, not an exception.

Bilal Ahmad Wagay teaches Politics at Government Degree College, Beerwah, and Binish Qadri is Assistant Professor, Cluster University Srinagar

No preconditions

Under this section, any police officer making an investigation, with the approval of the Superintendent of Police or the Commissioner of Police, may make an application to the court for the attachment of property if he has reason to believe that the property is derived or obtained as a result of a criminal activity.

The PMLA says where an officer has reason to believe that a person is in possession of any proceeds of crime, the officer should record the reason for such belief in writing. If the officer has reason to believe that “such proceeds of crime are likely to be concealed, transferred or dealt with in any manner which may result in frustrating any proceedings relating to confiscation of such proceeds of crime, he may, by order in writing, provisionally attach such property for a period not exceeding 90 days.” There is

Section 107 of the BNSS gives unbridled powers to the court to not only attach any property (on the request of the police during investigation), but also to forfeit the proceeds of crime to the government under certain conditions

Working women’s double shift

Working women get only 7-10 hours for rest every day, due to work at both office and home

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The Data Point published on Monday showed how professional Indian women work the most number of hours globally. Young Indian women in professional jobs such as auditing, Information Technology, and media work more than 55 hours a week, which translates to 9-11 hours of work every day depending on whether it was a six-day or five-day work week.

The Data Point was published after the death of Anna Sebastian Perayil, a Chartered Accountant. According to her mother, Anna, 26, lost her life because of “work stress” at Ernst & Young. The letter addressed to the company’s India chairman went viral, leading to discussions on the increasing workload of professionals in India.

Indian women are working in newer and demanding jobs these days. According to data, despite women undergoing more stress in office, they do not enjoy a commensurate reduction in the amount of household work they do. While families have become more accepting of women working over time, they still do not share the women’s workload and care responsibilities at home.

Chart 1 shows the average time (in minutes) that men and women across employment groups spent on unpaid domestic and care activities during a day in 2019. Women who are not in the labour force (neither employed nor seeking employment, mostly housewives) spent the most time on unpaid domestic/care work, averaging 457 minutes or 7.5 hours a day. But employed women were not far behind, spending 348 minutes or 5.8 hours a day.

In Monday’s Data Point, we had established that professional women spend 9-11 hours at work a day. When this data is read with the conclusion in Chart 1 – that

employed women spend about 5-6 hours doing unpaid household work – we see a worrying trend. This means that every day, working women are left with only about 7-10 hours to wind down and rest. While this may not be the case in every household and outliers do exist, the data correspond to an average Indian household.

The data show that unemployed men spend less time doing household chores than employed women – only 3.5 hours per day compared to employed women’s 5.8 hours. Chart 1 shows the gap. Employed men spend 2.7 hours a day on such chores, which is about three hours less than what employed women spend.

One of the biggest factors for such a skew is marriage. Chart 2 shows the average time spent (in minutes) on unpaid domestic and care activities in a day by men and women categorised by marital status. Married women – employed or otherwise – spend eight hours in unpaid work every day, about two times more than women who never married. In contrast, married men spend 2.8 hours in unpaid house work, fewer than men who never married (3.1 hours). So, as we can see, post-marriage, household work reduces for men and doubles for women.

Moreover, there is no notable difference between urban and rural women in the amount of time they spend on household work. Table 3 lists the share of men/women aged 15-59 who participated in select activities in a day in 2019.

There are no regional variations either. Chart 4 shows the share of men and women aged 15-59 who participated in unpaid domestic work and employment across States. In all the States, close to 85% or more women were engaged in such chores, while in a majority of the States, the share was below 50% for men. In Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat, the share of men doing household work was less than 20%.



Not enough time for rest

Charts were sourced from the Time Use Survey (2019) and the National Family Health Survey (2019-21)

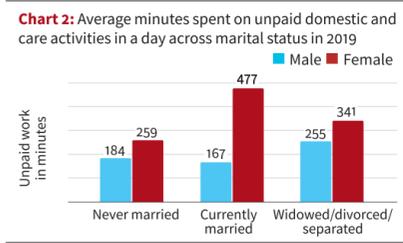
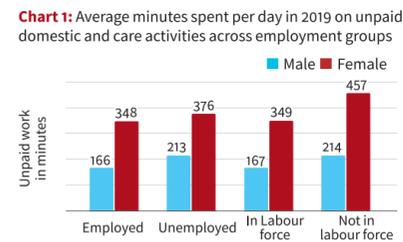
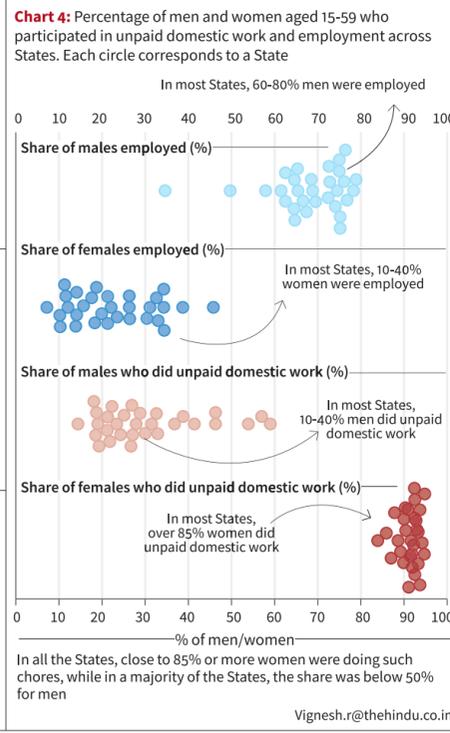


Table 3: The table shows the % of men/women aged 15-59 who participated in select activities in 2019

Area	Gender	Employment and related activities	Unpaid domestic services
Rural	Male	69.7%	29.2%
Rural	Female	22.5%	93.2%
Urban	Male	73%	22.5%
Urban	Female	19.9%	88.8%
Total	Male	70.7%	27%
Total	Female	21.7%	91.8%



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

Oil nations warned of dangers of high prices

Detroit (Michigan), Sept. 23: President Gerald Ford to-day warned the oil-producing nations of West Asia of “disastrous consequences” if they refused to lower prices or share their resources with dependent nations.

“Sovereign nations cannot allow their policies to be dictated or their fate decided by artificial rigging and distortion of world commodity markets,” Mr. Ford told the World Energy Conference.

“No one can foresee the extent of the damage or the end of the disastrous consequences if nations refused to share nature’s gifts for the benefit of all mankind,” he said.

“It is difficult to discuss the energy problem without lapsing into doomsday language,” Mr. Ford declared. “The danger is clear. It is severe. I am nevertheless optimistic. The advantages of co operation are as visible as the dangers of confrontation. And that gives me hope as well as optimism.”

His remarks, his toughest on record, were a follow-up to a hard-hitting speech before the United Nations less than a week ago in which he denounced the use of oil as a political weapon.

“We will take tough steps to obtain the degree of self-sufficiency to avoid disruption of our economy,” Mr. Ford said.

“In the immediate future,” he added “we will expand our efforts to increase our energy efficiency. This will reduce the growing dependency on foreign petroleum.”

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 24, 1924

Chess.

“King Pawn” writes in the “Statesman”: The Secretary of the Calcutta Chess Club (Chowringhee) has sent me a letter, enclosing one from Boris Kostich, one of the world’s leading chess experts.

“Boris Kostich,” writes the Secretary, “the Serbian chess master who has just completed a very successful tour in Australia, is anxious to visit India. In a letter recently received from him he says “I would be extremely pleased and honoured if I could come into contact with the chess players of India too, and have the pleasure to visit their principal cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, after I finished New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, which would be some time end of this year, or beginning of 1925.”

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of dengue cases detected in Madhya Pradesh so far

3,800 Out of the total dengue cases in the State this year, 250 were found in Bhopal, while the highest (500 cases) were detected in Gwalior. PTI

Number of migrant arrivals via the U.K. channel

25,052 This represents a 4% rise from the number of arrivals last year, but a 21% drop from 2022. Stopping the arrivals was a key issue in Britain's election. AFP

Number of fatalities from Israeli airstrikes on Hezbollah

274 This marks the deadliest day in Lebanon in nearly one year of fighting. According to the Lebanese Health Ministry, more than 400 others were wounded in the strikes in southern Lebanon. AFP

People affected by cholera in Sudan in the past two months

13,000 Amidst the war, 388 people have died of cholera according to health authorities. The disease is spreading in areas devastated by recent floods. AP

The fishermen who have been arrested by Sri Lanka

37 Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin apprised External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar of the arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How to enable transit oriented development

Transport infrastructure is a prime driver of economic activity. As a case study of Bengaluru shows, improving accessibility to jobs, through safe and efficient transport modes, could significantly enhance workforce productivity

FULL CONTEXT

Radha Chanchani
Jaya Dhindaw

Indian cities are on the brink of a transportation revolution, with a projected expenditure of ₹3 trillion (between 2022-2027) set to be spent on approved metro rail projects. These investments will not only enhance urban mobility but can also unlock vast economic potential.

Studies reveal that investment in public transportation can generate thousands of jobs and deliver economic returns 5-7 times greater than the initial outlay. To leverage investments in mass transit and maximise the economic benefits as well as improve quality of life in cities, the Government of India approved the National Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy and Metro Rail Policy in 2017, encouraging the adoption of TOD as a key urban planning and growth management strategy. With this national policy and funding push, 27 Indian cities are building metro rail systems, and many others are building other forms of rail- and bus-based mass rapid transit systems.

To improve accessibility to jobs

Public policies and land market conditions drive the development of economic centres in suburban and peri-urban areas, and public transport systems struggle to keep up with this outward sprawl. The resulting longer work-home commutes, and the congestion and pollution arising from greater private vehicular use, are hampering access to jobs and labour markets, productivity and liveability. Bengaluru, for instance, is among the world's most traffic-congested cities, with the social cost estimated to be ₹38,000 crore annually (5% of the city's GDP) as per 2018 figures.

TOD presents a promising approach to address these challenges, while contributing positively to India's low-carbon growth ambitions. Premised on the principle of land use-transport integration, TOD promotes compact, mixed-use development and sustainable transport modes, like walking, cycling and mass transit, effectively decoupling density from congestion and economic growth from resource use and carbon emissions. WRI India's recent publication titled 'Jobs near metro rail transit in Bengaluru: Enabling an accessible and productive city' underscores the critical need for integrated spatio-economic planning and bringing jobs closer to transit through TOD, given its significant benefits and co-benefits.

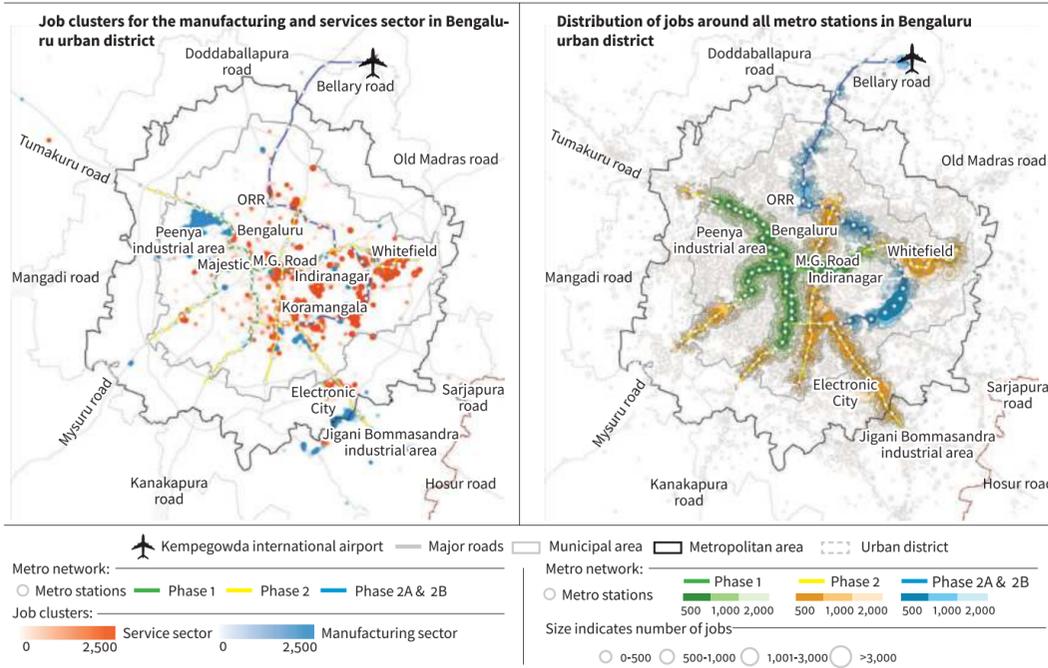
Improving accessibility to jobs, through safe and efficient transport modes, can significantly enhance workforce productivity and participation. Workplace proximity and higher job densities drive transit rider-ship more effectively than residential density. Clustering job growth near transit creates an agglomeration effect that boosts innovation, productivity, and competitiveness – far more than dispersed job growth. Apart from expanding worker and customer catchments for businesses, it also spurs local economic and real estate development, leading to increased revenues for public agencies, which can be reinvested into infrastructure and service upgrades revitalising city neighbourhoods.

Key findings

WRI India's study examines the spatial distribution of jobs associated with registered factories (manufacturing enterprises) and shops and commercial

Better transport, better work

WRI India's study examines the spatial distribution of jobs associated with registered factories (manufacturing enterprises) and shops and commercial establishments (service enterprises) in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area (BMA)



establishments (service enterprises) in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area (BMA).

The study also assesses current job proximity and density along the city's operational and under-construction metro network which are Phases 1, 2, and 2A-2B, and offers insights into the locational considerations for businesses and the benefits, trade-offs, and market or regulatory challenges they face in locating near metro stations.

The paper provides actionable recommendations for enabling job growth near mass transit stations.

The research indicates there are about 0.2 million registered enterprises in the BMA, employing close to 4.6 million workers, with service enterprises accounting for the bulk of it. Notably, large enterprises (100+ employees) constitute only 2% of all enterprises but contribute 60% of all jobs. Owing largely to the service sector, average job densities are highest in inner-city areas within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and decrease further away. Peak job densities range from about 25,000 jobs/sq. km in large industrial clusters to 58,000 to 1,09,000 jobs/sq. km in hi-tech clusters such as Whitefield and Electronic City.

Once the ongoing metro phases are completed (172 kms), 28% of the total mapped jobs in the BMA will be within 500 m of the nearest metro station, 59% within 1 km, and 85% within 2 km. Some large job clusters however remain disconnected, and most jobs currently lie beyond a comfortable walking distance (500 m) from metro stations, emphasising the need for pedestrian infrastructure, and feeder services, particularly in the 1-3 km range.

Market linkages and agglomeration economics drive enterprises of certain sizes and types to be located near each other, with large businesses anchoring smaller ones around them, collectively gaining from the benefits of agglomeration. The study found that service enterprises, especially those benefiting from enhanced catchments and accessibility for employees and customers, prefer to locate and cluster near the metro. However, the metro has

little impact on the location choice of manufacturing enterprises. Most blue-collar workers tend to live in surrounding areas and either walk, cycle, or use public buses or informal transport to commute to work. The study corroborates other research findings that suggest that the metro has boosted real estate development nearby, especially the growth of service enterprises.

The main barriers discouraging large businesses from locating near metro stations include the lack of suitable properties, unfavourable development regulations, and inadequate infrastructure levels.

Developed inner-city areas have limited land availability for large-scale commercial businesses and are packed with buildings that often do not meet their requirements, for instance, legally compliant Grade-A buildings. Moreover, small plot sizes and other regulations pertaining to access road widths, setback, ground coverage and parking norms, hinder higher-density (re)development. Also, plot amalgamation processes involving multiple owners can be difficult, risky and costly.

Higher property prices near metro stations however tend to dissuade smaller businesses, more than larger established ones. Market saturation and community resistance to greater commercialisation in station areas also pose a challenge for businesses seeking to locate there.

The way forward

High-functioning global cities like Hong-Kong have 57% of jobs within 500 m of a transit station, 84% within 1 km, and 96% within 2 km as per LSE 2013 data. The city has one of the highest levels of transit use (90% of motorised trips) and one of the lowest levels of car ownership (56 cars per 1,000 people). This has enabled its Gross Value Added per capita to increase by 50% between 1993 and 2011, while fuel consumption and carbon emissions per capita decreased by 10%.

In Bengaluru, the impending revision of the city's master plan provides a valuable opportunity to set aspirational targets for jobs near transit and strategise

transit network extensions to connect existing and emerging high-density job clusters.

To optimise resource and economic efficiencies, the plan should also identify and prioritise areas served by transit where job densities can be increased through renewal and densification, balancing market demand with environmental and community goals.

Public policies can stipulate location-efficient incentives such as additional development rights or fee/tax subsidies to encourage businesses to locate near transit or in economically depressed areas. Apart from conventional funding sources, the government can explore public-private partnerships and value capture financing mechanisms that can be ring-fenced for station area improvements. It should also designate a nodal agency to facilitate interactions between multiple stakeholders and coordinate TOD planning and implementation.

The private sector (businesses, developers, financing institutions) can play a significant role in directing commercial and industrial investments, near transit stations.

Additionally, proactive partnerships, between the private and public sector, can enable catalytic developments with augmented amenities, public realm enhancement, and provision of last-mile connectivity between workplaces and transit stations.

Transport infrastructure is a prime driver of economic activity and a developing country like India will continue to invest in it. For our metropolitan cities to become, and remain, globally competitive, the government needs to prioritise job densities near transit in policy-planning-regulatory frameworks. This must encompass the upgradation of public infrastructure, and institutionalising coordinated action to shape inclusive, low carbon, compact and connected growth.

Radha Chanchani is Senior Manager and Jaya Dhindaw is Executive Director with the Sustainable Cities program at WRI India.

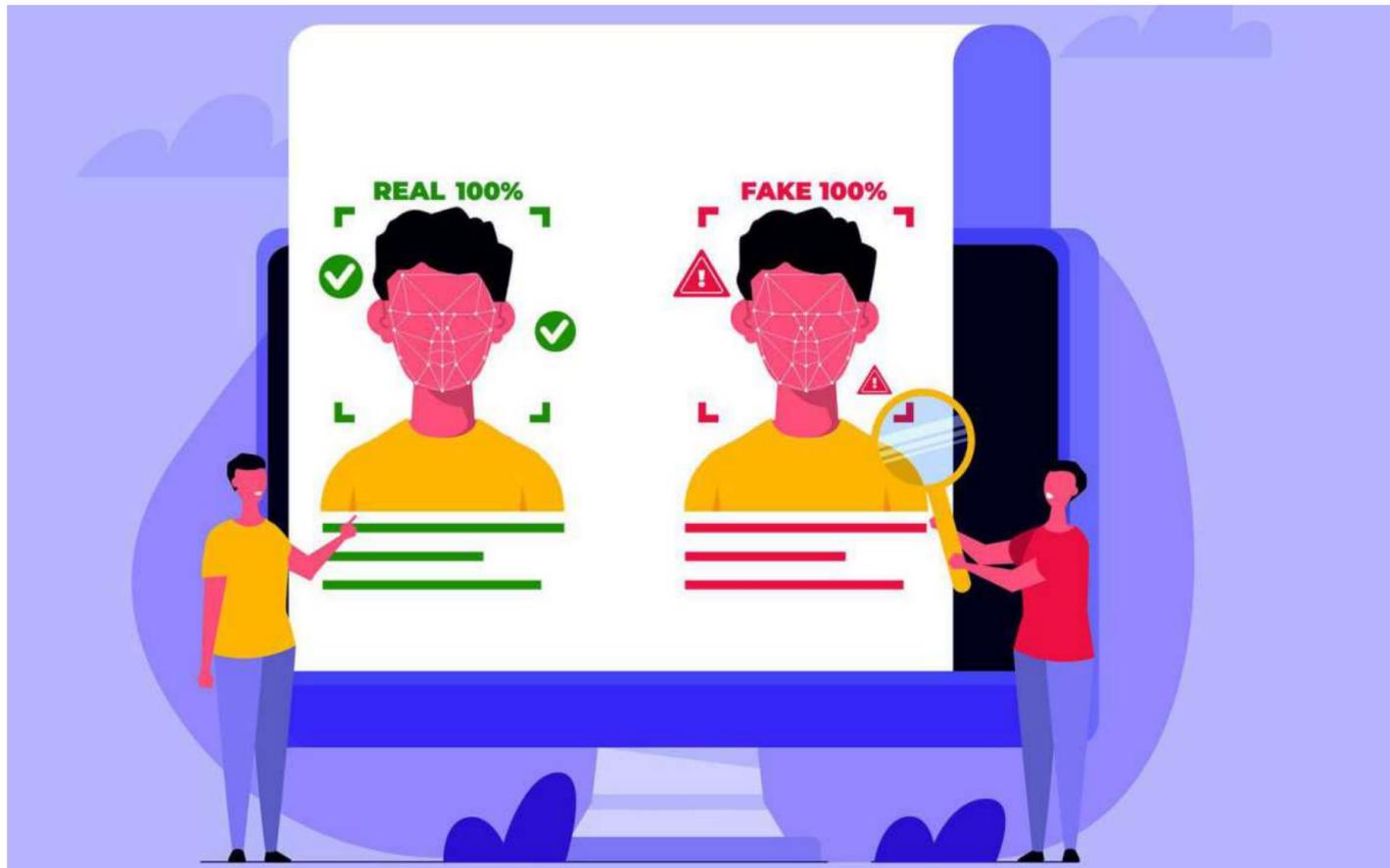
THE GIST

Public policies and land market conditions drive the development of economic centres in suburban areas, and public transport systems struggle to keep up. The resulting longer work-home commutes, and the congestion and pollution arising from greater private vehicular use, are hampering access to jobs and labour markets, productivity and liveability.

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CACHE



GETTY IMAGES

What is California's new anti-deepfake bill and can it stop manipulated political ads?

Why did California governor Gavin Newsom sign bills to stop the use of deepfakes in political campaign advertisements? What is the Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act of 2024? How have AI companies reacted?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

California's governor Gavin Newsom promised to take action on deepfake AI-generated content in late July after X owner and billionaire Elon Musk re-posted a deepfake video of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, in which she refers to herself as a "diversity hire". In response to the governor's criticism, Mr. Musk made an obscene remark, claiming parody was legal in the country. On September 18, Mr. Newsom re-upped his X post criticising Musk and said he had made such content illegal in California by signing a bill. He signed three pieces of legislation to take action against deepfakes or digitally altered content in election campaigns that could be "deceptive". "You can no longer knowingly distribute an ad or other election communications that contain materially deceptive content – including deepfakes," Mr. Newsom said.

What are the new bills about?

According to Mr. Newsom, users can no longer distribute ads or election communications with "materially deceptive content," including deepfakes. Mr. Newsom signed three bills in total: AB 2655 that will make large online platforms remove or label election-related deepfakes during "specific periods"; AB 2839 to expand the interval during which posters cannot distribute election ads or

material with "deceptive" AI-generated or manipulated content; and AB 2355 that requires electoral ads with AI or altered content to disclose the same.

The three bills also give regulators and law enforcement bodies the power to handle such media through legal means or have them taken down.

"Safeguarding the integrity of elections is essential to democracy, and it's critical that we ensure AI is not deployed to undermine the public's trust through disinformation – especially in today's fraught political climate. These measures will help to combat the harmful use of deepfakes in political ads and other content, one of several areas in which the state is being proactive to foster transparent and trustworthy AI," said Mr. Newsom in an official press note on September 17.

How watertight are the bills?

The bills largely apply to California and expand already existing laws regarding election-related conduct that prevent highly altered media from being circulated for a stipulated number of days before or after elections in the state.

While Mr. Musk claimed that the governor's actions are in violation of the Constitution of the United States, a number of compliant AI companies have already established filters and content restrictions that stop users from making deepfakes of election candidates, officials, heads of state, celebrities, etc. AB-2655 stated: "This bill, to be known

as the Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act of 2024, would require a large online platform, as defined, to block the posting of materially deceptive content related to elections in California, during specified periods before and after an election. The bill would require a large online platform to label certain additional content inauthentic, fake, or false during specified periods before and after an election in California." These are largely standard requirements across most jurisdictions, and major search engine platforms have also committed to identifying or watermarking AI-generated images in order to prevent user confusion and the dissemination of false news.

Mr. Musk has used parody as an excuse to defend the deepfake campaign ad showing Ms. Harris in a negative light. In fact, AB 2655 stated the bill "would also exempt content that is satire or parody."

While the original deepfake video's poster stated that it was a parody, one version that Mr. Musk shared on X on July 27 did not have any Community Notes or platform-based disclosures that made it clear the media was fake.

What will happen if someone violates the regulations?

Though the newly signed bills and the existing laws have laid out measures for violations, it is not yet clear how this will play out in reality if someone violates the new regulations. The bills were signed almost fifty days before the U.S. election is

set to take place, so it will be difficult to assess how effective or rigorous they are in such a short time span.

Adding to this, the bills may not severely penalise non-compliant individuals or entities.

While AB 2355 states that the following disclosure – "Ad generated or substantially altered using artificial intelligence" – should be added to applicable media content, the bill noted that violating the disclosure requirements "does not constitute a misdemeanour."

Though powerful stakeholders such as Mr. Musk are not likely to be curtailed by the new bills, the legislation may be used to shine a light on the rising volume of AI-generated misinformation spreading across X. A significant portion of this is enabled by the Grok AI chatbot, which has fewer content restrictions than its counterparts from more compliant AI companies. Ultimately, repeated violations of California's laws could land X in legal hot water over time, and affect its already shaky standing with more risk-averse advertisers.

In response to Mr. Newsom's news of the bills being signed, Mr. Musk again amplified the parody campaign ad featuring Ms. Harris that prompted criticism from the governor in the first place. Mr. Musk shared the deepfake video with his more than 180 million followers, saying it "would be a shame if it went viral." However, the version he shared this time clearly identified the video as a parody.

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

A quiz in the light of India's gold medal winning performances in the Chess Olympiad

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Which player registered the first medal winning performance for India? He did so in the 1980 Malta Olympiad while playing on the third board.

QUESTION 2

Name the Grandmaster who holds the record for representing India in the most number of games in the open section of the Chess Olympiad.

QUESTION 3

GM D. Gukesh, who won gold in the 2022 and 2024 Chess Olympiads on the first board, holds the enviable record of scoring 17 points in 20 games

with just one loss. Name the only player to have beaten Gukesh in the Olympiads.

QUESTION 4

Speaking of Gukesh, the Chennai-based GM finished with a performance ELO rating of 3056, the highest in the Budapest Olympiad. Which Indian player registered the second highest ELO rating – 2968?

QUESTION 5

Prior to the 2022 Olympiad in Chennai when India's second team won bronze, the 2014 Indian team also won bronze in the open section. Name the Indian GM with the best performance rating from this team (he finished with an ELO of 2757).



Visual question:

Identify these three chess players (their surname is enough), who first represented India in the women's section in the 1978 Chess Olympiad.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The number of sign languages which currently exist in the world. **Ans: 300 plus**

2. In this country's sign language format, a well-formed question requires a specific eyebrow position. **Ans: American Sign Language**

3. Does brain damage affect the ability to sign? **Ans: Yes, just as with speech, brain damage can affect an individual's ability to sign**

4. The number of deaf people in the world. **Ans: 70 million**

5. This person is said to have collated the first known manual alphabet. **Ans: Pedro Ponce de Leon, a Benedictine monk**

Visual: The meaning of this gesture in Indian Sign Language. **Ans: Woman Early Birds: Tamal Biswas/ K.N. Viswanathan**



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"It's no use."
 "What's no use?"
 "There's no point in even talking about it. I'm sure it's going to happen."
 "Will you please stop beating about the bush and tell me?"
 "I have a test tomorrow."
 "I know that. You've been talking about it for the past four days."
 "I'm sure I'm going to get a zero."
 "Oh please don't start that again. How many times do I have to tell you that you won't get a zero. You'll do well."
 "No, I won't. I'm sure I'll fail."
 "Oh stop being a gloomster."
 "A gloomster! Who is a gloomster?"
 "A gloomster is a pessimist. He/she keeps telling you that something terrible is going to happen. Gloomsters in the Department of Agriculture predict a world-wide famine this year."
 "Oh no."
 "And Renuka, our local gloomster, keeps telling me that the world is coming to an end next week."
 "I wish it would come to an end today; then I won't have to write the test."
 "Why are you so worried about the test? Haven't you prepared for it?"
 "Of course, I have. I've gone through the lessons thrice."
 "How many times do I have to tell you, it's not thrice, but three times."
 "Sorry. I keep forgetting. It's once, twice, three times, four times... Right?"
 "That's right. 'Thrice' has become old-fashioned and native speakers of English don't use it anymore except occasionally in poetry."
 "Thrice has become old-fashioned, eh? Well, in that case, let me say that I have gone through my lessons three times."
 "Then what's your problem? I am sure you are well-prepared."
 "I'm well-prepared. But you see I keep thinking..."
 "Don't think too much. It can wear you out."
 "Too much thinking can wear me out?"
 "It means that too much thinking can make you tired. When you wear someone out, it means that you make him/her extremely tired. I looked after my little nephew for a day last month. Their constant shouting and crying wore me out by the afternoon."
 "Your nephews sound like my cousins. Whenever they visit us, they wear everyone out within an hour."
 "Full of energy, are they?"
 "You bet. Too much energy if you ask me. They run non-stop."
 "Then they must be wearing out their shoes quickly."
 "Wearing out their shoes? Can shoes become tired?"
 "Shoes? Tired?"
 "Didn't you say to wear someone out means to make them tired?"
 "That's right. But I'm not talking about someone now. I'm talking about something. I'm talking about the shoes. If you wear something out, it means that you have used it so long, so much, it's become useless through long use. It becomes unfit to wear."
 Published in *The Hindu* on June 15, 1993.

Word of the day

Dally: behave carelessly or indifferently; waste time; talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions

Synonyms: toy, play, flirt, dawdle, romance, philander, chat up, coquette, trifle

Usage: Go out and get some milk, and don't dally on the way.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/dallypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /dæli/

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

From Page One

Watching 'child sex abuse' material is an offence: SC

Justice Pardiwala said the description of the act as CSEAM would more accurately reflect the reality that these images and videos were not merely pornographic but were records of incidents during which children were sexually exploited and abused.

The court found the term 'child pornography' a misnomer which failed to capture the full extent and horror of the crime.

"Each case of what is traditionally termed 'child pornography' involves the actual abuse of a child. The use of the term 'child pornography' can lead to a trivialisation of the crime, as pornography is often seen as a consensual act between adults. It undermines the victimisation," the verdict said. The court found no difference between viewing CSEAM and the actual act of child sexual abuse, saying they both share a "common, malevolent intent: the exploitation and degradation of a child for the sexual gratification of the abuser".

Justice Pardiwala asked why the High Court had missed taking into account Section 15 of the POCSO Act, which criminalised storage and possession of child pornographic material. Keeping such material without deleting them amounted to 'possession' or even intent to transmit them to others, the court reasoned.

The Bench drew attention to Section 67B of the Information Technology (IT) Act. The provision had penalised not only the use, transmission and publication of obscene materials, including child pornography but also made browsing, creation, collection, online facilitation or enticement of children into any sexual act or conduct an offence. The judgment referred to ingenious ruses used by people to cover their tracks online. One of them was the circulation and sale of links containing child pornographic material. The court referred to how a person could view and delete these links to evade liability under POCSO and the IT Acts. Noting that people should not escape criminal liability by distancing themselves from contraband, the apex court evolved the principle of 'constructive possession', according to which a person was accountable if at any point of time he had an invariable degree of power and knowledge to control, manipulate, alter, modify or destroy the material.

Trinamool, BJP vie for credit for fab proposal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari are vying for credit for a proposed semiconductor fabrication plant in Kolkata which was discussed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S.

The semiconductor factory will be set up by Global Foundries, the world's third largest chipmaker, and will be focused on advanced sensing, communication, and power electronics for national security and next-generation telecommunications, and green energy applications.

"Yesterday's declaration by the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble PM regarding imminent setting up of a Global Capability Centre in semiconductor sector by Global Foundries as the anchor-industry in West Bengal has a history of relentless promotion by the West Bengal Govt," Ms. Banerjee said on social media.

Mr. Adhikari expressed "sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji for the landmark arrangement to establish a new advanced Semiconductor Fabrication Plant in Kolkata during his meeting with US President Joe Biden".

Reform of global institutions must for development: Modi

The success of humanity lies in our collective strength, he says, adding India ready to share its digital public infrastructure with the entire world



Making a point: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 'Summit of the Future' in the UN General Assembly hall in New York City on Monday. ANI

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

Speaking at the two-day United Nations 'Summit of the Future' conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said global peace was contingent on the reform of global institutions.

"The success of humanity lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield," Mr. Modi said.

"And for global peace and development, reforms in global institutions are essential," he said, adding that reform was the key to relevance.

"Permanent membership of the African Union to the G-20 at the New Delhi Summit was an important step in this direction," Mr. Modi said.

India at forefront

India has been at the forefront in calling for reform of the United Nations and specifically its Security Council, calling for an expansion in the number of permanent members, including representation for itself, Africa and other regions.

"While terrorism continues to be a serious threat to global security, the cy-

ber, maritime and space domains were emerging as new theatres of conflict," Mr. Modi said.

He called for global digital governance which ensured that national security and integrity were upheld. "India is ready to share its digital public infrastructure with the entire world," he said.

Mr. Modi had diaspora meetings at his hotel on Monday morning, as per government sources, and is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings following his UN summit address, concluding his three-day visit to the United States.

PM expresses India's unwavering support for people of Palestine

Sriram Lakshman
NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged India's "unwavering support" to the people of Palestine as he held talks with the President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, on Sunday evening, during his visit to New York and the United Nations.

The meeting comes days after India abstained on a UN resolution calling upon Israel to vacate the Occupied Palestinian Territories within the next 12 months.

During Sunday's meeting, Mr. Modi discussed "India's support to Palestine at the United Nations", the government readout of the meeting said.

India's abstention vote last week was driven by concern of sanctions and arms export embargoes on Israel, *The Hindu* reported. The explanation of the vote said India wanted the UN "to build bridges" between Israel and Palestine.

"[The] Prime Minister expressed deep concern at the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza and the deteriorating security situation in the region and reaffirmed India's unwavering support to the people of Palestine, including continued humanitarian assistance," the readout said.

"Mr. Modi emphasised



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New York with Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas. ANI

that only a two-state solution would deliver peace, as he called for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestine, the release of hostages, and a return to diplomacy and dialogue," it said.

Nepal, Kuwait leaders

Mr. Modi also held talks with Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli on Sunday. They discussed a range of subjects, the Ministry of External Affairs said, listing hydropower cooperation, people-to-people ties, and increasing connectivity.

The Prime Minister also met, for the first time, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of Kuwait. "They noted with satisfaction that the two countries were supporting each other with energy and food security requirements," the MEA said in its readout of the meeting.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar in New Delhi)

Centre, State set to review scope of AFSPA in Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As ethnic violence continues, the Centre and the Manipur government are set to review the scope of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in the north-eastern State. The six-month extension of the AFSPA in Manipur comes to an end on September 30.

The Union government and the State have differing views on the inclusion of more areas under the AFSPA. While the "disturbed area" status continues in all hill districts, the Act was gradually withdrawn from all valley districts from 2022 following a "significant improvement" in the security situation. The pro-

visions of the Act were withdrawn from the Imphal municipal area in 2004.

A senior Union government official told *The Hindu* that a huge increase in the number of armed men in the State was a cause of concern and the rising cases of extortion and abductions were also being taken into consideration.

While the presence of armed men or village volunteers is prevalent in both valley and hill districts, the absence of the AFSPA in the valley districts makes it difficult for the armed forces to operate smoothly, officials said.

A State government official, however, said, "The situation here is not like



Keeping watch: Security personnel conduct a search operation in the vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts in Manipur. ANI

what existed in the 1990s. Extortion and abductions are there, but we are also controlling the situation. The police are active and making arrests." In the past 16 months, 533 arrests have been made.

At least 237 people have

been killed since ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people erupted in the State on May 3, 2023. The valley districts are where the Meitei people are concentrated, while the Kuki-Zo and the Nagas live in the hills.

According to data from the Union Home Ministry, 136 security-related incidents and 57 abductions were reported in Manipur from January 1 to July 31 this year, while 205 "extremists" were arrested. The ethnic violence is said to have helped insurgent groups gain a foothold in the region. The groups, mostly operating from Myanmar, advocate secession of Manipur.

The Kuki-Zo militant groups are in a suspension of operations pact with the Home Ministry. Eight Meitei insurgent groups have been banned by the Ministry. In November 2023, the Pambei faction of the United National Liberation Front, the oldest valley-

based armed group, signed a peace agreement with the Home Ministry and the Manipur government.

The National Investigation Agency registered a *suo motu* case on July 19 last year to investigate transnational conspiracy by the Myanmar-based leadership of terror outfits to wage a war against the government by "exploiting the current ethnic unrest."

On August 8, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh told the Assembly that after May 2023, he was under pressure from Central agencies to impose the AFSPA in the valley areas too. He said the imposition of the AFSPA could not guarantee ideal law and order conditions.

Punjab, Haryana vow to 'eliminate' stubble burning this winter

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Weeks ahead of the onset of winter in India, both Punjab and Haryana have promised to "eliminate" stubble burning this year, the Centre said in a statement on Monday.

P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, chaired a 'High-Level Task Force' meeting at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to assess plans to address deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR.

The meeting focused on evaluating current efforts

to tackle pollution from various sources, including paddy stubble burning, vehicular emissions, road and construction dust, solid waste management, and diesel generator sets.

Rajesh Verma, Chairman, Commission for Air Quality Management, reported at the meeting that 19.52 million tonnes of paddy straw in Punjab and 8.1 million tonnes in Haryana was likely to result following harvesting. "Both States have committed to eliminating stubble burning this year," said the Environment Ministry.

Eight fishermen dead and one missing after trawler capsizes in Bay of Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Eight fishermen were killed when their trawling boat capsized in rough weather in the Bay of Bengal around 60 km off the West Bengal coast on September 20. Eight more from the boat have been rescued by the police. One is still missing.

The boat set out to sea with 17 fishermen from Kwakdip in the Sundarbans in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on September 18. The bodies were recovered only on Sunday.

Joy Krishna Haldar, general secretary of the United Fishermen Association of West Bengal, told *The Hindu* that he was deeply saddened by the loss of lives. "We have asked for compensation from the owner of the trawler who has a compulsory insurance for



Bodies of the deceased fishermen being brought to the shore at Namkhana in Kwakdip in South 24 Parganas of West Bengal. PTI

every fisherman on board. We have also asked for compensation from the disaster management department," he said.

"But no government, whether Central or State, provides compensation to such victims. They push the load off to each other. At least during the Left era we got some form of compensation. We are planning to make a claim at the Labour Department as they had previously said that they will ensure jobs

for one family member of such victims."

On September 16, three trawlers with 49 fishermen had similarly gone missing in bad weather in the Bay of Bengal. But all of them were rescued even after their GPS tracking system were cut off for three days by lightning.

Mr. Haldar said they had "pleaded" with the Coast Guard and Navy to send out search parties. But they did not help much saying the sea was rough.

Odisha orders probe by ex-judge into abuse case

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

The Mohan Majhi government has ordered a time-bound investigation by a former High Court judge into the custodial abuse of an Army officer and his fiancée in a Bhubaneswar police station.

After returning from his Keonjhar district tour late on Sunday, Mr. Majhi convened a meeting with two Deputy Chief Ministers, K.V. Singh Deo and Pravat Parida, and announced the institution of a commission under former judge Chitta Ranjan Dash.

Apart from the mandate of examining the sequence of events, behaviour of individuals, groups and authorities, the commission has been directed to suggest measures to be taken to avoid the recurrence of such events. The commission has been requested to complete the probe within 60 days.

Clarify the steps planned to protect dignity of armed forces personnel: Orissa HC

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Orissa High Court on Monday directed the State government to clarify the measures it plans to implement to safeguard the dignity of armed forces personnel involved in various situations.

The direction follows the alleged molestation and sexual harassment of a woman by the police when she, along with her fiancée who is an Army officer, went to lodge a complaint at the Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar. It is alleged that the Army officer was put behind bars.

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of the matter based on a representation made by the Indian Army, a Division Bench of the High Court, comprising Chief Justice Chakradhar Sharan Singh and Justice Savitri Ratho, observed, "It is disturbing the incident has



occurred with an Army officer who was on leave. The court would like to know from the State government as to what steps it intends to take to protect the dignity of personnel of armed forces in different situations."

During the course of the hearing, the Bench said, "What is disturbing, after having seen the sequence of events, [is that] admittedly two persons entered the police station apparently not to commit any crime but to lodge a complaint. What happened inside the police station is a mystery and is being inves-

tigated. It is, however, surprising that they [police] came out with an FIR registered against one of them alleging an offence of attempt to murder."

Wondering if anyone would dare go to a police station after this incident, the High Court directed the State government to take steps to restore public faith in the system.

On September 15, the duo approached the Bharatpur police at night to lodge a complaint against some miscreants who heckled them. Instead of taking the complaint, the police allegedly gave them the cold shoulder which led to a heated exchange between the woman and the police personnel. It is alleged that the woman was molested and sexually harassed inside the station.

The court expressed dissatisfaction over the absence of CCTV surveillance at the police station.

PM is afraid to talk about caste census, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is afraid even to utter the term 'caste census' and does not want the 'Bahujans' to get their rights, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Monday, accusing the BJP of being "anti-Bahujan".

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi asserted that the Congress would not let reservation be harmed, and accused the BJP of spreading falsehood.

Mr. Gandhi's assertion comes after the BJP alleged that the Congress leader, during his trip to the United States, talked of ending reservation.

"No matter how many lies the anti-Bahujan BJP spreads, we will not let reservation be harmed. We will not stop until a comprehensive caste census is done," the former Congress chief said.

Campaigning ends for second phase of Assembly polls in J&K

Polling will be held for 26 Assembly seats tomorrow; over 25.78 lakh voters will decide the fate of 239 candidates, including NC vice-president Omar Abdullah; security has been beefed up across J&K, especially in Srinagar and the Pir Panjal valley

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

From pledges of regional parties to release jailed youth to the BJP's opposition to the restoration of special status under Article 370 to Jammu and Kashmir, the second phase of campaigning for 26 Assembly seats across six districts in the Union Territory came to an end on Monday.

Over 25.78 lakh voters – 13.12 lakh men, 12.65 lakh women and 53 of the third gender – will decide the fate of 239 candidates in Ganderbal, Srinagar and Budgam districts in the Kashmir Valley and Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu in the polling on Wednesday, officials said.

Of the 1,20,612 lakh voters aged 18 or 19 in this phase, 11,294 are male and 10,065 female first-time voters, they said.

A total of 93 candidates are in the fray in Srinagar district with eight Assembly seats, followed by 46 in Budgam district with five seats, 34 in Rajouri with five seats, 25 in Poonch



Gearing up: Security personnel being briefed about the second phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election in the Mendhar area of Poonch district on Monday. PTI

with three seats, 21 in Ganderbal with two seats, and 20 in Reasi with three seats.

While the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are vying to win the most number of seats in Kashmir, the BJP is putting in efforts to ramp up its numbers in Rajouri and Poonch in the Pir Panjal

valley and defeat the Congress and NC candidates.

Security was beefed up across J&K, especially in Srinagar and the Pir Panjal valley for polling. Checkpoints were set up in Srinagar, and vehicles and pedestrians searched "to keep a tab on militant movement".

In Kashmir, NC vice-president Omar Abdullah held

a series of rallies in Budgam. He is contesting from Ganderbal and Budgam in central Kashmir, both going to the polls in the second phase. He concluded his speech with a promise to release jailed youth.

"There is hardly any house where a youth does not face a case in police stations. No week when they are not summoned by

the police. Many youth have been shifted to outside jails. We will review all FIRs lodged in the past five years and withdraw cases. Those jailed outside under the Public Safety Act will be brought back to Kashmir and the process of release will be initiated, We will revoke the PSA," he said.

For the seats in Ganderbal districts, two major rivals of Mr. Abdullah, the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) chief Engineer Rashid, who was recently released on bail, and Democratic Progressive Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad, held rallies on Monday.

In Jammu, Union Minister Jitendra Singh targeted the manifestos of the regional parties.

"The NC manifesto supported by Congress says they will bring back Article 35 A and deprive our daughters of their property rights. The message from these hills should be loud and clear that we are a part of Modi's India and our identity is that of proud Indians," he said.

Out of the 873 candidates contesting J&K polls, only 43 are women, finds ADR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Of the 873 candidates contesting the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election, 137 are from national parties, 205 from regional parties, and 185 from registered unrecognised parties.

A total of 346 are contesting as Independents, shows an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Jammu and Kashmir Election Watch. Only 43 candidates are women.

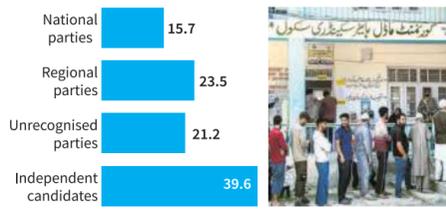
The report also shows that the percentage of candidates with criminal cases has gone up from 6% in 2014 to 17% in 2024.

The ADR analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 872 candidates. The affidavit of an Independent candidate, Sarjan Ahmad Wagay, in the Beerwah constituency has not been analysed as a clear and complete document of his was unavailable on the Election Commission website at the time of compiling the report.

The Assembly election is being held in three phases on September 18 and 25 and October 1. Counting of

Independents dominate

The chart shows the percentage split of the candidates contesting the 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election on the basis of the recognition given to their parties



SOURCE: ADR

114 of the 872 candidates whose affidavits were analysed face serious criminal cases

votes will take place on October 8.

Among the 872 candidates whose affidavits were analysed, 152 (17%) have declared criminal cases against themselves. In the 2014 Assembly election, out of the 831 analysed, 49 (6%) had declared criminal cases against themselves. A total of 114 (13%) have

declared serious criminal cases this time. The corresponding figure for 2014 was 33 (4%).

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has nine candidates with serious criminal cases and the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress have five each. The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has three candidates with serious criminal cases, while the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has one.

There are 410 candidates who are crorepatris (net worth more than a crore). The average assets of candidates amounted to ₹3.65 crore.

Rahul targets Modi's policy on J&K, says outsiders are ruling the Union Territory

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday made an attempt to strike a chord with the local people by stating that "outsiders were ruling Jammu and Kashmir", and attacked the policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Union Territory.

"In the past, people of J&K used to make decisions through their elected MLAs. Outsiders are ruling J&K. Today, a king has been appointed. The Lieutenant-Governor is like a king, who is an outsider. He cannot perform because he is not close to the hearts of the people," Mr. Gandhi, who addressed rallies in Surankote and Kashmir's Srinagar, said.

Reiterating the Congress's stand to put pres-



Garnering support: Congress supporters at Rahul Gandhi's election rally in Srinagar on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

sure on the BJP government to restore J&K's Statehood, Mr. Gandhi said he would raise the local people's issues in Parliament.

Terming the BJP's move to downgrade J&K into a Union Territory an act of injustice, he said, "Your democratic right has been snatched by this act."

He questioned the BJP policy on Kashmir. "Mr. Modi only talks about his

Mann Ki baat and not *'Kaam ki baat'*, which is to give jobs and vision to the youth. He used to speak with pride and confidence, but now the INDIA bloc and the Congress have changed Modi's psychology. He is no longer the same as before," he said.

He was accompanied by ally National Conference president Farooq Abdullah in Surankote.

Selja gets back into Cong. campaign, scotches rumours of quitting party

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Putting to rest speculation that she was quitting the Congress, the party's prominent Scheduled Caste leader and Sirsa MP, Kumari Selja, on Monday said the "Congress's blood runs in her veins", adding that she, like her father veteran Congress leader Dalbir Singh, would leave this world "draped in the party's flag".

Replying to questions at an event by a Hindi news channel, Ms. Selja, whose "absence" from the campaign over the past one week had snowballed into a controversy, said that "rumours were being spread that Selja can join this party or that party".

Congress sources told *The Hindu* that Ms. Selja agreed to resume the election campaign after party chief Mallikarjun Kharge



Back on course: Congress leader Kumari Selja with local people during a roadshow at Barwala on August 30. PTI

reached out to her, and asked her to sort out her differences with former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and focus on winning the election.

Ms. Selja, responding to the BJP leaders' offer to join their party, said she had longer political career than many of these leaders making comments on her, adding that "I and my party know to decide their

path". She stressed that she would never leave the party, saying that was her commitment to "my ideology, my party and my leadership".

'Internal issues'

Conceding that she had gone "slow" on campaigning after ticket distribution, Ms. Selja said there were some internal party issues, which could not be

discussed on a public platform. She, however, added that she would resume canvassing for the party candidates, and said that the party was moving forward with the people in the State looking at it with hope.

On being snubbed in ticket distribution, Ms. Selja said it was not about how much "share" one got in ticket distribution, as all candidates were decided upon with the final approval of the party. She, however, reiterated that she wanted to contest the election from Uklana, her hometown, and had publicly said this earlier as well.

Earlier in the day, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Randeep Surjewala posted a message on a social media platform saying that Ms. Selja would join him for a joint election campaign on September 26.

Maharashtra Cabinet okays 24 proposals

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

Ahead of the Assembly election, the Maharashtra Cabinet on Monday approved 24 proposals, including the renaming of Pune International Airport and the formation of separate corporations for economically weaker sections of Brahmin and Rajput communities. It also approved the inclusion of Tilor Kumbi, Tilor Kumbi, and Ti Kumbi sub-castes in the State government's OBC list, a Cabinet note stated.

The Cabinet gave the nod to rename Pune International Airport as Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Pune International Airport, with a formal proposal to be sent to the Centre. Additionally, it approved the transfer of a 2,000-square metres land parcel in Mumbai's Bandra on lease to cricketer Ajinkya Rahane to develop a sports complex.

'Hurriyat will always want to be part of meaningful dialogue on Kashmir'

The group's chairperson says elections are the key to expression of civic choice in a democracy, but the introduction of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, and fresh amendments have made the current polls meaningless; he says putting the fundamental rights to liberty and freedom in abeyance in Kashmir and terming it peace and normalcy is a wrong portrayal of the realities on the ground

INTERVIEW

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

Peerzada Ashiq

Hurriyat chairperson and Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who has distanced himself from electoral politics, speaks on the election and the grouping's position. Excerpts:

J&K witnessed brisk polling in the first phase of the Assembly election, unlike in the past when the Hurriyat had issued boycott calls.

Elections are the key to the expression of civic choice in a democracy. Post 1947,

the people of Jammu and Kashmir participated in this exercise, including some Hurriyat constituents, although their credibility in being fair has always been suspect. It contributed to the unrest and the violence that ensued in 1990. Post 1990, when things changed drastically and there was a groundswell for resolution, people were coerced to vote through intimidation by the huge presence of [security] forces. Election was projected as a means to conflict resolution, and people's participation as validation that all is well. So boycott was the democratic means to express anger, reject this projection, and draw attention towards the unsolved issue.

The Hurriyat is not the only forum to engage in

'boycott politics' as a means. The National Conference (NC) in the 1970s boycotted Assembly elections, and the NC and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) boycotted local elections as recently as 2018. The Hurriyat's stated position is that elections cannot replace the resolution process for the Kashmir issue. We look at them as two separate matters that have to be treated separately. [There were] the drastic unilateral changes of August 5, 2019 by New Delhi, including bifurcating the State into two and downgrading it to a Union Territory. Subsequently, the J&K Reorganisation Act was brought in and stringent measures implemented to disempower and dispossess people to a point where boycott has lost relevance. The people are wise



enough to decide what needs to be done.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described this election as a historic moment in Kashmir.

Introduction of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, and fresh amendments have made these elections meaningless. It's the Lieutenant-Governor who was granted broad and sweep-

ing executive powers to run Jammu and Kashmir from New Delhi. Any elected legislature is almost powerless. Jammu and Kashmir has been put through a number of experiments to ensure electoral weight shifts to one region. It was evident from gerrymandering during the delimitation exercise and fragmentation of the electoral landscape based on religious lines. It's unfortunate that the regional parties could not stop it.

Where do you see Kashmir after the Centre ended its semi-autonomous status in 2019?

Kashmir, which is divided between India, Pakistan and China, remains a political and human issue. As long as there are claims

and counter-claims by regional powers over it, the issue persists, and New Delhi has to engage with political sentiment and aspirations alive on the ground. Can India withdraw from all the previous bilateral agreements with Pakistan on Kashmir? And will China back out?

Where does the Hurriyat stand now?

From former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Deputy Prime Minister to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the Hurriyat always supported dialogue between Delhi and Srinagar on the Kashmir issue. It was not an easy decision. Even in 2014 when Prime Minister Modi came to power we reached out through the media for continuation of engagement

for resolution. Those of us who supported talks with Delhi many a time bore heavy costs for it. In principle, we believe that engagement with the sentiment and deliberations are the way forward and Hurriyat will always want to be part of meaningful dialogue on Kashmir. The Hurriyat, more than any other party, seeks a peaceful and dignified approach towards Kashmir. We want a closure to the conflict.

Hasn't the situation visibly improved in the past six years?

As we speak, thousands of youth remain in jails, leadership is behind bars, locals are dismissed from government service, people's properties are attached on government orders. Also, land, jobs and our resources

have been opened to outsiders. There is a complete crackdown on local press and freedom of expression. Putting the fundamental rights to liberty and freedom in abeyance in Kashmir and terming it peace and normalcy is a wrong portrayal of the realities on ground. Peace cannot be enforced but achieved with the consent of people. What these measures reflect is a policy of intimidation and disempowerment, which is an unsustainable approach. If our collective aim is peace and normalcy, then resolution of the conflict and political engagement is the way forward. People are self-censoring in the face of fear, and repercussions. People's silence should not be misconstrued as peace. (Full interview is at newsthe.live/mirwaiz)

IN BRIEF



Punjab CM Mann reshuffles Cabinet, inducts 5 new faces

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann reshuffled his Cabinet on Monday after dropping four Ministers and inducting five new faces into the State Cabinet, even as the Congress mocked the ruling Aam Aadmi Party. The five newly inducted Cabinet Ministers were administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Gulab Chand Kataria during the swearing-in ceremony at the Raj Bhavan. The new Ministers who took oath are Hardeep Singh Mundian, Barinder Kumar Goel, Tarunpreet Singh Sond, Dr. Ravjot Singh and Mohinder Bhagat. It is the fourth time the Cabinet has been reshuffled in the past two-and-a-half years.

Power project tenders aimed at benefiting Adani: Congress

The Congress on Monday alleged that two large electricity tenders in Rajasthan and Maharashtra have been designed to reduce the number of bidders and to "funnel" taxpayer money to the Adani Group. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that both State governments have issued tenders for the combined procuring of power across thermal and solar power sources. This joined-up procurement advantages the tiny number of large players such as the Adani Group, which operate across both sectors, whereas splitting it into two tenders would have enabled smaller players, particularly in the renewable energy sector, to compete, Mr. Ramesh said.

2 Navy officers to sail across the world from Oct. 2

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Under the second edition of the Navy's Navika Sagar Parikrama, two women officers, Lt. Cdr. Dilna K. and Lt. Cdr. Roopa A., will on October 2 embark on an expedition to circumnavigate the globe aboard the Naval Sailing Vessel *Tarini*. Over eight months, they will navigate more than 21,600 nautical miles (approximately 40,000 km) without any external assistance, relying solely on wind power, the Navy said. The voyage will be flagged off from the Naval Ocean Sailing Node, INS Mandovi, in Goa. The Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff, Krishna Swaminathan, described Navika Sagar Parikrama II as a journey of empowerment, innovation, and commitment to India's maritime heritage.

'Role of legislative bodies important for inclusive governance'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

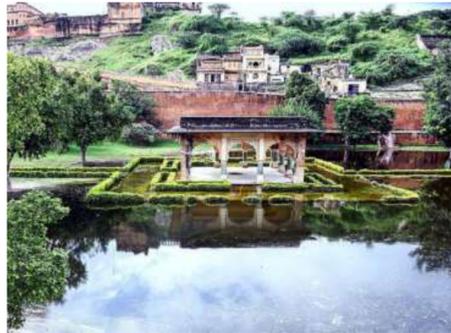
Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday urged legislative bodies to make governance more responsible and efficient by ensuring accountability and transparency of the executive. Mr. Birla was addressing the plenary session of the 10th Commonwealth Parliament Association India Region Conference on the Parliament premises. Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and presiding officers of legislative bodies from the States participated in the session. The Speaker emphasised the use of technology to improve the efficiency and functioning of legislatures. He urged legislative bodies to focus on welfare schemes to ensure that the benefit reaches the last

Monsoon begins withdrawal from parts of Rajasthan

From June 1 to September 23, rainfall has been 5% more than normal across India, but 3% less in September and 15% excess in August

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon has begun withdrawing from Rajasthan, a week later than its scheduled date. Though withdrawal has begun from west Rajasthan and Kutch, the monsoon is expected to recede from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat during the next 24 hours, says a bulletin from the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The year, on the whole, has seen a very active spell of rainfall. From June 1 to September 23, the monsoon rainfall has been 5% more than normal. For September, so far the rainfall is 3% less than normal for the month. This is contrary to the IMD's expectations. In its outlook for September, the agency said on August 31 that monsoon rainfall was likely to be 9% above normal for the month (16.8 cm). This was premised on a La Nina, or a cooling of the central Pacific, expected to



Bountiful rain: A view of the Amer Fort area after heavy rain in Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital, on Thursday. ANI

firmly take root this month. La Nina usually corresponds to above average rainfall in India. The rainfall in August turned out to be much more than what the IMD had anticipated at the beginning of the month. August - the second rainiest of the monsoon months - was projected to receive 6% more than normal rainfall, but India ended up getting 15% more. This was largely due to multiple active moisture-laden incursions from the

Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, called "depressions", that contributed to the heavy rainfall. Though the withdrawal of the monsoon has begun, it will be at least until mid-October before the southwest monsoon fully withdraws and is replaced by the northeast monsoon which brings heavy rain to a few southern States, such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and parts of Andhra Pradesh. However, all rainfall after September 30 is not counted as monsoon rainfall.

Myanmar rebel leaders say India has invited them for a seminar in New Delhi

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India has invited political and military opponents of Myanmar's ruling junta to attend a seminar in New Delhi, sources said, a significant move by the government that has maintained ties with the top Generals shunned by Western nations. A civil war in Myanmar since its military unseated an elected civilian government in a February 2021 coup now risks destabilising India's 1,650-km border with Myanmar, and some of its key infrastructure projects. A leader of an armed group and two sources with direct knowledge of the issue said the parallel National Unity Government (NUG) and ethnic minority rebels from the States of Chin, Rakhine and Kachin bordering India had been invited to a seminar in mid-November. The event would be hosted by the government-funded Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), whose council includes Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar, said two other sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity as the matter was confident-

The National Unity Government and ethnic minority rebels are said to have been invited

It was not immediately clear if Myanmar's military government would also be invited to the event, which the sources said would be on the topic of "Constitutionalism and federalism". They gave no further details. Widespread protest in Myanmar over the 2021 coup turned into a nationwide rebellion, with an armed resistance movement combining with some established ethnic armies to seize control of wide swathes of territory from the military. The junta has refused to enter into dialogue with the rebels, whom it describes as "terrorists". Speaking of the seminar, Sui Khar, vice-chairman of one of the ethnic rebel groups, the Chin National Front, said, "We are going to send representatives." "This will be the first time, I think, formally, that India will engage with the non-state actors. This is a good, positive approach,"

Mr. Khar said. A spokesperson for Myanmar's military did not answer telephone calls to seek comment. The Indian government and the ICWA did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The other armed groups invited include the Arakan Army, which controls significant reaches of territory in Rakhine bordering Bangladesh, and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), one of Myanmar's most powerful rebel forces, the sources added. A spokesperson for the president of the shadow NUG government declined to comment on the seminar. The Arakan Army and KIA did not immediately respond to requests for comment. **Motive unclear** Although the junta has been condemned by Western powers, with most of them having imposed sanctions, India has kept up engagement with the generals through visits to the capital, Naypyitaw, by its government and defence officials. India has been reluctant to openly criticise Myanmar's junta, which could push the generals closer to rival China.

Robotic mules 'join' Army; drones, high-altitude tents under evaluation

Dinakar Peri
LEH

The Army has procured and inducted 100 robotic mules in forward areas, while logistics drones are undergoing trials which will significantly streamline support and movement to forward areas, especially in high altitude. A new tent for high-altitude areas is under evaluation for deployment at temperatures up to minus-40 degrees Celsius. All of these were on display last week at the Himtech symposium organised at Leh, specifically showcasing high-altitude technologies. "The Army has procured and has inducted 100 robotic mules under the fourth tranche of emergency procurements (EP)," a defence source said. The fourth round of EPs was undertaken in the year to September 2023.



A robotic mule is a high-endurance, agile and durable all-weather ground robot for use in defence applications. DINAKAR PERI

Contracts up to ₹300 crore can be placed under EP, and deliveries have to be concluded within one year. Since the 2020 standoff with China in Eastern Ladakh, the Army has been looking for a series of technological innovations especially for high altitudes for a range of functions. The robotic mule is a high-endurance, agile and

all-weather ground robot for use in a broad range of unstructured urban and natural environments for defence applications. "He is able to walk up to three years. He is able to counter all kinds of obstacles... He can go inside water and cross rivers... He has the ability to recognise objects around as there are electro-optics, infrared..."

Arjun Aggarwal, managing director and CEO of AeroArc, said while speaking at Himtech. The mule can climb stairs, steep hills and other hurdles and can operate in extreme temperatures, ranging from minus-40 to a hot 55 degrees Celsius and carry 15 kg of payload. Extreme high-altitude clothing and habitat is a critical requirement for the Indian Army which is deployed in the world's highest battlefield of Siachen and also other super high-altitude locations. At Himtech, DTECH 360 Innovations announced the field launch of its Peak Pods, a high-altitude habitat (tent) designed for sub-zero temperature regions. The product has been under evaluation at three high altitude locations: Leh (11,500 feet), Daulat Beg Oldie (16,700 feet) and Durbuk (12,500 feet).

Laapataa Ladies is India's entry for Oscars

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Laapataa Ladies, a satirical take on gender dynamics and patriarchy in rural India, is the country's official entry for Oscars 2025, the Film Federation of India announced here on Monday. Directed by Kiran Rao, the Hindi film about two brides getting swapped during a train ride after their wedding in 2001, was chosen from a list of 29 films, including the Cannes winner *All We Imagine As Light*. The 13-member selection committee headed by Assamese director Jahnua Barua unanimously decided on *Laapataa Ladies*, produced by Aamir Khan and Ms. Rao, for reckoning in the best international film category at the Academy Awards.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14288 (set by Hypatia)

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

Across

- Note vehicle outside backing out, flashy and cool (8)
- Alternate date was set (6)
- Blue sedan turned close to driveway (4)
- Rep booked in advance (10)
- Adept wife avoided large reptile (6)

Down

- Twenty cents picked up in the US, for example (8)
- Loudly enter, say place for loading ships (4)
- Lazy men in water, essentially swim around (6)
- Sees pros developing in Java (8)
- King lost, never failing to share respect (10)
- Old Indian mansion almost possessed by evil bats (6)
- Minimalist crew of workers with a forensic anthropologist? (8,5)
- Results in pursuit of additional subject? (10)
- Ran and chose to save time (8)
- Shook by maiden wearing fancy red belt (8)
- Enjoy consuming ecstasy at new paradise (6)
- Stop sedition holding up tyrant (6)
- Bad luck following Mahavira, for instance, dropping a cross (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

A	N	I	M	A	L	S	P	I	R	I	T	S			
E	E	J	E	E	U										
O	Y	A	M	A	A	G	R	E	E	A	B	L	E		
N	T	N	N	S	D	B	M								
T	R	E	A	D	W	A	T	E	R	W	I	M	P		
H	S	E	V	A	E	E	T								
E	N	T	E	R	O	N									
F	I	M	P	E	N	D	S	E	Y	E	W	A	S	H	
D	R	O	P	E	G	E	N	O	N						
O	R	I	G	E	T	I	S	O	M	M	O	D	E		
L	N	E	E	R	E	T									
E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	E	N	O	H	I	T		
E	A	G	D	T	E										
P	R	I	N	C	I	P	L	E	C	O	N	S	O	R	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

MADGALDEEP SCENT 3in1

FAITH

Choose your friends wisely

A sanyasi once visited a village. He summoned the villagers and said he was going to show them a miracle, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. The sanyasi threw a small pebble into the pond. It sank. "Did you notice that it sank?" the sanyasi asked. "We knew it would sink. You haven't told us anything new," the villagers said. The sanyasi then picked up a log of wood. He placed a large stone on it and set the log afloat. The log did not sink, and neither did the stone. "Now, did you notice that while a small stone sank, here is a large stone, which has not sunk?" the sanyasi asked. "That is because you have placed it on a log. Again, you have not told us anything new," replied the villagers. Whereupon the sanyasi said, "My purpose in demonstrating the obvious was to make sure that you got the subtle message that this conveyed. It was association with the log that saved the big stone from the same fate as the smaller stone. Likewise, in life, association with good people will save you from many dangers. More importantly, it will give you peace of mind. Choose your friends wisely." Friendship means guiding one's friend, advising him and cautioning him about the disastrous consequences of wrong decisions. Thiruvalluvar says that a good friend is like the hand that automatically holds a garment which slips down, and saves us from being shamed in public.

IN BRIEF



Reliance Power Board okays ₹1,525 crore preferential issue

The board of directors of Reliance Power Ltd. (Reliance Power) on Monday approved raising ₹1,524.60 crore by preferential issue of up to 46.20 crore equity shares and/or warrants convertible into an equivalent number of equity shares of the company at a price of ₹33 per share/warrant. Other investors are Autham Investment and Infrastructure Ltd. and Sanatan Financial Advisory Services Private Ltd., Reliance Power said in a filing with exchanges.

myTVS unveils MaaS platform for last-mile EV fleet operators

myTVS, a digital automotive aftermarket platform, has unveiled its Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) platform for last-mile EV fleet operators across India. The company said it had signed a strategic partnership with EV-based logistics company MoEving. The MaaS platform provides an extensive range of services such as leasing to real-time fleet management, servicing and spare parts management, and telematics and roadside assistance, under one umbrella.

SEBI imposes ₹1-crore penalty on Jai Ambani in RHFL case

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Jai Anmol Ambani for diversion of loans to related entities by Reliance Housing Finance Limited (RHFL). "Evidence shows that while being a non-executive director, he [Jai Ambani] was involved in the approvals of some of the GPCL loans to promoter-related entities, one of which was approved by him after the board meeting held on February 11, 2019," SEBI said in its order.

F&O traders lost ₹1.81 lakh cr. in three years: SEBI study

While this was the case for individual traders, the opposite was true for proprietary traders and foreign portfolio investors who raked in ₹33,000 cr. and ₹28,000 cr. in FY24 profit respectively

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

More than one crore futures and options (F&O) traders lost ₹1.81 lakh crore in F&O during FY22-FY24, according to a Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) study. In FY24 alone, this number was about ₹75,000 crore.

The study found a little more than 91% of the individual F&O traders lost money in fiscal 2024 alone. The study titled 'Analysis of Profits & Losses in the Equity Derivatives Segment (FY22-FY24)' found



Painful persistence: About 75% of the people who lost money in F&O continued to trade in the markets, the study found. REUTERS

this represented as many as 73 lakh traders in India. About 43% of the F&O traders were under the age of 30 in FY24. This was 31% in FY23. The share of loss makers in the age group was 93%, more than the ov-

erall share of 91%.

About 75% of the people who lost money in F&O trading continued to trade. This persistence was found despite making losses for two consecutive years. Three-fourths of the traders had declared annual income of less than ₹5 lakh.

The opposite was true for proprietary traders and foreign portfolio investors (FPI). Proprietary traders and FPIs clocked-in a gross profit ₹33,000 crore and ₹28,000 crore respectively in FY24. Most of the profit came from "algo entities" — those executing trades using algorithms.

Retail credit growth cooled in June quarter: TransUnion

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's retail credit growth moderated in the quarter ended June, as financial institutions tightened the supply of credit, particularly on consumption-led products like credit cards, consumer durable loans and personal loans, according to a TransUnion CIBIL Credit Market Indicator (CMI) report.

Although still positive for all consumer credit products other than credit cards and home loans, the findings revealed a dip in

year-over-year (YoY) growth rate of originations (new accounts opened) across most popular credit products.

Home loans moderate

While overall originations continued to grow at a moderated rate, home loan originations slid 9% in volume and credit card originations by 30% YoY.

Two-wheeler loans was the only credit product which logged double-digit growth in volume and value originated, according to the report.

Credit performance, as

measured by balance-level delinquencies, improved across most products, apart from credit cards.

"Timely regulatory guidance and given relatively high credit-deposit ratio, we are witnessing moderation in retail credit growth," said Rajesh Kumar, MD and CEO, TransUnion CIBIL.

"Lenders can now look at identifying pockets of deserving consumers to provide access to credit for them while driving the next phase of sustainable retail credit growth," Mr. Kumar added.

Spicejet faces one more IBC plea, NCLT slaps notice

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) issued notice to debt-ridden air carrier Spicejet over the plea filed by one of its operational creditors.

A two-member NCLT bench has directed Spicejet to file a reply and list the matter for the next hearing on November 14. Spicejet is already facing several insolvency petitions from creditors at NCLT and the appellate tribunal NCLAT.

Sept. seeing 2024's slowest business activity uptick: Flash PMI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's private sector business activity levels expanded at the mildest pace in nine months this September, with output, new orders and export deals clocking the softest upticks so far in 2024, as per the HSBC Flash India Composite PMI Output Index, an early survey-based indicator of manufacturing and services sectors' trends.

September's flash reading of the index, based on inputs from 80% to 90% of 800 firms surveyed for the monthly Purchasing Managers Indices (PMIs) on Manufacturing and Services, stood at 59.3, compared with the previous month's composite PMI print of 60.7. A reading of 50 reflects no change in activity levels, while a score of over 50 indicates an expansion.

The flash Manufacturing PMI for this month eased to 56.7 from 57.5 in August, while the Flash India Services PMI Business Activity index saw a sharper decline from 60.9 in August to 58.9 in September.

"Growth in new orders moderated by a touch in September, but hiring levels rose at a faster pace, supported by improving business confidence," noted Pranjul Bhandari, HSBC Chief India Economist.

"The rise in employment in service sector was the steepest since August 2022, as companies responded to robust growth in new orders."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,928	0.45
US Dollar	83.54	-0.02
Gold	76,950	0.78
Brent oil	73.61	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	3043.95	35.45
Adani Ports	1456.15	17.45
Apollo Hosp.	7152.80	70.15
Asian Paints	3277.45	-29.50
Axis Bank	1246.80	1.80
Bajaj Auto	12338.95	397.25
Bajaj Finserv	1919.95	3.15
Bajaj Finance	7595.10	12.65
Bharti Airtel	1750.45	38.70
Britannia Ind	338.10	-6.90
Cipla	1658.15	19.50
Coal India	500.60	9.65
Divis Lab	5372.85	-77.90
Dr Reddys Lab	6654.45	103.30
Eicher Motors	4879.55	-83.60
Grasim Ind	2666.90	-11.35
HCL Tech	1752.80	-7.25
HDFC Bank	1759.80	18.60
HDFC Life	727.50	16.40
Hero MotoCorp	6190.55	173.30
Hindalco	690.55	-3.85
Hind Unilever	3028.55	50.95
ICI Bank	1321.90	-16.55
IndusInd Bank	1465.10	-15.10
Infosys	1395.45	-3.30
ITC	516.95	2.55
JSW Steel	982.10	-0.55
Kotak Bank	1934.70	30.20
L&T	3787.70	-6.20
L1Mindtree Ltd.	6326.10	-47.00
M&M	3049.80	98.95
Maruti Suzuki	12683.10	68.60
NestleIndia	2725.15	25.60
NTPC	428.35	4.40
ONGC	295.45	9.20
PowerGrid Corp	341.15	0.30
Reliance Ind	2986.75	14.90
SBI Life	1920.15	49.90
State Bank	801.85	20.15
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3567.70	35.60
Sun Pharma	1862.70	-3.05
TataConsumerProduct	1211.55	-5.30
Tata Motors	971.80	-0.95
Tata Steel	153.99	1.97
TCS	4268.50	-16.40
Tech Mahindra	1607.15	-14.90
Titan	3820.10	22.90
UltraTech Cement	11962.05	163.75
Wipro	534.90	-4.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.35	83.67
Euro	92.69	93.05
British Pound	110.94	111.37
Japanese Yen (100)	58.11	58.34
Chinese Yuan	11.82	11.86
Swiss Franc	98.13	98.51
Singapore Dollar	64.54	64.80
Canadian Dollar	61.52	61.76
Malaysian Ringgit	19.82	19.92
Australian Dollar	56.92	57.13

Source: Indian Bank

'Future of India Cements employees is in safe hands'

N. Anand
CHENNAI



Rupa Gurunath

The future of India Cements employees is in safe hands and they will be taken care of by UltraTech Cement, the new owners, its whole-time director Rupa Gurunath asserted on Monday.

Addressing the company's 78th AGM via video-conferencing, Ms. Gurunath said the cement major had been taking steps to contain variable and fixed costs. When shareholders asked her about the proposed takeover of ICL by UltraTech, she said, "We won't be able to comment whether UltraTech will merge with ICL."

Ms. Gurunath also said that ICL had engaged the services of Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for improving operational efficiency and added that the former had been continuously working for reduction of fuel costs. She said she hoped that UltraTech would continue the efforts.

Report on issues that led to EY staffer's death in 10 days: Mandaviya

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said investigation is underway into the alleged "unsafe and exploitative work environment" that is said to have caused EY staffer Anna Sebastian Perayil's death, and the report is expected in 10 days.

"The Union Labour Ministry has already assured a thorough investigation into the allegations of an exploitative work environment related to the tragic demise," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a post on X on Monday.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is investi-

gating the alleged "unsafe and exploitative work environment" days after the demise of Anna Sebastian Perayil who worked with S R Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Mandaviya said, "We have already sought information from our State officials. We would be able to say anything [on the issue] only after a report."

He further stated that investigation into the issue was on and if required action would be taken.

"We don't have to spare the fault of the establishment. The report should be available in a week or 10 days," he said.

NBFC sector resilient under scale-based regulations framework: RBI bulletin

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI



The non-banking financial companies (NBFC) sector in India continues to demonstrate resilience within the scale-based regulations (SBR) framework, improving in asset quality and diversifying funding base, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials said.

At the end of December 2023, the sector maintained double-digit credit growth, adequate capital levels, and low delinquency ratio, the officials said in an article 'Peeling the Layers: A Review of the NBFC Sector in Recent Times', published in the September 2024 edition of the RBI bulletin.

Since the introduction of SBR in October 2022, the performance metrics for NBFCs have shown significant positive trends. The asset qualities have improved, the article stated.

The gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio has decreased significantly, falling from a range of 4.4% for government NBFCs and 10.6% for non-government

NBFCs in December 2021, to 2.4% (for government NBFCs) and 6.3% (for non-government NBFCs) by December 2023, reflecting improved asset quality and risk management within the sector.

According to the article, there has been a consistent rise in profitability, evidenced by improved return on assets (RoA) and return on equity (RoE).

As of December 2023, NBFCs have demonstrated robust credit growth, adequate capital, and low delinquency ratios, signalling a resilient financial landscape, it said.

Moreover, the extension of prompt corrective action (PCA) norms even to government-owned NBFCs

is expected to fortify the sector further. These regulations aim to enhance financial discipline and risk management.

The RBI has identified several major NBFCs as part of the upper layer under the SBR framework.

These include LIC Housing Finance, Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance, Tata Sons, L&T Finance, Indiabulls Housing Finance, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, PNB Housing Finance, Tata Capital Financial Services, Aditya Birla Finance, HDB Financial Services, Muthoot Finance, and Bajaj Housing Finance.

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

Very Short e-Procurement Notice For National Competitive Bidding

Very Short e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/1641
Date-21.09.2024

1. Name of the work	IRQP/Strengthening Workof :- (i) Baliguma NH-33 to New green city Khariya Basti via Ganga bihar road (L-1.2KM) . (ii) Dimma main road to Guruswara road Najariya mazar line road (41.0KM) . (iii) Post office road (RCD road) Luthy tower to green field colony road (L-0.8KM) .(iv) NH-33 Mangal colony to NH-33 via Shanti bihar (L-1.0KM),(v) Post office road (RCD Road to vastu bihar via Baikunth nagar road (L-1.0KM) .(vi) NH-33 to Ganga vihar road (L-1.2Km) . (vii) Mango bazaar tank road to payal talkies Mango pardih (RCD road) via ulidih road (L-1.3 KM) Total Length 7.5KM.
2. Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	(Rupees Six Crore Thirty One Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty One Only)
3. Initial Bid Security (Rs In Laacs)	Rs 6.32 Lakh (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty two thousand only).
4. Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5. Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000.00 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6. Time of Completion	05 (Five) Month
7. Date of Publication of Tender on website	24.09.2024 at 12.30 P.M.
8. Start date of bidding	24.09.2024 from 12.30 P.M.
9. Last date & Time for online bidding	30.09.2024 up to 02.00 PM.
10. Type of Bid	Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial id) 30.09.2024
11. Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	Through e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
12. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	01.10.2024 at 3.00 PM by e-Procurement cell, Office of The Chief Engineer (Comm), RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No. 2, Near Dhurwa Golchhakar, Ranchi

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

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RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

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TENDER NOTICE

The PNB CGHS Ltd. Plot No.11, Sector-4, Dwarka, New Delhi invites offers from the Delhi Jal Board empanelled contractors for the job of modification of existing Rain Water Harvesting System (RWH). Estimated Cost of the job: Rs.10.0 Lacs + GST. Pre-bid meetings are scheduled for 1st to 3rd October, 2024 (between 11 AM to 1.0 P.M). Last Date for submission of tenders: 14th Oct 2024 (upto 3.00 PM). For details, please contact Mr. Nagender Singh, Manager at No.9990056667.

M.K Kashyap (Secretary)
Mob.: 9868892883

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ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Taliban deny attack on
convoy of foreign Ambassadors

The Pakistani Taliban on Monday denied carrying out a roadside bomb attack on a police convoy escorting foreign ambassadors that killed a policeman. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) said it had "nothing to do with the attack" in the northwest of the country, which also wounded three other officers. AFP

MULTAN

Kin of Pakistan doctor accused of
blasphemy say police killed him

The family of Shah Nawaz, a doctor accused of blasphemy, said he was killed by the police while in custody in southern Pakistan after he voluntarily surrendered following assurances that he would be given a chance to prove his innocence, denying a police account that he was accidentally killed in a shootout. AP

DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania police arrest opposition
leaders, prevent demonstrations

The police arrested Tanzania's top opposition figures and prevented a protest in Dar es Salaam in the latest crackdown on dissent in the East African nation. Despite an official ban, the opposition Chadema party had vowed to go ahead with the rally over the alleged kidnapping and killing of its members by security forces. AFP

DAKAR

At least 30 bodies found on a boat
along a migrant route off Senegal

At least 30 bodies were found on a boat drifting off the coast of Senegal's capital, the military said on Monday, as the number of migrants leaving West Africa increases. The navy was informed of the vessel's presence on Sunday evening and sent out a boat patrol to the area, 70 km (38 nautical miles) from Dakar. AP

Xi wants to
broaden BRI's
co-operation
with Sri Lanka

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday said he hoped to broaden cooperation with Sri Lanka under his Belt and Road infrastructure initiative (BRI) as he congratulated the island nation's new leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

The country is emerging from a years-long economic collapse blamed partly on struggling high-debt Chinese mega-projects coordinated through the BRI, the massive infrastructure project that is a central pillar of Mr. Xi's bid to expand his country's clout overseas. "I attach great importance to the development of China-Sri Lanka relations and am willing to work with Mr. President to continue our traditional friendship (and) enhance mutual political trust," Mr. Xi said.

Dissanayake sworn in as Sri Lanka's
President; says he is 'no magician'

'I am not a miracle-worker; there are things I know and don't know. But I will commit myself to doing the right thing, and lead a collective effort to rebuild our nation, he says, adding that he will work hard to win the trust of all Sri Lankans

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's newly elected President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Monday promised to strengthen democracy and "work hard to win people's trust", with the disclaimer that he is no "magician".

"I am not a magician; I am not a miracle-worker. There are things I know and don't know. But I will commit myself to doing the right thing at all times, and lead a collective effort to rebuild our nation," he said, in his first address as President, just after being sworn in at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo. It is the building that protesters stormed in July 2022, as they ousted former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa



New beginning: Anura Kumara Dissanayake, right, swearing in as President of Sri Lanka in Colombo on Monday. REUTERS

amid a severe financial meltdown.

Economic crisis

Mr. Dissanayake, 55, takes over Sri Lanka's top office when the island nation struggles to put a crippling economic crisis behind it. Scores of poor families are looking for urgent relief

from the everyday economic strain amid high living costs and utility bills that shot up as part an IMF-led programme that introduced painful austerity measures.

Mr. Dissanayake secured 42.31% of the votes to win the September 21 presidential election, that

he closely fought with Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa and former President Ranil Wickremesinghe. His National People's Power (NPP) Alliance campaigned on a plank of anti-corruption and has promised to change the country's political culture.

Mr. Dissanayake's victory marks a shift in Sri Lankan politics, away from the country's traditional parties and political elite. He leads the NPP's chief political constituent, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front), a party with Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Best interests

Although Mr. Dissanayake emerged winner in the national election, he did not secure the majority vote

share among the country's ethnic minority communities, especially the Tamils of the north and east. In a message apparently targeting them and others who voted for his rivals, he said: "Democracy helped me win. Some voted for me, and others didn't. But my pledge is to work hard to win the trust of those who didn't vote for me as well. This is an important part of my Presidency."

Further, he pledged support to businesses and said he would work with all international actors, while keeping Sri Lanka's best interests in mind.

President Dissanayake on Monday appointed secretaries to various Ministers. He is expected to appoint a new Cabinet on Tuesday, Colombo-based political sources said.

Bangladesh sends protest note
against Shah's Jharkhand speech

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh on Monday lodged a "strong protest" against "highly deplorable remarks" made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Jharkhand last week. In a protest note handed over to the High Commission of India in Dhaka, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh said the comments by

Mr. Shah caused "deep sense of hurt" in Bangladesh.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh lodged a strong protest against the highly deplorable remarks made by the Union Home Minister of India Mr. Amit Shah about Bangladeshi nationals during his recent visit to Jharkhand," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh said on Monday.

In a speech delivered in Sahibganj of poll-bound Jharkhand on September 20, Mr. Shah had presented his assessment of the inter-community situation in Jharkhand saying, "In Pakur district, slogans are being raised asking Hindus and Adivasis to leave Jharkhand. Tell me, does this land belong to Adivasis or Rohingyas, Bangladeshi infiltrators?" Mr. Shah had said.

Iran walls off more than 10 km of
its border in east with Afghanistan

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's military has built a wall along more than 10 km of its eastern border with Afghanistan, the main entry point for immigrants, local media reported on Monday.

"More than 10 km of walls have been built on the border and another 50 km are ready to be walled off," ISNA news agency

said, citing General Nozar Nemat, deputy commander of army ground forces.

900-km border

Iran shares a more than 900-km border with Afghanistan, and the Islamic Republic hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world.

This comprises mostly well-integrated Afghans who arrived over the past 40 years after fleeing con-

flikt in their home country. The flow of immigrants from Afghanistan has increased since the Taliban took over in August 2021 after U.S. forces withdrew from the country.

Tehran has not given official figures for the number of Afghan immigrants, but member of parliament Abolfazl Torabi has estimated their number at "between six and seven million".

COFFEE BOARD
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry)
Department of Commerce
Government of India
#1, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi
Bengaluru-560 001, Karnataka, India.
Phone: + 91- 80 - 2226 6991 - 994

**SHORT TERM
E-TENDER
NOTIFICATION**

Ref: No. Extn./P&C Cell/ ICDP/
Tender-MECH/2024-25/126
Date: 20.09.2024

Coffee Board, a statutory organization under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India, Head Quarters at Bengaluru has invited Short Term e-Tenders for empanelment of manufacturers or its authorized distributors for supplying different machinery suitable for use in coffee estates directly to the farmers under back ended subsidy scheme of ICDP Component 'Farm Mechanization' during 2024-25 and 2025-26. The detailed Short Term e-Tender documents viz., Tender Notification, Specifications, Eligibility Criterion, Crucial Date & Time etc., in this regard can be downloaded from Coffee Board's Website- www.coffeeboard.gov.in & <https://eprocure.gov.in/procure/app> The last date & time for submission of Short-Term E-Tenders is 24th October 2024 at 3.00 PM. The Technical Bids submitted through CPP will be opened on the next day at 3.00 PM.

Sd/-
CEO & SECRETARY

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE,
INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tender is invited for purchase of EHV Grade Type II Transformer oil (TN 2020) (UBN JV2425GLOB00561).

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn1> and also at <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/5534 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
राजकोटा एनई विद्युत वितरण के लिए चीफ पी एन 1800 180 6045

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION KOTA SOUTH (RAJ.)
Add :- C.A.D. Circle, Dushshetra Ground, kota
☎-नं: - ninkota@gmail.com Date: 20-09-2024

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid for ARC of Supply, Erection and Fixing poles with AB Cable and LED lights at Various wards in Municipal Corporation kota south with 2 years O & M are invited from interested bidders upto 23.09.2024 to 03.10.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> of the state and urban.rajasthan.gov.in/nnks department website.

NIB CODE - DLB2425A2747
UBN - DLB2425WSRC08524

Commissioner
Municipal Corporation, Kota-South

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 :
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 323/SS(D)-II (under RDSS) Dated : 20.09.2024

Dy. CE/Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 1163 nos. SCADA-Compatible 11kV Vacuum Circuit Breakers (VCBs) of various types. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to <https://gem.gov.in/> from 21.09.2024 (09:00AM onwards), having GeM Bid Number as "GEM/2024/B/5421424".

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

C - 726/24 76155/12/3483/2023/37941

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.CCEKC-16/2024-25

e-mail : ccekeonjharpcircle@gmail.com / sekcpcwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.4389 dt.21.09.2024

- No. of the work :- 4 Number Road & Bridge Works
- Estimated cost :- Rs.223.21 Lakhs to Rs.905.73 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor :- "B", "A" & "Special" Class
- Period of completion :- 06 (Six) Calendar Months to 11(Eleven) Calendar Months
- Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal :- From 11.30 Hours of 03.10.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 17.10.2024
- Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 16.00 Hours of 17.10.2024
- Date of opening of Bid from Portal :- 11.30 Hours on 18.10.2024
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>"
Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
B-340: OIPR-34033/11/0031/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Phone:-06842 254004 E-mail: sernbphulbani@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No.CCE R and B.PLB 03 of 2024-25
No. 1389 Dated : 19/09/2024

- The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of the Road works as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.
- Nature of work :- Road Works
- No. of tenders :- Three Nos
- Tender Cost :- Rs.10,000/- (through online) only.
- Class of Contractor :- B & A Class
- Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids :- 10.00 AM of 30.09.2024 to 5.00 PM of 15.10.2024
- Date of Opening of Bid :- 11.00 AM of 17.10.2024
- The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani.
B-316: OIPR-34129/11/0004/2425

BRIC
बी एन ए फिंगरप्रिंटिंग एवं निदान केंद्र
CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS
Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039,
Telangana, India ☎नं: +91-40-2721 6199
फैक्स / Fax: +91-40-2721 6006 केवाराई / Website: <http://www.cdfd.org.in>

PhD-I-2025 ADMISSIONS

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, invites applications from highly motivated candidates for admission to its PhD Program. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology, we especially encourage persons from diverse backgrounds to apply. Those admitted as PhD Scholars would be encouraged to register under the Ph.D. program of Regional Centre for Biotechnology.

Eligibility Criteria:
To be eligible for Admission to the CDFD PhD-I-2025, the candidate must have:
1. A Master's degree in any branch of Science, Technology, or Agriculture OR MBBS from a recognized University / Institute.
2. Qualified for a Junior Research Fellowship from CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR / INSPIRE / UGC - RGNF or any other similar examination with fellowship.
Candidates having qualified for Project - JRF under the ICMR funded project Scheme [which is only for a period of two years] OR DBT JRF NET with a B.Tech. [Biotechnology] degree OR DBT JRF NET under DBT - B category list OR LS-NET qualification only in CSIR-UGC (NET) examination are NOT eligible to apply.
(Please see CDFD website (<http://www.cdfd.org.in>) for details).

Selection Procedure
Admission to PhD-I-2025 at CDFD will be based on a two - step selection process.
I Round: interview for the first round via video conference; scheduled to be held in the third week of December 2024 (the exact dates will be informed along with the list of candidates shortlisted for the interview) and
II Round: interview for the second round "in person" at CDFD during late January, 2025. (the exact dates will be informed along with the list of candidates shortlisted for the interview)
(Please see CDFD website (<http://www.cdfd.org.in>) for details).

Interested candidates who fulfill the above conditions may register their names for PhD. - I - 2025 admissions by applying in the prescribed application form online. The link for the application form is available at <http://cdfd.org.in>.
The Online application facility will be closed on 10.11.2024.
Visit the CDFD website <http://www.cdfd.org.in> for detailed advertisement / general terms and conditions.

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT

Website: www.kride.in | Email ID: gmprocurement@kride.in
Date: 21.09.2024

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No.: KRIDE/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT25
Shifting of Electrical Utilities infringing proposed Corridor-1 of Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project between Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway station and Yelahanka Railway station.
Last date for submission of bids is 21/10/2024, IST 15:00 Hrs,
For details visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE
DIPR/CP/2139/20/2024-25
KridePrm KrideBsp kride_bsrp KRIDE.BSRP

EYE ON THE PRIZE

India consolidates top spot; Sri Lanka leapfrogs NZ



R. RAGU

India tightened its grip on the top spot in the World Test Championship table with a 280-run victory over Bangladesh, while Sri Lanka saw off New Zealand in Galle to help its move towards a potential spot in the final at Lord's next year. The two results have led to shifts in the race for the two final spots, with Sri Lanka leapfrogging into third spot.

STAR-STUDDED

Nadal and Alcaraz named in Spain's Davis Cup roster



GETTY IMAGES

Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz were named in Spain's roster for the Davis Cup Finals on Monday, raising the possibility of a renewal of their "Nadalcaraz" doubles partnership from the Paris Olympics. Spain will take on the Netherlands in the quarterfinal round of the Davis Cup Finals, an eight-team event (Nov. 19-24) in Malaga, Spain.

HIGH PRAISE

Bumrah arguably the best fast bowler across formats: Smith



R. RAGU

Seasoned Australian batter Steve Smith has spoken glowingly of Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. "He's a wonderful bowler, whether I face him with the new ball, slightly older ball, or even the old ball. He's arguably the best fast bowler across the three formats," Smith told *Star Sports*.

CHAMPION

Team Europe beats Team World to clinch the Laver Cup



GETTY IMAGES

Four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz overcame Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5 as Team Europe rallied to beat Team World 13-11 and win the Laver Cup on Sunday. Alcaraz broke U.S. Open runner-up Fritz in the 11th game and then closed out victory on serve, sparking celebrations as the Europe team rejoiced with captain Björn Borg in Berlin.

Hail the dazzling stars who have set the gold standard!

From Gukesh to Tania, the 10 brilliant Indian talents on display rose to the occasion, played their parts to perfection, and dominated the opposition to create history at Budapest

CHESS OLYMPIAD

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Chess has returned home, with twin gold.

India's men and women were crowned the planet's best nation in the mind sport at Budapest. These ten marvellous players made history at the Chess Olympiad.

D. Gukesh, 18, Chennai, World No. 7: He was a monster on the top board – where he took on India's toughest opponents – for two Olympiads in a row and won the individual gold on both occasions. He showed at Budapest why he is considered the favourite by many, including his opponent, for the upcoming World championship match against Ding Liren. He was brilliant against World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana of the United States and scored a Carlsenesque victory over Wei Yi of China. The two wins were crucial in India's march to the gold.

Arjun Erigaisi, 21, Warangal, World No. 4: A phenomenal talent, he was Virender Sehwag of the team at Budapest. He scored heavily on the third board. He was the highest-rated Indian player – yes, higher than Gukesh – was going to destroy his rivals. He did. He is among the



We are the champions! The victorious Indian squad is joy unbound as it proudly poses with the Hamilton-Russell Cup (for winning the Open), Vera Menchik Cup (Women's Olympiad), and the Gaprindashvili Cup awarded for the best combined result in both sections. FIDE

most creative players in the world. Like Sehwag, he excels in every format – long, short and the shortest.

R. Praggnanandhaa, 19, Chennai, World No. 12: Until Gukesh won the Candidates tournament in Toronto earlier this year and became the challenger for

the World championship, he was perhaps the most talked about young Indian chess player. His astonishing run to the final of the World Cup at Baku last year had caught the country's imagination. He wasn't in the best of form at the Olympiad on the second

board, but make no mistake, he could hit headlines soon.

Vidit Gujrathi, 29, Nashik, World No. 24: He already feels old looking at his teammates, but his career got a second wind when he won the FIDE Grand Swiss, one of the strongest open

tournaments of all time, after starting out as the 15th seed in the Isle of Man last year. The victory not merely gave him a place in the Candidates, but more energy.

India benefited from that at the Olympiad, where he was a solid per-

former on the fourth board.

P. Harikrishna, 38, Guntur, World No. 41: This was the 11th Olympiad for one of the most prodigious talents to have come out of India. Nobody deserved a maiden Olympiad medal more. He played on the re-

serve board and won two games and drew the other.

Divya Deshmukh, 18, Nagpur, World No. 15: From the tiny girl that won the National Under-9 girls' championship in Chennai, held during the 2013 World title match between Viswanathan Anand and Magnus

Carlsen, to the leading scorer for the Indian women's team at the Olympiad, where she played on the third board, she has come a long way. And she will go a long way. She is not only the World junior champion but also the World No. 1 among junior girls.

Vantika Agrawal, 21, Noida, World No. 75: She rose to the occasion just about every time India needed it. Her contribution on the fourth board was immense. **R. Vaishali, 23, Chennai, World No. 12:** It wasn't the best of Olympiads for her, and she fared worse than her younger brother Praggnanandhaa. But she did score some important points on the second board. She remains one of the fastest rising stars in women's chess.

D. Harika, 33, Hyderabad, World No. 11: India's strongest and most experienced player in the absence of Koneru Humpy may have struggled on the top board but scored 1.5 points from the last two rounds to ensure the gold for India.

Tania Sachdev, 38, New Delhi, World No. 58: More of a popular commentator and television presenter these days, she played on the reserve board and did what was asked of her. She remained unbeaten and scored 3.5 points from five rounds.

Vibrant start to India's red-ball season

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

After a long detour in the blue shade, the Indian team settled comfortably into Test whites.

The first Test against Bangladesh that concluded at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Sunday, helped Rohit Sharma's men tick most boxes on the performance front, a fact reiterated by the 280-run victory.

A triumph with a day to spare and the continuing number one status atop the World Test Championship points table, augur well.

Nearly all the batters got runs even if the senior trio of Rohit, Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul did not exactly set the scoreboard on fire but the last-named did reveal a good touch in the second dig.

This is a batting unit that has moved on from Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, and in the resultant mix of proven seniors and promising juniors, coach Gautam Gambhir is chasing an ideal blend that can carry India through the rest of the Test season. Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, centurion in the second innings, showed their mettle.



Proud skipper: Rohit will be extremely happy with Jadeja's all-round show as well as Pant's performance in his comeback Test. R. RAGU

The biggest gain would be the validation of the all-rounder zone that now features wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant and spinners R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. Gambhir had rightly pointed out that this Indian obsession around a seam-bowling all-rounder has been there since the time Kapil Dev retired. The former India opener hinted that there are other all-rounders too, especially in the spin department.

The troika of Ashwin, Jadeja and Pant, grant heft to the playing eleven, adding crucial runs, a fact evident at Chepauk. Ashwin's ton and his partnership with Jadeja in the first innings and Pant's century in the second outing, helped In-

dia move way beyond Bangladesh's reach.

Pant's has been a remarkable story. To leap out of a flaming car after a highway accident on December 30, 2022, and to go through hospital stints, rehabilitation and a long recovery process, were all a reflection of Pant's hunger to get back to a game he is extremely passionate about. M.S. Dhoni can never be replaced but India is lucky that it found Pant, another star, who can alter the course of the game.

With more Tests lined up, be it against Bangladesh and New Zealand at home and the ones in Australia, India has started well. As Anil Kumble would always say, you still

need 20 wickets to win a Test, and India did precisely that. An attack helmed by Jasprit Bumrah aptly backed by fellow speedsters Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep, and also featuring the deadly spin twins Ashwin and Jadeja, can be a nightmare to most rival batters.

The fielding too was spot-on through the clash. Sharp catches were taken, and there was no slackening in the outfield. As India moves to Kanpur for the second Test, Rohit's men get another chance to emphasise their superiority.

If the skipper and his senior ally Kohli could make their bats talk, the team would be primed to deliver another success.

Blame it on the batting, says Najmul after a mediocre show in first Test

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Following Bangladesh's 280-run loss to India in the first Test, skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto wanted the top-order to start delivering and blamed the first-innings collapse for the defeat.

"The batting in the first innings, especially at the top of the order, we must be a little (more) careful. We must put some runs, especially at the top of the order. That is one thing we will learn from this game," said Najmul.

"As a top-order batter, there will be a challenge. So, it is important how we cope. The batters are working on this, but the results are not coming. I hope it will come."

The captain, however, referred to the 62-run opening wicket partnership in the second essay as a positive that the team can take into the Kanpur Test.

Barring Najmul, who made 82 in the second innings, none of the visitors' batters scored a half-century in the match.

On his approach, the southpaw said: "I think the



Time to deliver: Najmul says the top-order has to cope with the challenge. R. RAGU

way I batted, that's how I bat in these conditions and against quality spinners. I was very clear with my plans. Everyone has a different (approach), and I hope they will plan (accordingly)."

While acknowledging India's strengths, the 26-year-old felt it was important not to focus too much on the hosts and wanted his team to focus on their abilities.



As a captain, I look at how much hard work a player puts into his game and how much he is willing to give to the team

NAJMUL

Hasan, who failed to take a wicket and leaked runs with an economy rate of over six in both innings.

When asked whether Shakib merited a place in the team, Najmul remarked: "Very brave question," before defending the star player.

"As a captain, I look at how much hard work a player puts into his game and how much he is willing to give to the team. Some might think I am saying it because the question concerns Shakib bhai."

"I try to look at everyone in the same way, whether Nahid Rana or Mushfiqur (Rahim). I am happy with how every member of this Test squad has prepared and been willing to give to the team," he explained.

IN BRIEF



SA pulls one back, denies Afghanistan a clean sweep

South Africa denied Afghanistan a series sweep with a seven-wicket win in the third and final ODI in Sharjah on Sunday. Aiden Markram's unbeaten 69 led South Africa to 170 for three with 17 overs to spare after Afghanistan collapsed for the first time in the series and was bowled out for 169 in 34 overs. Afghanistan won the series 2-1.

The scores: Afghanistan 169 in 34 overs (Gurbaz 89) lost to South Africa 170/3 in 33 overs (Markram 69 n.o.).

Yuki and Olivetti enter the final in China

Yuki Bhambhani and Albano Olivetti of France beat the second seeds Ivan Dodig and Rafael Matos in the doubles semifinals of the \$1,269,245 ATP tennis tournament in Chengdu, China, on Monday. Yuki and Albano will challenge the top seeds Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul of France in the final.

Other results: \$1,081,395 ATP, Hangzhou: Doubles (semifinals): Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Ariel Behar (Uru) & Robert Galloway (USA) 0-6, 6-2, [10-4].



Horschel, Ko and Ripper have terrific day outs

Billy Horschel became the first American to win the BMW PGA Championship twice when he holed an eagle to beat four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy in a playoff. McIlroy was runner-up for the third time since winning at Wentworth in 2014. He also finished second last week in the Irish Open. Lydia Ko turned a two-shot deficit into a five-shot victory with a 9-under 63 to win the Kroger Queen City Championship in Los Angeles for her third LPGA Tour title of the season. Ko won for the third time in her last four starts, which includes the Olympic gold medal that gave her enough points for the LPGA Hall of Fame. It also includes another Major in the Women's British Open, this one at St. Andrew's. Cameron Smith and Lucas Herbert delivered clutch putts late in the round to lead Australia-based Ripper to its first title in the LIV Golf League in Dallas. Ripper finished at 11-under 277, three shots ahead of 4Aces and Iron Heads.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs Australia: 3rd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 p.m.

LaLiga: gxr.world, 10.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Ice-cool Gabbia gives AC Milan bragging rights

The defender's header in the 89th minute seals the win over Inter in dramatic fashion; Roma fans protest the sacking of De Rossi as the team eases past Udinese

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Matteo Gabbia fired AC Milan to a stunning late derby win over Inter Milan on Sunday with a bullet header which earned his team a 2-1 win and local bragging rights, while Roma thumped Udinese 3-0 as fans protested the shock sacking of Daniele De Rossi.

Defender Gabbia rose highest to thump home Tijjani Reijnders' free-kick in the 89th minute.

Paulo Fonseca's side joined Inter on eight points in seventh place thanks to Gabbia's late winner, which came after Federico Dimarco had levelled Christian Pulisic's brilliant 10th-minute individual effort just before the half-hour mark.

Milan's win snapped Inter's run of consecutive derby victories at six and stopped its rival from taking the top spot in Serie A on goal difference ahead of surprise early league leader Torino.

Manchester City defender Manuel Akanji said Arsenal has become masters of the "dark arts" but is



Making a difference: Gabbia came in clutch in the Milan derby. REUTERS

bullish over his team's Premier League title chances after a gripping 2-2 draw.

The champion needed a John Stones equaliser deep into stoppage-time to level against the 10-man Gunners in a full-blooded contest on Sunday.

Relief

That brought relief for City after a frustrating second period in which the visitor had sat back to protect a 2-1 lead earned before Leandro Trossard was sent off.

City forward Bernardo Silva accused Mikel Arteta's side of "time-wasting" while Stones was also criti-

cal of the visitors' approach.

"You can call it clever or dirty, whichever way you want to put it, but they break up the game which upsets the rhythm," he told the BBC.

When Switzerland international Akanji was asked if Arsenal had mastered the game's "dark arts", he replied: "Yes, I don't think there are many better than them at it. But in the end we always won the title and I don't think it's going to be different this year."

Meanwhile, Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen left the field on a

stretcher after sustaining a knee injury in a 5-1 win over Villarreal in the Spanish league on Sunday.

He is facing a long spell on the sidelines after his club said on Monday that he sustained a "complete rupture" of a tendon that requires surgery.

The results:

LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 1 (Palazon 35) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Gallagher 49).

Serie A: Inter Milan 1 (Dimarco 27) lost to AC Milan 2 (Pulisic 10, Gabbia 89); Monza 1 (Djuric 43) lost to Bologna 2 (Urbanski 24, Castro 80); Roma 3 (Dovbyk 19, Dybala 49-pen, Balanzani 70) bt Udinese 0.

Outsider Imperia runs to glory in K. Srinivas Reddy Memorial Cup

RACING

HYDERABAD: The 10-to-1 long-shot Imperia, ridden by P. Ajesh Kumar, upset the odds by defeating the hot favourite Uchchaishravas to win the K. Srinivas Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Sept. 23) races.

The winner is owned by M/s. Kapil Agarwal & Shailendra Singh and trained by Anant Vatsalya.

1. LADY IN LACE PLATE: ASSURED SUCCESS (Ajay Kumar) 1, Ambitious Star (Md. Ekram) 2, Fortunatus (Kuldeep Jr.) 3 and Federer (P. Ajesh K) 4. Not run: Taaliyah.

2. NALGONDA PLATE: ROLLS ROYCE (R.S. Jodha) 1, Blazing Saddle (P. Sai K) 2, Varaseek Gold (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Newfound Glory (Santosh Raj) 4. 6-1/4, 2 and 4-3/4. Im, 29.72s. ₹26 (w), 13, 40

and 10 (p). SHP: 122, THP: 44, SHW: 22 and 98, FP: 245, Q: 260, Tanala: 3,004. Favourite: Bellingham. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Sathesh.

3. TAJ MAHAL PLATE: CALISTA GIRL (Gaurav Singh) 1, Sangreal (P. Sai K) 2, Divine Connection (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Shadow Fax (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. 2, 2-1/4 and 1/2. Im, 8.31s. ₹112 (w), 18, 14 and 18 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 58, SHW: 37 and 26, FP: 471, Q: 166, Tanala: 2,541. Favourite: Shadow Fax. Owners: Kunwar Digvijay Singh Shekhawat, Mr. N. Shyam Sunder & Mr. Sreeramulu Bommesetty. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

4. MAJOR GENERAL NAWAB KHUSRU JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II): ARIETTE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Challenger (Md. Ekram) 2, Hoping Star (Mohit) 3 and Vital Sign (Abhay Singh) 4. 2-3/4, Neck and 3-1/2. Im, 15.88s. ₹16 (w), 10, 13 and 10 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 42, SHW: 15 and 26, FP: 51, Q: 41, Tanala: 115. Favourite: Ariette. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Shapoor P. Mistry, rep. Mantri Horse Breeders Farm Pvt. Ltd., & Mr. Anil V. Poduval. Trainer: N.

Rawal.

5. K. SRINIVAS REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: IMPERIA (P. Ajesh Kumar) 1, Uchchaishravas (Suraj Narredu) 2, Decoy (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Sun Dancer (Likhit Appu) 4. 4-3/4, 2-1/2 and 3. Im, 27.99s. ₹71 (w), 12, 10 and 14 (p). SHP: 20, THP: 39, SHW: 43 and 10, FP: 175, Q: 56, Tanala: 506. Favourite: Uchchaishravas. Owners: M/s. Kapil Agarwal & Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya.

6. GIMCRACK PLATE: ANEMOI (Akshay Kumar) 1, Definite (P. Ajesh K) 2, Politics (Arjun) 3 and Pair Of Wings (Mohit) 4. Not run: Master Touch and Shubhrahk. 3, 3/4 and 2-1/2. Im, 45.42s. ₹27 (w), 10, 25 and 22 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 37, SHW: 22 and 24, FP: 340, Q: 157, Tanala: 792. Favourite: London Bell. Owners: M/s. Vara Prasad Reddy & D.N. Kemppegowda. Trainer: N. Rawal.

Jackpot: 70%; ₹9,876 (28 tkts.) & 30%; 1,209 (98 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 3,032 (20 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 1,741 (19 tkts.), (ii) 283 (195 tkts.).

Jayasuriya's five-wicket haul wraps up proceedings quickly

Agence France-Presse
GALLE

Prabath Jayasuriya took five wickets to steer Sri Lanka to a 63-run victory on Monday over New Zealand on the final morning of the first Test here.

Set a target of 275, the Black Caps were bowled out for 211 less than 15 minutes after play resumed from overnight, with Rachin Ravindra top-scoring on 92. His knock was the highest score by a New Zealander at the ground, eclipsing Ross Taylor's 89 in 2019.

But the slender path to victory he had opened was snapped shut when Jayasu-



Spinning a web: Jayasuriya had the Kiwi batters in a bind. AP

riya trapped him lbw while trying to defend on the back foot, having only added a single run to the overnight total.

Jayasuriya, who took nine wickets across the

match and finished the second innings five for 68.

The scores: Sri Lanka 305 & 309 bt New Zealand 340 & 211 in 71.4 overs (Rachin 92, Williamson 30, Blundell 30, Jayasuriya 5/68).

PoM: Jayasuriya.

Karnataka gets the better of NCoE; Railways posts win over Maharashtra

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Karnataka's performance in the previous edition of the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament was a revelation, reaching the final.

The team captured everyone's attention with a robust display, excelling in both field play and penalty corners. However, in the ongoing 95th edition here, Karnataka hasn't been its former self, unable to assert its influence.

Brace each

On Monday, it eked out a hard-fought 4-3 win over NCoE (Bhopal) - thanks to a brace each from Abharan Sudev and C.J. Rahul - in a Pool-B match for its first victory in three matches.

Earlier in Pool-A, defending champion Indian Railways defeated Maha-



Twin strikes: Rahul was the star performer for Karnataka against NCoE, Bhopal. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

rashtra 3-2.

NCoE came to the tournament with a reputation to defend, having won the Lakshmi Ammal memorial tournament in Kovilpatti in June. It hasn't done well so far, losing two of its three ties.

It was NCoE that opened the account as early as in the seventh minute through its reliable captain Faraz Md., who converted

from a penalty corner. Karnataka hit back quickly through Abharan Sudev and Rahul.

Rahul made it 3-1 with a back-push from close to the goalkeeper.

NCoE came close to scoring in the closing stages of the third quarter and the start of the fourth quarter through penalty corners that could have, perhaps, changed the

complexion of the match. But Karnataka's custodian A.C. Subramani came up with some timely saves.

The results:

A: Indian Railways 3 (Yuvraj Walmiki 13, Simranjot Singh 40, Shivam Anand 47) bt Maharashtra 2 (Rohan Patil 59, Venkatesh Kenche 60).

B: Karnataka 4 (Abharan Sudev 12 & 47, C.J. Rahul 13 & 40) bt NCoE 3 (Faraz Md. 7, Mohan Singla 46, Gopi Kumar Sonka 49).

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant went down twice before recovering brilliantly to turn the tables on NorthEast United for a 3-2 win in an ISL fixture at home in the Salt Lake Stadium here on Monday.

The home team secured full points thanks to Jason Cummings' goal in the final quarter of the match.

On the attack

NorthEast United FC began in right earnest and showed an attacking mindset to dominate in the opening half.

The trio of Alaeddine Ajarai, Guillermo Fernandez and Jithin M.S. put Mohun Bagan on the defensive right from the start.

The visiting team domi-



On target: Subhasish scores Bagan's second goal against NEUFC. DEBASISH BHADURI

nated proceedings in the initial phase and deservedly got the lead in the fifth minute as midfielder Mohammed Bemmamer found the net with a thunderous shot.

Stung by the reverse, Mohun Bagan regrouped quickly and found the equaliser in the 10th minute when its young defen-

der Dipendu Biswas rose to nod home a Dimitri Petros free-kick.

A resilient NorthEast United regained the lead due to a fantastic finish from Ajarai in the 24th minute.

The visitor kept the lead till the 61st minute before Mohun Bagan equalised again through a controver-

sial goal from Subhasish Bose.

Jason Cummings came in as a late substitute to find the winner in the 87th minute for Mohun Bagan.

The result: Mohun Bagan SG 3 (Dipendu Biswas 10, Subhasish Bose 61, Jason Cummings 87) bt NorthEast United FC 2 (Mohammed Bemmamer 5, Alaeddine Ajarai 24).

County stint has helped me tackle the swinging and seaming deliveries

In India, not every ball will swing or seam; a very random ball or an occasional ball does that; but in England, every ball does; you will have to be even more patient and you will have to be even more technically strong; more basics have to be right and I feel because of that, it has given me the experience of playing in such conditions



B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM, GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

B. SAI SUDHARSAN

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

B. Sai Sudharsan is one cricketer whose stock has risen meteorically in the last few years. The Tamil Nadu left-hander, who made his India debut last year, represented India-C in the recently concluded Duleep Trophy. In a chat at the Rural Development Trust (RDT) Stadium B-ground in Anantapur recently, he spoke at length about his career and ambitions. Excerpts:

Before a day's play, you face underarm throwdowns at the nets. Why?

Actually, underarm and drop ball are very difficult to play. For that, basics are more important. If things are right, only then you can play underarm and the drop ball well. Otherwise, you will find it difficult to execute every ball well. I follow a lot of routines while facing underarm, a few things I have learnt over a period of years. So, I had been working on that.

That's part of your nets routine, is it?

Yes. Whenever I go back after a tournament or whenever I play between matches, I try and play a lot of underarm, so that all my basics are always right.

What does drop ball mean?

Drop ball is basically a person feeding you, just drops the ball. It won't be like underarm. He will stand near you. He will just drop the ball like that. It's a kind of a drill.

Can you be more specific about how it's helping you?

I said I have a routine. When I face underarm, I will focus more on the balance. I will focus more on alignment. Focus more on timing. Focus more on very small things. Like, being more smoother, shoulders working together, wrists working

together. Very small, small things. But I think it helps your batting and the basics will always be intact. It won't change over a period of time.

Because, we also play T20 and one-day cricket. We play in different conditions. Because of that, the requirement is as such that it (the basics) tends to change. So, whenever we come back, I try and work on the basics more.

You scored your maiden ton (105, 178b, 10x4, 1x6) in English County cricket for Surrey against Nottinghamshire. What are your biggest learnings from your stints in the County championship?

It's a very vast question. I feel that earlier when I used to play in swinging or seaming conditions, I used to have that kind of fear where there is a newness whenever I go in. But over a period of time now... last year, one month I spent (in England). This year, a few times I went. Two months ago, I went for one game, and now I went for two games. I feel because of that the familiarity of the balls is there. If you go there, every ball swings. Every other ball swings. Every other ball seams off the wicket. So, (there's the development of) the habit of playing according to that, rather than getting surprised when we come in.

In India, not every ball will swing or seam. A very random ball or an occasional ball does that. But there, every ball does. So you will have to be even more patient. You will have to be even more technically strong. More basics have to be right. So, I feel because of that, it has given me the experience of playing in seaming and obviously swinging conditions. When we come back, it doesn't feel new when we play on a green wicket or a seaming wicket. Even the first game (against India-D), when we played on a seaming wicket (at the 'A' ground here), I felt I had some idea to play towards it. Yes, the result didn't go the way we wanted. But still, the approach was better. The mindset towards approaching the game was better.

You batted at No. 6 for that hundred. Was it a new experience for you?

I mean definitely very new. I've never

batted below No. 4. So, that was a different experience and challenge. Because, you need to play with all-rounders. You need to play with the bowlers. And taking more responsibility and more chances than them. So, it was a new experience for me and hopefully it worked well.

And you brought up your hundred with a six, actually. Being a classical batter, that's something one wouldn't think of you to do.

Even I wouldn't think about it (chuckles). No, it was nine down. And obviously, I was forced to. Because, nine fielders were outside. We were planning to declare soon also. Only chance for me was getting a boundary. It was like, only if I hit a boundary, would I be able to get my hundred. It was the first or second ball of the over. Again, we wanted more overs to bowl. So, I took a chance.

The winning hundred (123 n.o.,

56b, 9x4, 9x6) you hit in a 201-run chase in Qualifier-1 for Lyca Kovai Kings (LKK) versus Dindigul Dragons (DD) in the 2024 Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) in July was breathtaking to watch. You went berserk in the end. How did you approach that innings?

I think, definitely, it was a special innings, to be honest. Because, when I came back (from National duty in Zimbabwe), I didn't score for a few innings. And when I came into that game, when you play that kind of an innings and help the team win, that's more special than anything.

But I think it was very normal compared to every other game. I approached the game really normally. But one great thing which happened was, I think I just let go that game really well, so that my only thought process was to make the team win and go to the final. That was the only thought process, rather than playing the situation. Yes, of course, playing

the situation and everything was there. But still, the ultimate goal was just to make the team win. There was nothing personal, nothing about anything else. So, I think that helped me react better, be better there.

You were on the cusp of making it to the India squad for the Dharamshala Test against England in March. But you were unfortunate since you had picked up an injury then. Now, with the Duleep Trophy, you are back in the red-ball fold. Do you look at it as a great opportunity to push your case?

As a cricketer, this is a great platform and opportunity, where it feels like a Test match every game we play. Even the last game we played, it completely felt like a Test match - the quality we faced and the conditions in which we played. So, I feel that is exposing us as cricketers to many different conditions. And I feel that it is helping me personally to get better as a batter. Obviously, if you get better in red ball, you can expand your batting in all formats. So, I feel this is one of the difficult formats to play for sure. And it is a test for everybody. So, obviously, I would love to play for the country whenever possible. And especially in red ball, because that has been a dream for everybody to get that Test cap. So, definitely looking forward.

You do laps of the ground after a day's play. You keep hitting the nets to have your basics intact. Last October, you returned from County cricket in England to Rajkot the night before the Irani Cup match and straightaway opened the batting for Rest of India the next morning. Are you a person who believes in grinding harder? You don't feel the need to rest?

No, I take rest, definitely. Over a period, I have understood that taking rest is also very important. But I 200 per cent believe in it (the grind). Because, that's the one which is giving everything to us. I think that consistency will in the future set you apart, where you can exponentially get better. I think that consistency is very important. That is what I'm striving for.



Massive Greenland landslide sent seismic waves around earth for 9 days

One year ago, roughly 25 million cubic metres of ice and rock splashed into the Dickson Fjord in Greenland and displaced the water enough to give rise to a 200-metre high mega-tsunami; in this way, a melting glacier led to a planet-wide tremor, and researchers warn that it may not be the last

T.V.Venkateswaran

On September 16, 2023, several seismic stations worldwide detected a bizarre signal. Earthquakes are not rare. In 2023 alone, 1,712 earthquakes of magnitude 5 or more were registered worldwide. But these seismic waves were puzzling; the signatures clearly indicated that earthquakes had not caused them, and the reverberations lasted for a staggering nine days.

A mysterious ringing

“We saw it on sensors everywhere, from the Arctic to Antarctica,” Stephen Hicks, a computational seismology research fellow at University College London, and Kristian Svennevig, senior researcher at the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, wrote in a recent article. They are coauthors of the study reporting their findings, published in *Science* on September 12.

When you play the violin, you yank multiple strings together, which emit sounds at a mix of frequencies. Seismic waves from earthquakes behave the same way. However, the hum the seismologists recorded had only one frequency – like only one string of the violin had been plucked. That is not characteristic of tremors.

At first, the seismologists classified this wave as a “USO”, an unidentified seismic object. “Even more puzzling was that the signal kept going for nine days,” Hicks and Svennevig wrote. Earthquake vibrations also produce aftershocks. But in this case, the reverberations faded more slowly than one might anticipate from an earthquake.

A global effort

What set off the tremble? Only powerful events like volcano eruptions or clandestine nuclear weapons tests could unleash this much energy. Seismologists were intrigued.

To resolve the enigma, more than 68 researchers from 40 universities in 15 countries teamed up across disciplines. After piecing together numerous datasets and using computer simulations, the team realised the waves were caused by a massive landslide on the banks of the Dickson Fjord in Greenland.

According to Hicks and Svennevig, “solving this mystery required putting many diverse pieces of evidence together, from a treasure trove of seismic data to satellite imagery, in-fjord water level monitors, and detailed simulations” of how the water reacted.

The team even had to obtain a classified army bathymetric map of the fjord from the Danish Navy. It took about a year to assemble the jigsaw pieces and get the complete picture.

Rocks in the water

A fjord is a geological structure created when glaciers erode a valley below sea level and the sea water floods it. They frequently feature U-shaped channels that stretch well inland, surrounded by high cliffs or hills.

A series of events, starting with the collapse of Hvide Støvhorn peak, located approximately 1.2 km from the fjord, culminated in a mega-tsunami. The rockslide rolling down gained momentum and shattered the glacier, resulting in a rock-ice avalanche. According to the



Melting away: Icebergs seen at the mouth of the Jakobshavn ice fjord near Ilulissat in Greenland. FILE PHOTO

authors, the avalanche triggered a submarine landslide. Roughly 25 million cubic metres of ice and rock, enough to fill 10,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools, splashed into the fjord, displacing the water enough to give rise to a 200-metre-high mega-tsunami, nearly three times the height of the iconic Srirangam Temple in Tamil Nadu.

Slushing waves

The mega-tsunami did not kill anyone but it damaged an unstaffed research facility on the island of Ella, some 72 km away, as well as monuments of cultural and archaeological importance in the area.

A tsunami’s waves in an ocean would have spread and dispersed. But in the 540-metre-deep and 2.7-km-wide fjord, the waves were reflected back and forth by the opposing banks. The rebounding waves reached a height of almost 110 metres.

This back-and-forth slushing in the fjord is called a seiche. About five minutes after the material plunged into the water, the waves settled slowly into a seiche with a maximum amplitude of 7.4 m and a dominant frequency of 11.45 MHz, oscillating every 90 seconds.

For more than nine days, the waves in the Dickson Fjord kept up their dance, moving from side to side around 10,000

For more than nine days, the waves in the Dickson Fjord kept up their dance, moving from side to side around 10,000 times

times. These oscillations matched the strange waves the seismic stations had recorded.

The alarm bell

The ice-rock avalanche and the waves’ motions rang the earth’s surface like a gong, and the reverberations spread across the globe, causing the entire earth to ring like a bell.

Researchers also examined the cause of the enormous landslide. Before the collapse, the ice at the glacier’s foot had supported the rocky slopes. Satellite pictures and other data revealed the foot had been shrinking rapidly the last few decades thanks to global warming. As the ice thawed, it could not support the weight at the top. The rock breached it and slid violently downslope, concluding with the mega-tsunami.

“It is a stark reminder that we are navigating uncharted waters,” Hicks and Svennevig wrote. “Just a year ago, the idea that a seiche could persist for nine days would have been dismissed as

absurd. Similarly, a century ago, the notion that warming could destabilise slopes in the Arctic, leading to massive landslides and tsunamis happening almost yearly, would have been considered far-fetched. Yet these once-unthinkable events are now becoming our new reality.”

Nature’s earthshakers

A melting glacier led to a planet-wide tremor, and it may not be the last.

Arctic and subarctic regions are warming at a pace two- to three-times that of the rest of the planet. As the ice cover melts, the darker rock surfaces are exposed. They absorb more light, leading to faster melting of the ice cover in the Arctic. And we can expect glacial melting will only increase the rate of ice-related landslides.

“This certainly won’t be the last such landslide mega-tsunami,” Hicks and Svennevig cautioned. “As permafrost on steep slopes continues to warm and glaciers continue to thin we can expect these events to happen more often and on an even bigger scale across the world’s polar and mountainous regions.” (T.V. Venkateswaran is a science communicator and visiting faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali. tvl23@gmail.com)



A white rhino calf next to its mother at Buin zoo in Santiago, Chile, on April 7. AFP

Number of rhinos slightly increases, but so does threat of poaching

Associated Press

The rhinoceros population across the world has increased slightly but so have the killings, mostly in South Africa, as poaching fed by huge demand for rhino horns remains a top threat, conservationists said in a new report.

The number of white rhinos increased from 15,942 in 2022 to 17,464 in 2023, but the black and greater one-horned rhino stayed the same, according to the report published by the International Rhino Foundation ahead of World Rhino Day on September 22.

Another subspecies, the northern white rhino, is technically extinct with only two females being kept in a secure private conservancy in Kenya. A trial is ongoing to develop embryos in the lab

With all five subspecies combined, there are just under 28,000 rhinos left in the world, from 5,00,000 at the beginning of the 20th century

from an egg and sperm previously collected from white rhinos and transferring it into a surrogate female black rhino.

A total of 586 rhinos were killed in Africa in 2023, most of them in South Africa, which has the highest population of rhinos at an estimated 16,056. The killings increased from 551 reported in 2022, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

With all five subspecies combined, there are just under 28,000 rhinos left in the world, from 5,00,000 at the beginning of the 20th century.

Rhinos face various environmental threats like habitat loss due to development and climate change. But poaching, based on the belief that their horns have medicinal uses, remains the top threat.

Philip Muruthi, the vice president for species conservation at the Africa Wildlife Foundation, said protection has played a big role in increasing rhino population. In Kenya, their numbers rose from 380 in 1986 to 1,000 last year, he said. “Why has that happened? Because the rhinos were brought into sanctuaries and were protected.”

Muruthi advocates for a campaign that will end the demand for rhino horn and adopt new technologies to track and monitor rhinos for their protection while also educating communities on the benefits of rhinos to the ecosystem and the economy.

Known as mega herbivores that mow the parks and create inroads for other herbivores, rhinos are also good for establishing forests by ingesting seeds and spreading them across the parks in their dung. Muruthi lamented that the northern white rhino should have never gotten so close to the brink of extinction.

The body of the last male northern white rhino, named Sudan, that died in 2018 has been preserved and displayed at the Museums of Kenya in Nairobi.

A research scientist and curator of mammals at the museum, Bernard Agwanda, said preserving Sudan will tell the story of how the species lived among humans and why conservation is important.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Unearthing the science of archaeology

Siva Shakthi A.

QUESTION 1

The term ____ reveals details about the composition and depositional environment of a rock, helping geologists interpret ancient landscapes and climate conditions by analysing the rock’s characteristics. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

Name the robust archaeological technique predominantly used to map and detect subsurface features. It can’t be used very well in conductive soils like dense clay and salt marshes, where signal penetration and resolution are considerably reduced.

QUESTION 3

In archaeology, ____ refers to determining the age of artefacts in relation to one another, using methods like seriation, which arranges items based on changes in style or frequency

of different events over time. On the other hand, ____ refers to determining a specific chronological age using techniques like radiocarbon dating or dendrochronology. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4

What archaeological method – initially devised for geophysical studies, rooted in the principles of electricity, and explored by scientists in the late 16th century – measures how electrical currents interact with subsurface materials to locate and map buried structures?

QUESTION 5

What groundbreaking technology, which allows researchers to extract and sequence the genetic material from excavated ancient remains, was first successfully applied in archaeology to study Neanderthal fossils, significantly advancing our understanding of human evolution and ancient populations?



Visual question: Name this 17th century Danish scientist known for formulating the laws of stratigraphy, based on which he proposed that the earth’s crust evolved in a series of events over time. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Answers to September 17 quiz:

1. Concept requiring scientific theories to be capable of being proven wrong – Ans: **Falsifiability**
 2. Historian who described changes in science with paradigm changes – Ans: **Thomas Kuhn**
 3. Quantum mechanics interpretation against which Popper argued – Ans: **Copenhagen interpretation**
 4. Popper’s influential 1934 book – Ans: **The Logic of Scientific Discovery**
 5. Belief that science could establish truths with empirical studies alone – Ans: **Inductivism**
- Visual: **Johannes Kepler**

First contact:

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

For feedback and suggestions for ‘Science’, please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject ‘Daily page’