



**THE WORLD**



**TRUMP AND HARRIS HEAD TO N CAROLINA IN FINAL WEEKEND OF POLL CAMPAIGN**

**KHAMENEI WARNS OF 'CRUSHING RESPONSE' PAGE 10**

**All in family: From MVA to Mahayuti, parties ride on key first-timers**



**Former NCP minister Nawab Malik's daughter Sana, MNS chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit among those in fray**

**VALLABH OZARKAR & ALOK DESHPANDE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 2**

**DYNASTS DOMINATE** the candidate lists of every major party in contention for the November 20 Maharashtra Assembly elections, with both the incumbent Mahayuti and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalitions fielding many nominees belonging to influential political families across the state. While Mahayuti comprises the BJP, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-headed Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP, the MVA consists of the Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP).

In the Mahayuti camp, of the state's 288 Assembly seats, BJP has fielded 152 candidates, Shinde Sena 78 and Ajit NCP 52. From MVA, Congress has put up 104 candidates, Uddhav Sena 96 and Pawar Sena 87.

There are many debutants in the fray who belong to various influential political families in the state. While BJP, Congress, and NCP (SP) have each fielded at least 9 first-timer dynasts, Shinde Sena,

**DECISION 2024**



● **Rebel woes:** BJP worst hit, parties rush to pacify leaders  
 ● **Cong-BJP direct fights** in 76 seats hold key to next Maharashtra govt

PAGE 8

**SUMMONS OTTAWA DIPLOMAT, LODGES PROTEST**

**India slams Canada charge against Shah, warns of 'serious consequences' for ties**

Our consular officials under surveillance, their communications intercepted... facing harassment: MEA

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

**DAYS AFTER** senior members of the Trudeau administration alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was behind a campaign to target Khalistan separatists based in Canada, India has lodged a protest "in the strongest terms" through diplomatic channels, calling the allegations "absurd and baseless".

And in remarks suggesting further strain in relations, New Delhi has warned Ottawa that "such irresponsible actions will

have serious consequences for bilateral ties".

Responding to questions at a media briefing Saturday, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "We had summoned the representative of the Canadian High Commission yesterday. A Diplomatic Note was handed over in reference to the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security in Ottawa on October 29, 2024."

"It was conveyed in the Note that the Government of India protests in the strongest terms to



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau at a Diwali event in Ontario. PTI

the absurd and baseless references made to the Union Home Minister of India before the Committee by Deputy Minister David Morrison," he said.

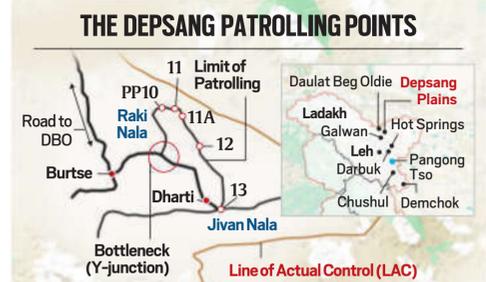
"In fact, the revelation that high Canadian officials deliberately leak unfounded insinuations to the international media as part of a conscious strategy to discredit India and influence other nations only confirms the view the Government of India has long held about the current Canadian Government's political agenda and behavioural pattern. Such irresponsible actions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**ALONG LAC IN EASTERN LADAKH**

**Govt: Patrolling has commenced on agreed terms in Depsang, Demchok**

Dialogue mechanisms will be used to stabilise, rebuild ties, says MEA



**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

**THE GOVERNMENT** Saturday confirmed "verification patrolling has commenced on mutually agreed terms in Demchok and Depsang" along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh as part of an agreement between India and China to reduce tensions in the region while they look to repair bilateral ties.

The agreement restores Indian access to its patrolling points in the Depsang Plains not far from Daulat Beg Oldie, India's northern outpost near the Karakoram Pass, and Demchok in the southeast of Ladakh. The announcement on re-

**GOVT & POLITICS**

**NEPAL PM PICKS CHINA FOR FIRST BILATERAL VISIT P 5**

sumption of patrolling in the Depsang Plains came a day after Indian Army sources confirmed that "coordinated patrolling" had begun in the Demchok area where the Chinese had been squatting at Charding Nullah. In the Depsang Plains, the PLA had cut off Indian access to five patrolling points — PP 10, 11, 11A, 12, 13.

Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said the announcement on re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



During a gunfight between security forces and militants in Khanyar area of downtown Srinagar on Saturday. Shuaib Masoodi

**FOUR CRPF, POLICE PERSONNEL INJURED**

**Lashkar commander among 3 killed in Srinagar, Anantnag gunbattles**

Foreign militant was involved in killing of inspector in 2023

**NAVEED IQBAL**  
 SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 2

**A LASHKAR-E-TAIBA** commander, who the police have identified as Usman Lashkari, was killed in an encounter that broke out in Srinagar's Khanyar area early Friday morning.

Inspector General, J&K Police (Kashmir Zone), V K Birdi said that four security personnel —

two each from the J&K Police and the CRPF — were injured in the day-long encounter. They were admitted to Army's 92 Base Hospital and are stable, officials said.

According to the police, the foreign militant killed in the encounter, Usman, had been active in Srinagar for the last few months. The IGP said that he was involved in the killing of inspector Masroor Wani, who was shot

in the Eidgah area of Srinagar while playing cricket on October 29 last year. He died at AIIMS, Delhi in December.

In a statement earlier in the day, the Jammu and Kashmir police said that "a cordon and search operation in Khanyar has resulted in an exchange of fire", and that "police and security forces are on the job".

In a separate encounter, two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**13-MTH LOW IN OCT, SET TO PICK UP IN NOV**

**Crude imports fall amid refinery shutdowns and West Asia tension**

**SUKALP SHARMA**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

**INDIA'S CRUDE** oil imports in October declined to a 13-month low amid maintenance-related shutdowns at some refineries and the geopolitical crisis in West Asia which led to fears of high volatility in international oil prices. Consequently, import vol-

umes from the top five suppliers — Russia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States — declined sequentially, according to ship tracking data.

In October, Indian refiners cumulatively imported 4.35 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude, down 7.6 per cent month-on-month, according to provisional

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**OVER 250 HIRED FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES INCLUDING THE BIG 4**

**Rural Development Dept keen to rationalise pay for its consultants**

**SHYAMLAL YADAV**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

**THE DEPARTMENT** of Rural Development, which has taken over 250 consultants on contract, has set up a committee to suggest "measures for rationalisation" of emoluments being paid to them. The committee, chaired by Additional Secretary T K Anil Kumar is expected to submit its report in November, sources told *The Indian Express*. It will "examine the present

emoluments being paid to consultants in different program divisions and suggest measures for rationalisation of such emoluments for the department", the sources said.

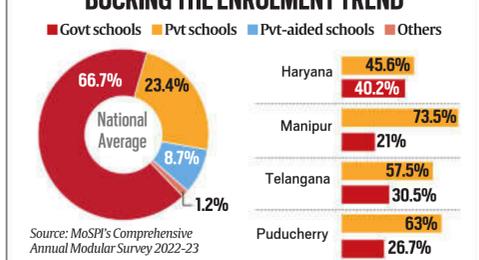
The committee was set up following a report submitted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) last year to the Department of Rural Development. An academician involved in the IIPA said, "We have suggested following certain SOPs (Standard Operating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**EXPLAINED Govt eye on pay, capacity**

**THE GOVT** wants to be sure rules are followed while paying top salaries to consultants from external agencies. At another level, the government is also keen to build human resource capacities within.

**BUCKING THE ENROLMENT TREND**



states continue to buck this trend. In Classes 1 to 5, Haryana, Manipur, Telangana, and Puducherry (Union Territory) have more children studying in private schools than in government ones, according to the Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) 2022-23, released last month.

This survey, the first of its kind, confirms findings of the 2021-22 UDISE survey (Unified District Information System for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Private, not Govt, is primary school for children in Haryana, Manipur, Telangana**

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

**WHILE GOVERNMENT** schools continue to enrol the majority of school-going children nationwide, the most recent data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) on primary school enrolment reveals that three

**PATANJALI**

Call to protect the nation, mother cow and Sanatan Dharma  
 Patanjali's Swadeshi campaign is the only solution

Spirit of nation building drives Patanjali which offers every item needed from morning to evening in the day-to-day life. Thus, there's no need to make yourself and the country sick and helpless by bringing ordinary quality and substandard items to your home. Join Patanjali yourself and make at least ten others join it. Please spread all the facts and truths given here to millions of people and uphold your yoga dharma, national dharma and Sanatan dharma.

**Choose the Best** Why should you use the costly and mostly chemical-based products of foreign companies when you have the option of choosing the best Patanjali Chyawanprash, Patanjali Honey that meets more than 100 parameters of purity, and the best Patanjali cow ghee that meets 60 types of quality parameters, Patanjali milk biscuits which are made with cow milk and free from refined flour and unhealthy fats, 100% pure mustard oil, all spices and all high quality items of kitchen and bathroom; like the best hair care- Kesh Kanti, the best dental care- Dant Kanti, the best skin care- Aloe Vera, the best floor cleaner Gonyle etc. besides food and HPC products.

**Patanjali's contribution to national service** Patanjali is the only such institution in India, whose basic principle is 'Prosperity for charity'. The ultimate beneficiary of Patanjali company is the country. Yogirishi Swami Ramdev, Pujya Acharya Balkrishna and hundreds of learned and capable sanyasis at Patanjali have devoted their entire life in the service of Mother India. Such example cannot be found even in the slightest in any foreign company. As an aware citizen of this country, ponder over what the MNCs running empires worth lakhs of crores of rupees are doing for the country? The countrymen must ask what many Indian and foreign companies have done for the country.

**Account of what you took and what we gave** When you bought Patanjali Cow Ghee, then we succeeded in serving lakh of cows. When you bought food products, Chyawanprash, Honey and products like Dant Kanti, Kesh Kanti, Aloe Vera Gel etc., we gave you the world's best Gurukul. World class institutions, worth thousands of crores of rupees, viz. the Patanjali Acharyakulam, Patanjali University (NAAC A+), Patanjali Gaushala, Patanjali Research Centre, could be established with your contributions, support and blessings to engage in the service of the people of Mother India. However, adversaries of Yoga, Ayurveda and Sanatan remain engaged in plotting to defame Patanjali.

**Appeal to 100 crore Indians** Adopt yoga and make others do it and take forward Patanjali's Swadeshi campaign with full force. We assure you that we will continue to carry forward hundreds of works in the service of Mother India and humanity and will one day definitely make India a supremely prosperous country by eradicating economic slavery, and slavery of education, healthcare, ideology and cultural subjugation etc.

**Patanjali is not in business, it is doing good deeds and treatment** Patanjali has made hundreds of research and evidence based medicines and has treated crores of people suffering from diseases of liver, kidney, brain and heart, cancer as well as BP, diabetes, obesity, arthritis, asthma and disturbance of vata-pitta-kapha tridoshas etc. Publication of Patanjali's research papers in high impact research journals has for the first time lent Ayurvedic medicines the status of research and evidence based medicine. People suffering from chronic diseases must visit their nearest Patanjali centre once to get complete relief from the diseases. Also, they should come to Haridwar for seven days to rejuvenate their life. Healthy people must also come to Haridwar to live long through yoga, Ayurveda, panchkarma, shatkarma, and naturopathy treatments. Learn the eternal values and principles of Yoga, Ayurveda and Sanatan Dharma by watching Swami Ji's live program on Aastha Channel from 5 AM to 7:30 AM and 8 PM to 9:30 PM every day, and on India TV at 8 AM.

For treatment at Patanjali Wellness and Yoggram, call:- 8954666111, 8954666222, 8954666333 (Working Hours: 6 AM to 10 PM)

Get special discount of 20% till Chhath Puja

**DOWNLOAD APP**

- VISUAL STORIES
- DAILY BRIEFING
- PODCASTS
- CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE

Indian Express  
★★★★ 4.6

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



**THE DEMOCRATS: HOW FORMER ADVOCATES OF SLAVERY BECAME A PARTY FOR BLACK AND IMMIGRANT VOTERS**

The Democratic Party has nominated Kamala Harris to run for President of the United States. Yet, this party carries the weight of its history of defending slavery.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**SHAH RUKH KHAN'S FAN**

It showed fans the man behind the star – and they weren't ready for it

**UPSC ESSENTIALS**

Scan the QR code and get 'the express edge' in your civil services preparation with our UPSC specials

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Is India neglecting its indigenous spirits?**

The Sandip Roy Show: While whiskey, wine, and gin have witnessed a kind of renaissance in India over the past few years, the same hasn't been true for indigenous liquors like Mahua, Feni, and rice beer. Host Sandip Roy speaks with Aniruddha Mookerjee and Hansel Vaz

**Kishor party draws fire over cases against 3 Bihar bypoll faces**

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 2

THREE OF the four candidates named by the Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), founded by political strategist Prashant Kishor, for the November 13 Assembly bypolls in Bihar have pending criminal cases against them. The party's move has drawn criticism as it has gone against Kishor's "promise" to give tickets to candidates with a "clean image".

The bypolls – in Tarari, Ramgarh, Belaganj and Imamganj seats – were necessitated after their MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha.

The JSP's Belaganj candidate Mohammad Amjad, 55, faces five pending FIRs, lodged between 1995 and 2022, as per his election affidavit. In one of the cases, he faces charges of attempt to murder, breach of public peace, and criminal intimidation.

Notably, Amjad was named as a replacement candidate in

**FROM PAGE ONE** FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

**India slams Canada charge against Shah**

will have serious consequences for bilateral ties," Jaiswal said.

On October 29, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's National Security and Intelligence Adviser Nathalie Drouin and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison acknowledged leaking information to *The Washington Post* which first reported that Shah was behind the campaign of targeting Khalistan separatists in Canada.

Morrison told Parliament members of the national security committee that he had "confirmed" Shah's name to *The Washington Post* which first reported the allegations. "The journalist called me and asked if it was that person. I confirmed it was that person," Morrison told the committee.

On Saturday, Jaiswal said communications of Indian diplomats were being intercepted by the Canadian government, and New Delhi has formally protested against the audio and video surveillance of its officials with the Canadian government.

"Some of our Consular officials were recently informed by the Canadian government that they have been and continued to be under audio and video surveillance. Their communications have also been intercepted. We have formally protested to the Canadian government as we deem these actions to be a flagrant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions," he said.

"By citing technicalities, the Canadian government cannot justify the fact that it is indulging in harassment and intimidation. Our diplomatic and consular personnel are already functioning in an environment of extremism and violence. This action of the Canadian government aggravates the situation and is incompatible with established diplomatic norms and prac-

tics," he said.

On reports of cancellation of Diwali celebrations in Canada by Canadian MPs, the MEA spokesperson said, "We have seen some reports in this regard. It is unfortunate that the prevailing atmosphere in Canada has reached high levels of intolerance and extremism."

On a Canadian cyber security report which names India as an adversary, Jaiswal said, "This appears to be another example of a Canadian strategy to attack India. As I mentioned earlier, their senior officials have openly confessed that they are seeking to manipulate global opinion against India. As on other occasions, imputations are made without any evidence."

For the first time, India has been described as an adversary in an official Canadian government document. That description came in the National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026, released by the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security last Tuesday. In its section on cyber threat from "state adversaries", it includes China, Russia, Iran, North Korea and India.

On the issue of visas adversely impacted due to the diplomatic spat and the expulsion of diplomats from each other's missions, Jaiswal said, "We are obviously monitoring the well-being of students and temporary workers from India who are currently in Canada. Our concern for their safety and security remains strong."

India's ties with Canada have been severely strained ever since September 2023 when Trudeau alleged that there was "potential" involvement of the Indian government in the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India rejected the charges as "absurd" and "motivated". This led to expulsion of diplomats from both countries in two batches – once in October last year, and again last month.

**Patrolling in Depsang, Demchok**

Affairs, said, "You are all aware that on October 21, 2024 the last phase of disengagement was agreed upon between India and China. As a result, verification patrolling has commenced on mutually agreed terms in Demchok and Depsang."

"As agreed at the leaders' meeting in Kazan (between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping on sidelines of BRICS Summit in Russia last month), relevant dialogue mechanisms at the level of Foreign Ministers and other officials will be used to stabilise and rebuild bilateral relations. We will let you know when these mechanisms meet to deal with issues of each other's interest and concern," he said.

The meeting in Kazan took place on October 23, two days after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced the agreement over patrolling rights in the Depsang Plains and Demchok and said Special Representatives on the India-China boundary question would meet at an early date – NSA Ajit Doval and

Chinese counterpart Wang Yi last met in December 2019.

Relations between the two countries plunged after Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh were detected in May 2020, triggering a military standoff along the LAC.

In keeping with the agreement reached last month, talks are taking place at the level of local commanders – Brigadier rank and below.

This agreement is important because the Chinese side, until a year ago, showed reluctance to even discuss Depsang Plains and Demchok while it agreed on disengagement at other friction points – PP 14 (Galwan valley), PP 15 (Hot Springs), PP 17A (Gogra), north and south banks of Pangong Tso.

The disengagement process in Demchok and Depsang Plains has also involved removal of temporary structures. It marks the first step of a long three-step process – disengagement, de-escalation and de-induction of troops massed in the border areas for over four years now.

**Lashkar commander**

terrorists were killed in Anantnag district of South Kashmir. Of the two killed, one was a foreigner and the other a local, officials said. Their group affiliation is yet to be ascertained, officials said.

According to the Army, "terrorists opened indiscriminate fire" on their column. "Own troops effectively retaliated, resulting in elimination of two terrorists," the Army said.

In light of the attacks, Nasir Aslam Wani, advisor to J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, said that the security grid needs to be strengthened. "The Unified Command is currently headed by the Lieutenant Governor. We have been repeatedly stating

**All in the family: In Maharashtra parties ride on key first-timers**

Uddhav Sena and NCP have fielded at least 8, 5 and one, respectively.

**BJP**

Former CM and Congress leader Ashok Chavan switched to BJP earlier this year and is now a Rajya Sabha MP. The BJP has fielded his daughter Sreejaya Chavan from his Bhokar constituency in Nanded district.

In Pune's Chinchwad seat, BJP has nominated former party MLA late Laxman Jagtap's brother Shankar Jagtap. Amol Jawale, son of late BJP MLA Haribhau Jawale, has been nominated from Raver seat in Jalgaon.

In Shrigonda seat in Ahilyanagar, BJP has nominated Pratiha Pachpute, wife of sitting party MLA Babanrao Pachpute. The party's Mumbai unit president Ashish Shelar's brother Vinod Shelar, former corporator, has been given a ticket from Malad seat.

Rahul Awade, son of former minister Prakash Awade, will contest as the BJP candidate from Ichalkaranji. Sulabha Gaikwad, wife of sitting party MLA Ganpat Gaikwad, will contest on the party ticket from his Kalyan East constituency. Ganpat is serving a jail term for firing at a Shinde Sena worker.

In Karanja, BJP has fielded former MLA late Prakash Dahake's wife Sai Dahake. In Latur city, the party has given a ticket to Archana Patil-Chakurkar, daughter-in-law of Congress stalwart Shivraj Patil.

**SHINDE SENA**

The Shinde Sena has allotted poll tickets to several debutants who are from the families of its prominent leaders. In Paithan, the party has fielded Vilas Bhumare, son of MP Sandipam Bhumre, who was earlier a minister in the Shinde Cabinet.

**CONGRESS**

The Congress has given its tickets to a number of first-timers belonging to various political families. In Raver in Jalgaon district, it has fielded Dhananjay Choudhari, son of Shirish

Choudhari who is the sitting MLA from the constituency.

In Saoner, former MLA Sunil Kedar's wife Anuja is fighting on Congress's ticket. The party has fielded its Lok Sabha MP Pratibha Dhanorkar's brother Pravin Kakade from Chandrapur's Warora. Former minister Shivajirao Moghe's son Jitendra is contesting as a party candidate from Arni in Yavatmal district.

In Nanded's Naigaon, Congress candidate Minal Patil-Khatgaonkar is the daughter-in-law of former MP Bhaskarrao Patil-Khatgaonkar, while ex-MLA late Bharat Bhalke's son Bhagirath is the party nominee from the Pandharpur seat.

From Karvir seat in Kolhapur, former MLA late P N Patil's son Rahul Patil is contesting on the Congress's ticket while Kolhapur MP Shahu Maharaj Chhatrapati's daughter-in-law Madhurimarje Chhatrapati is the party candidate from Kolhapur north.

Mumbai Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad's sister Jyoti is contesting from the city's Dharavi seat.

**UDDHAV SENA**

Shiv Sena (UBT) has also given its tickets to several new faces from various political families. The party has given tickets to Varun Sardesai, Uddhav's nephew, from Bandra East against the NCP's Zeeshan Siddique.

In CM Shinde's constituency Kopri Majiwada in Thane district, the Sena UBT has fielded Kedar Dighe, nephew of late Sena stalwart Aanand Dighe, against him.

The party has nominated Advay Hiray from the Maegaon (outer) seat, who is the son of former minister Prashant Hiray and brother of ex-MLA Apurva Hiray.

The party has fielded Vaishali Suryavanshi from Pachora, who is the daughter of party leader late R O Patil. After Patil's death,

**Crude imports fall**

vessel tracking data from international commodity market analytics firm Kpler. Going forward, industry watchers expect oil imports to rebound in November as all Indian refiners would be fully back on stream amid robust demand and expectations of relatively limited oil price volatility in the international market.

Supplies from Russia – India's largest source market for crude – fell 9.2 per cent sequentially to a seven-month low of 1.73 million bpd, accounting for almost 40 per cent of India's total oil imports in October. In addition to refinery maintenance season and oil market volatility, competition from Chinese refiners for certain grades of Russian crude played a role in the decline in oil imports from Moscow.

Oil import volumes from Iraq and Saudi Arabia were sequentially lower by 3.3 per cent at 0.84 million bpd and 10.9 per cent at 0.65 million bpd, respectively.

"October was the peak month for India's offline (refining) capacity, leading to a full recovery in downstream operations across India in early November... this would normally incentivise India's refiners to buy more in preparation for winter demand. However, October's import numbers turned out to be underwhelming. Indian refiners were either distressed by the possibility of a potential Israel-Iran conflict or simply decided to save off-purchases for when pricing conditions would get better," said Viktor Katona, head of crude analysis at Kpler.

Going by initial indications and oil tanker movements, India's oil imports are expected to rebound in November. Vessel movements indicate that oil cargo arrivals at Indian ports in the first two weeks of November could be around 5 million bpd, significantly higher than the October volumes.

"We might see the pent-up purchasing activity hitting the market with all its weight in November... Russian imports are seen at 1.8-1.9 million bpd for most of the first half of November, while volumes from Iraq would be around 900,000 bpd in the first two weeks, so it (India's oil imports) is likely to be really strong," Katona said.

Despite the decline in overall import volumes of Russian oil in October, shipments of the country's flagship crude grade – the medium-sour Urals – were at a four-month high in October. Urals is also the mainstay of India's Russian oil purchases, and accounts for over three-fourths of Russian oil imported by Indian refiners. Imports of some other Russian crude grades, however, declined and led to the overall slide in imports. "When it comes to Russia, Indian refiners are still piling up their purchases of Urals, importing 1.47 million bpd which is the highest since June. However, other grades that had seen some improvement over the summer months have fallen back as China ramped up deliveries via the Northern Sea Route, particularly for Arctic grades," Katona said.

Prior to the war in Ukraine, Iraq and Saudi Arabia were the top two crude oil suppliers to India. But as the West started weaning itself off Russian energy supplies, Russia started offering discounts on its crude and Indian refiners started snapping up the discounted barrels.

**IMPORTS IN OCT**

|              | Oil imports | Change vs Sept |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Russia       | 1.73        | -9.2%          |
| Iraq         | 0.84        | -3.3%          |
| Saudi Arabia | 0.65        | -10.9%         |
| UAE          | 0.35        | -28.1%         |
| US           | 0.17        | -29.4%         |

Source: Kpler \*mn bpd

**Rural Development Dept**

Procedure) while hiring consultants and that the hiring should be in compliance with the GFR (General Financial Rule)."

T K Anil Kumar did not respond to queries sent by *The Indian Express*. Sources said the committee under him comprises eight other members – all are officials of the department or organisations under it.

The 250-plus consultants contracted by the department work under its various schemes such as MNREGA, Mission Antyodaya, National Social Assistance Program, National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency, Rural Housing, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, and others. Many of these 250-plus come from external agencies including the Big Four consulting firms.

In January this year, *The Indian Express* had reported that at least 1,499 consultants from external agencies, including the Big Four (Ernst & Young, PwC, Deloitte and KPMG), have been taken on board by as many as 44 government departments. Cumulatively, an annual expenditure of Rs 302 crore is incurred on these consultants, data obtained by *The Indian Express* under the Right To Information Act had revealed.

An official from the Union Finance Ministry, which clears the budget for all departments said, "There is huge discrepancy in payments being made to consultants in various departments. At times, the highest paid consultant gets more than 10 times the lowest paid consultant. In certain departments, consultants earn more than a Secretary

**Private, not Govt, is primary school for children in Haryana, Manipur, Telangana**

Education) from these three states.

According to the latest CAMS survey, the national average for children enrolled in private (or unaided) schools in primary classes is 23.4%, compared to 66.7% for government schools.

However, in Haryana, 45.6% of children are in private schools and 40.2% in government schools; in Telangana, 57.5% are in private schools and 30.5% in government schools. Manipur has the highest percentage of primary school children in private schools at 74%, compared to 21% in government schools (see chart).

There are also states where an overwhelming majority attend government schools. West Bengal has seen the lowest percentage of kids in private schools (5%), followed by Tripura (6.2%), and Odisha (6.3%).

"The rise in private school enrollment is driven by both higher disposable incomes and growing parental aspirations," said Rukmini Banerjee, Chief Executive Officer of Pratham Education Foundation, which conducts the ASER (or Annual Status of Education Report) survey on learning outcomes every year. "While government schools often teach in regional languages, private schools are generally pre-

ceived to teach primarily in English – though that may not always be accurate. Additionally, low-cost or budget private schools have proliferated nationwide."

Even as the national picture shows the scales tipped in favour of government schools in terms of enrollment, a breakdown of CAMS enrollment data in rural and urban areas reveals a different trend.

In urban areas, more primary school children are enrolled in private schools – 43.8% of children in primary classes attend private schools, compared to 36.5% in government schools. Amongst states, in urban ar-

reas, at least half of the total states in the country (Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) and two UTs (Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry) see more children going to private than public schools.

In rural areas, all States and UTs have seen a higher percentage of kids in government schools than private ones, except for Manipur and Telangana.

The Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey, 2022-23 covered 3,02,086 households – 1,73,096 in rural areas and 1,28,990 in urban areas. Apart from education indicators such as enrolment in public versus private schools in rural and urban areas, it also covers findings on out-of-pocket expenditure on health and ability to use mobile and internet, among other things.

The gender breakdown of data shows that among girls enrolled in primary school in the country, 22.2% are in private schools and 68.4% are in government schools. A slightly higher percentage of 24.4% of boys enrolled in primary school are in private schools, while 65.3% of

ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

# After 40 years, poverty is still a way of life for many riot victims

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

MISHRI KAUR (65) never fails to thank her lucky stars that her husband, Basant Singh, was in Dubai in November 1984, when anti-Sikh riots broke out in Delhi, leading to the killing of 2,733 Sikhs.

Back in 1984, Mishri was 25 when she saw a mob beating up her brother after tying him to a pole. Afraid of taking him to the hospital, the family tried remedies at home to help him recover. "We were so scared and didn't step out of the house," says Mishri. Her brother succumbed to his injuries.

Besides her brother, she lost four other relatives to the violence caused by the mobs who burnt down houses in Northwest Delhi's Sultanpuri.

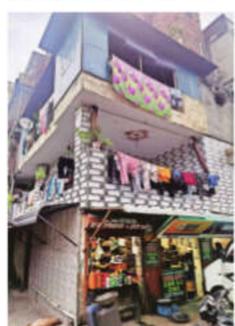
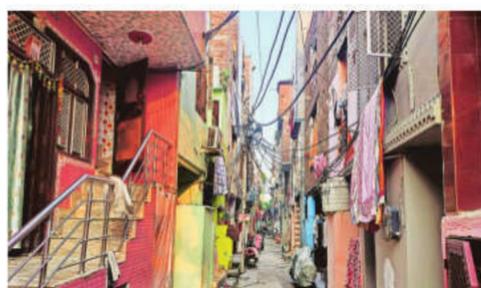
Mishri and Basant, who became visually-impaired five years ago due to age-related issues, have been staying in Sultanpuri F block for four-and-a-half decades now. Seepage has entered the dilapidated walls, with the pink paint fading away. A carrom board and a photograph on the wall are the only items that could be found at the couple's small flat, which they share with their two sons and a grandson. The photo is of Jasleen, Mishri's daughter who died in March along with her husband.

"Abhi pehle ke aason sukhe hi kahan the, jo bhagwaan ne ek aur dukh de diya (My tears had not even dried up and God gave me a fresh wound)," Mishri says.

She adds that no one in the house earns and the family survives on Rs 15,000 per month. "My son is 23 and unemployed... he has gone into depression... our relatives give us the money to run the household."

Prem Kaur is an eyewitness in the Sultanpuri case, in which seven Sikhs were killed in 1984. Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar was acquitted last September by the Rouse Avenue court in the case.

"We want to get out of here (Sultanpuri)," says Prem, whose



(Top) Sultanpuri F block in Northwest Delhi and victim Pappi Kaur who stays at the widow colony (left) in Tilak Nagar. Gajendra Yadav

husband was killed in the riots.

Families of Prem and Mishri are among the few riot victims who still stay in Sultanpuri — one of the worst affected areas in the riots that broke out across the country following the assassination of Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, by her Sikh bodyguards.

Most other affected families have shifted to "widow colonies" located across Delhi, including Tilak Nagar. Prem claims that she was not given a flat in a widow colony despite assurances from the government. "Middlemen are asking me to pay Rs 4-5 lakh to shift to the colony."

Prem's son, whose legs suffer from mobility issues, doesn't have a job. "We have been given Rs 10 lakh in 40 years (as compensation)... this equates to just Rs 2,000 a month," she says, adding that medicines for her heart ailment alone costs over Rs 3,000 a month.

Seven km away in Tilak Nagar is the widow colony where vic-

tims of the Trilokpuri violence have been rehabilitated after their houses were gutted in the riots.

Pappi Kaur (55) was 15 years old when 10 of her relatives, including her father and brother, were killed in the riots. "I remember we used to dress our brothers as girls so they wouldn't be recognised as Sikhs," she says. Pappi, who stays at the widow colony at Tilak Nagar, runs a vegetable store.

Nirpreet Kaur, who was a college student at the time of the riots, had seen her father being burnt alive at Palam Colony. She was a key witness in the case.

Sajjan Kumar was awarded life imprisonment in the case by the Delhi High Court in 2018 for the killing of five Sikhs at Raj Nagar Part I in Palam Colony on November 1-2, 1984, and the burning down of a gurdwara at Raj Nagar Part II.

"If we had got justice on time, incidents like Gujarat and Muzaffarnagar riots would have

## Lawyer of victims launches video series

New Delhi: Senior advocate HS Phoolka launched a 12-part video series on the struggles of the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots at the Press Club of India in Delhi on Saturday.

Phoolka, who represents several victims of the riots in Delhi courts, addressed the media on the 40th anniversary of the riots that took place following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984.

The 12-part video series, Phoolka said, is available on his YouTube channel. Eight other videos (in Hindi) will be released later this month, he added. "It has been 40 years today waiting for justice and only 12 murder cases (related to the riots) have ended in conviction," he said.

Referring to the new Lady of Justice statue without a blindfold on her eyes, he said that the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots were denied justice. However, praising Delhi's media, he said they played a big role in keeping alive the issue of justice for the victims. ENS

never taken place," she says.

Many victims said that while Nirpreet has helped them financially, she has also tracked witnesses and riot victims in 14 states and helped them get jobs. "Riots don't just cause hardships for the victims... generations are destroyed. Even today, children of many affected by the riots are living in poverty," Nirpreet says.

In Northwest Delhi, 66 FIRs were registered in relation to the riots. While 29 of these were filed as untraced, 25 ended in acquittal. Of the remaining, seven are pending trial, one is pending investigation, two have ended in discharge and only two have resulted in convictions.

# Will waive inflated water & power bills if AAP returns to power, says Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

ACKNOWLEDGING "RECENT issues with inflated water bills" and pledging to "resolve them", AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday promised to waive inflated bills for water and electricity if his party comes to power again following the Delhi elections next year.

Urging the people to support AAP for "continued relief and benefits" at a gathering in Northwest Delhi's Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar, the former CM asked consumers not to pay "inflated bills".

"Recently, I heard that when I was in jail, they messed things up behind my back and sent you massive water bills again. Many people received incorrect and in-



Arvind Kejriwal at Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar on Saturday. Express

flated bills," Kejriwal told the gathering.

"Those who received incorrect water bills, you don't need to pay them. Just let my government be formed again in

February, and I will waive everyone's water bills, and you will start getting zero bills for water, just like before," he added.

Kejriwal sought to remind the gathering about delivering on the promise of waiving inflated power and water bills prior to forming the government for the first time in 2014.

"Ten years ago, you entrusted me with Delhi's responsibility... Back then, when I went for campaigns, people would bring their electricity and water bills to me... I had then said that 'you don't need to pay these bills, just let my government be formed, and I will waive all the bills'. After forming the government, I waived all outstanding bills of that time and made electricity and water free," he said.

"I am not saying you should

vote for me; just see for yourself... You can see whether the central government has done anything for Delhi," he added.

Taking on Kejriwal, Delhi BJP president Virender Sachdeva asked him to clarify whether he went to jail "for the public's sake or for the liquor scam", even as he issued an open challenge to him, inviting him to a public debate on the "deteriorating state of Delhi" at a time and place of his choosing.

"Gripped by the despair of impending defeat, Arvind Kejriwal is now pushing new false dreams. Kejriwal tells Delhi residents that if their water bill is high, they should not pay it because he will waive it in March. Delhiites ask: if Kejriwal's government is in power today, why doesn't he waive the bills right now?" he asked.

## Noida airport to start 2nd stage of trial from Nov 15

NEETIKA JHA  
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 2

THE NOIDA International Airport, coming up at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar, has begun preparations for the second stage of trial operations that is set to begin on November 15.

In the second stage, flights of Akasa, IndiGo and most probably Air India will take off and land daily till December 15, said Arun Vir Singh, Chief Executive Officer of Noida International Airport Limited. The trial will continue for one month. "This data will be up-

loaded on December 20 to the DGCA (Director General of Civil Aviation) website and then we will apply for aerodrome licensing," Singh added.

The airport authorities expect to get the licence by March 20 and operations are expected to start in full swing on April 17, 2025, with 30 flights operating on the first day, a senior official said on Saturday. He added that this will include international flights for Zurich, Singapore and Dubai.

"Initially, we plan to operate 30 flights, of which 25 would be domestic flights, three international and two cargo flights," Singh said.

## Wife chops off man's private parts

New Delhi: A woman was booked on Saturday for allegedly cutting off the private parts of her husband after a fight in Roop Nagar.

The police said the 40-year-old victim came home drunk early November 1 and had an argument with his wife. "His wife then left home and he went to sleep. However, she returned after some time and attacked his private parts

with a sharp object," said DCP (North) Raja Banthia. The accused is absconding, he added.

The man, who works as a helper in a paying guest accommodation, had undergone a surgery, police said. "He gave his statement today," Banthia said. The woman was booked under section 118 (causing grievous hurt) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. ENS

## Rahul Gandhi-led Dilli Nyay Yatra likely to take off from Chandni Chowk

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

LEADER OF Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and senior Congress leaders are likely to be part of the party's 'Dilli Nyay Yatra' — inspired by the Rae Bareilly MP's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls — which is scheduled to begin next week, according to party sources.

With a week to go before it gets underway on November 8 and continues till the beginning of December, sources said the party was in the process of roping in AICC leaders such as Sachin Pilot, Ashok Gehlot, and Harish Rawat among others to be a part of the initiative with the dual aim of projecting a united front as well as ensuring community-specific outreach through it.

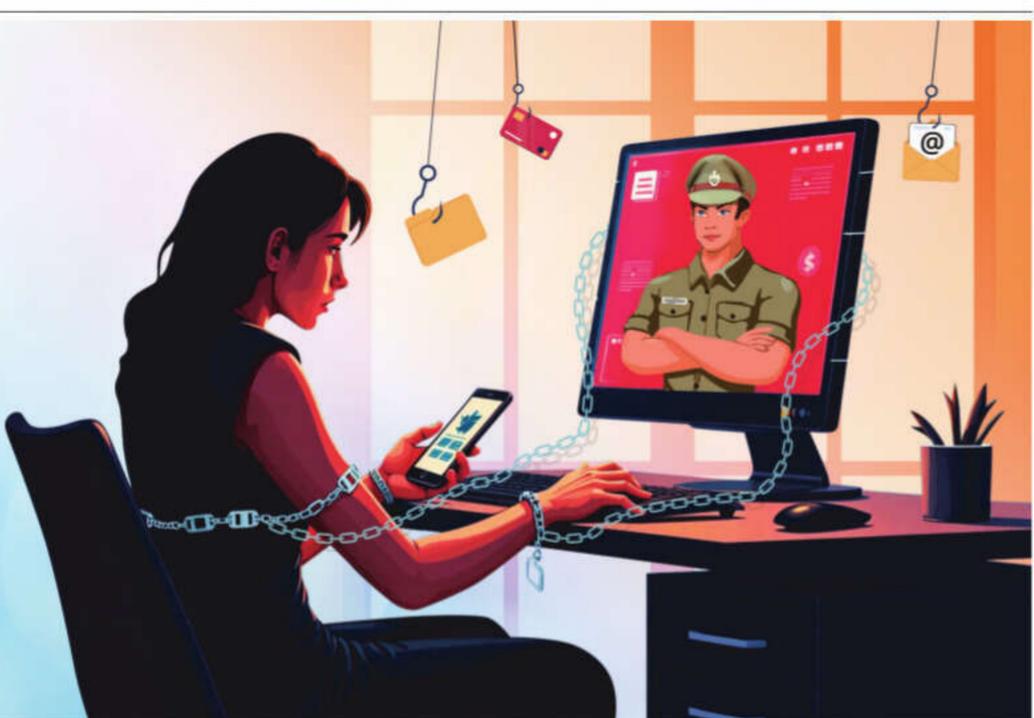
"Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav, who conceptualised the programme, is likely to meet the senior leadership over arrangements and availability of senior leaders for the event over the weekend," a senior leader said. "The plan for the yatra so far is to take it from Rajghat to one particular Assembly in the Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha such as Ballimaran or Chandni Chowk; we hope to get Rahul ji to participate in each of the four legs of the yatra across the seven Lok Sabhas constituencies," the leader added.

While the seven constituencies have been divided Assembly-wise to be able to ensure outreach across the maximum number of constituencies on the one hand, four hubs have also been identified for individual overnight outreach, led by Yadav, with specific citizens' focus groups.

"While two phases will see a focus on 16 Assembly constituencies each, one will see outreach across 18 and the last one across 20 constituencies. Four hubs have been identified for overnight conversations between the Delhi Congress president and individuals from focus groups," another leader said.



# BEWARE OF DIGITAL ARRESTS



## HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- SCAMMERS USE PHONE CALLS TO TRICK YOU, CLAIMING THAT ILLEGAL ITEMS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN A PARCEL IN YOUR NAME OR THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED IN OTHER UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES
- THEY POSE AS POLICE OFFICERS, FORCING YOU TO STAY ON A VIDEO CALL
- YOU ARE THREATENED, HARASSED AND MONEY IS EXTORTED FROM YOU

REMEMBER, THOSE MAKING VIDEO CALLS ARE NOT POLICE, CBI, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, OR JUDGES

THEY ARE CYBERCRIMINALS

DON'T FALL FOR THEIR TRICKS, REPORT THEM IMMEDIATELY

CALL 1930 OR

FILE A COMPLAINT AT WWW.CYBERCRIME.GOV.IN.



STOP THINK TAKE ACTION

STAY INFORMED AND FOLLOW CYBERDOST FOR MORE UPDATES ON STAYING SAFE ONLINE



# 4 HARDLOOK

SOHINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

FROM A seven-year-old in Srinagar to a 16-year-old in Delhi suffering from "rare diseases", a recent Delhi High Court verdict on ensuring uninterrupted treatment for patients like them came as a ray of hope.

Since their diagnosis, patients of rare diseases — defined by WHO as a debilitating, lifelong condition that affects 1 or fewer people in 1,000 — and their kin faced challenges in accessing life-saving medication, whose cost runs into lakhs, and issues with its supply. 104 petitions were finally moved in court, with over 100 patients seeking relief.

On October 4, the Delhi High Court directed that the Centre establish a National Fund for Rare Diseases and allocate Rs 974 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26. This was to be approved and transferred in 30 days. It also said "treatment for all eligible... patients, as per an AIIMS report dated July 21, who are before the court in these batches of petitions shall commence in 45 days as per NRDC (National Rare Diseases Committee) recommendations."

The court directed NRDC to hold its first meeting in the week beginning October 21, where directions were to be issued about ensuring procurement of rare disease drugs at reasonable prices, etc. It said "on the said date, cases of all petitioners shall be placed before the NRDC for approval and commencement of treatment".

However, a committee member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the meeting has not been held yet with no notification issued for it.

When contacted, Dr Madhulika Kabra, Professor, Division of Genetics, Department of Pediatrics at AIIMS New Delhi, who is part of the NRDC, said she would be unable to comment as she is on the panel.

A month on, *The Indian Express* speaks to four families about how they are stuck in limbo as they wait for treatment to resume.

## Stuck in limbo

For patients diagnosed with rare diseases and whose treatment has been interrupted, a Delhi High Court order in October gave them hope. But a month since then, there's been no movement forward. *The Indian Express* reports

## Only hope I have is for the trial to be completed: Father of teen

16-YEAR-OLD, DIAGNOSED WITH DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY IN 2018;

RESIDENT OF DELHI'S PATEL NAGAR

WHEN THE boy turned 10, his father noticed subtle changes in how he walked — he would flail or fall over midway, and climbing a short flight of stairs became a task.

The father then took him to AIIMS.

In 2018, the boy was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a rare disease that causes muscle weakness and degeneration. "At the time, doctors at AIIMS Delhi said there was no cure, no medicines were available, and it could only be managed through physiotherapy, supplements, and steroids. We also went to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, where we were told the same thing," says the father, now 39.

The boy went to school till Class IV before his ailment started taking over his life. Now wheelchair-bound, he cannot even lift a glass of water by himself, says his father. "Till Class IV, his school principal had made arrangements for him to attend classes on the ground floor but gradually, it became difficult..."

Steroids prescribed for his treatment had side effects, making him gain weight and affecting his growth. His father rues that the drug that can help manage his son's muscle degradation is still under trial internationally.

In 2023, the boy moved the Delhi HC — through his father — "in the hope that the court shall direct faster trials" which, in turn, can help him win the race against

time, says the father. In a 2021 study, a systematic review of mortality in DMD patients pegged it at 22 years.

The father, however, says the recent HC verdict does not make much of a difference to his boy. "The drug that can help him is under trial internationally and there has been no direction in that regard. I've been making rounds of AIIMS since 2018 but each time, I've been told it is not in their hands."

The sole earner in the family — he works with a courier service company in Patel Nagar — his son's diagnosis has meant adjustments, shouldering mounting expenses, and knocking on every door possible. "AIIMS had recommended a physiotherapy clinic, but it charged Rs 150 an hour per day. I did not have the means to pay that much. So I asked them to teach me instead so I could do my son's physiotherapy at home. I now do it twice a day."

He resorted to alternative medicine as well. "I took him to an Ayurveda clinic in Rajinder Nagar where I was spending Rs 3,000 a month for a year, but his condition did not improve. I also went to an ashram in Haridwar for Ayurvedic treatment; that too did not help. I got defrauded as well... someone promised me an ayurvedic oil that would cure him if massaged all over his body, in exchange for Rs 50,000. In my desperation, I paid up — it did nothing," he says.

"At this point, the only hope I have is

### HOW DOES ONE AVAIL TREATMENT?

The National Rare Diseases Committee (NRDC) is the overall authority for "receiving proposals from Centres of Excellence (CoEs) with respect to patients who need to be administered therapies/treatments" as well as for "reviewing and assessing recommendations made by CoEs and approving treatments/therapy". The drugs are procured through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) based on NRDC's recommendations.

#### NRDC HAS THE MANDATE TO

- Negotiate prices for bulk purchases with pharma companies manufacturing and selling drugs for rare diseases and ensure they are procured at reasonable and affordable prices

- Ensure a mechanism is in place to provide treatment to such patients

- Support MoHFW in creating a central uniform and robust system for procurement of drugs for rare diseases across CoEs

#### THE PROTOCOL

- Patients approach CoEs

- CoEs review, examine patients

and recommend treatment

- Recommendations to be reviewed by NRDC on a monthly/fortnightly basis. Approvals based on criteria fixed by NRDC be given for procurement of assistive medicines or any equipment/devices. Such approvals to be sent to the CoE concerned and MoHFW

- CoEs to place purchase orders on companies as per agreed prices

- Supplies to be made by companies directly to CoEs

- Payment to companies from National Fund for Rare Diseases

Source: Delhi High Court verdict

for the trial to be completed at the earliest so my son can access the medicine like other DMD patients," says the father, who also has a 10-year-old daughter.

Dr Ratna Puri, senior consultant for genetics at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, says indigenous drug development for treating

rare diseases is underway in India. "Development recently started... after the National Policy for Treatment of Rare Diseases, 2017, our funding agencies have been encouraging researchers and companies towards development of indigenous therapies," she says.

## 'Up to govt... if they want to be humane, provide medicines'

19-YEAR-OLD, DIAGNOSED WITH DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY IN 2011; RESIDENT OF JAIPUR

IT WAS on a family trip to Manali in 2010 when the teen, then aged five, could not climb stairs and would keep falling while walking. The family immediately returned to Jaipur. After his symptoms were dismissed initially as signs of weakness, a DMD diagnosis was confirmed nearly a year later, officially, in 2011.

"We sought a second opinion... Every doctor at the time kept saying DMD patients do not survive past 15 years," says his father, aged 43.

What followed were trips across the country and resorting to alternative therapies. In 2012, the teen went to National Institute of Ayurveda in Jaipur after he was rendered wheelchair-bound. In 2013, his father started writing to officials and ministers at the local, state, and national-level seeking government intervention in the management as well as treatment of such diseases.

In 2016, he took his son to Mayopathy Kappagam, a hospital for the treatment of Muscular Dystrophy, near Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu. There, he claims, they discovered the benefit of *kattu* therapy — where pieces of cloth are tightly and strategically wrapped around body parts such as the knees, ankles, and spine to rectify posture. Father and son stayed in Tirunelveli for a year and have continued to visit every year.

The father, who was running a jewellery business, says he shut shop after a few years and dedicated himself entirely to his son: "He studied till Class VIII before we decided we wanted to prioritise keeping him alive over his education. Our PM completed his studies later, so can my son."

The family's finances were drained in commuting from Jaipur to AIIMS Delhi and other places for the teen's treatment. Then in 2020, the US Food and Drug Administration approved a therapy by Sarepta Therapeutics, Amondys-45, giving hope to parents like him.

Soon after, he moved the HC in 2021 on behalf of his son in the hope that they could push Indian authorities to allow patients better access to the drug. It would take another year — in 2023 — for the teenager to get the first dose of Amondys-45, which costs Rs 30 lakh a month.

However, treatment has been interrupted following the drug's unavailability. His last dose was on July 15. "In the absence of the drug dosage, movement slows down in DMD patients. It is now up to the government — whether they want us to keep making rounds of courts while denying access to treatment to patients running out of time or whether they want to be humane and provide them with necessary medicines," says the father.

## 'She lost her hearing when treatment was stopped earlier'

SIX-YEAR-OLD GIRL, DIAGNOSED WITH GAUCHER'S DISEASE IN 2018

RESIDENT OF DELHI'S OKHLA

WITHIN DAYS of her birth, the child was diagnosed with the disease. In 2020, following the HC's order, she got access to the drugs. She is undergoing enzyme replacement therapy at AIIMS Delhi and the drug, Cerezyme, costs Rs 1.1 lakh per vial. She has been prescribed four vials a month.

But her father says since the start, there has been an interruption every two to three months because of the drug's non-availability. This time, treatment stopped in August and is yet to resume.

"I went to AIIMS earlier this week to check on the status of the drugs and was told the government has not released funds yet. There is a marked deterioration if she remains without therapy for five-six months... her spleen and liver get affected, leaving her prone to infections," he says.

"Then we had to move court to resume her medication. The only demand we have from the government is to not stop or interrupt her therapy, she already lost her hearing when it was stopped earlier... now she has to undergo a cochlear implant surgery which will cost Rs 4-4.5 lakh. I can't afford that money and I don't know how to arrange for it," cries the 43-year-old.

He has already lost four children to suspected inherited rare diseases — a son, diagnosed with Mucopolysaccharidosis-1 (MPS I), died at the age of eight. A daughter and two sons succumbed to Gaucher's at the age of 14, 16 and 18 months.

"For my fourth child... we were told the drugs were available and he got the first dose. Before he could take the second one, he died. We wanted to file a case in court over the unavailability of the drug and came in contact with advocate Ashok Agarwal," says the father.

The HC too recorded a stoppage in the six-year-old's treatment in January 2023 after AIIMS exhausted the funds. Before that, the court issued orders on December 14, 2021, and February 1, 2022, directing the Centre to release funds for her treatment.

Explaining how intermittent or disrupted therapy can affect patients with rare diseases, Dr Ratna Puri, senior consultant for genetics at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, says, "It varies on the disease as well as the stage at which a patient was started on such therapy... For genetic disorders, if treatment starts early, it has a better impact on the patient. For DMD, if the muscles have already atrophied, giving the most expensive therapy is not likely to reverse muscle damage. Published data to this effect is still lacking. But if we start therapy early in the course of the disease, then it is beneficial; interrupting treatment for long periods will impact the benefit achieved due to the therapy."

The impact of stopping therapy would ultimately vary on a case-to-case basis, assessed on multiple parameters, she adds. "For Gaucher's disease, we follow parameters such as if the height and weight are improving, if the size of the liver and spleen is decreasing, we will look at bone health and neurological features, etc. Similarly, for DMD, we track it through... various muscle strength scales. It is very important to follow up on patients through such quantitative scales because all genetic disorders are multi-system disorders."

The child, meanwhile, goes to a private school. "With her special needs, she cannot be taken care of in a government school," the father reasons. He is the only earning member in the family, working as an Arabic language translator in hospitals. Work has been sparse post Covid, he says.

There is little dampening of the child's spirits, says her family. "She is obsessed with fashion and make-up and is extremely chatty. From the time she wakes up, she asks us questions and talks our ears off. On most days, she'll take my phone and start placing orders on retail websites. Half my job then becomes cancelling these orders," her father laughs.

While the court order has filled him with hope, he remains anxious. "The direction is welcome. It has, however, been nearly 30 days now but the fund remains to be released."

## It's been three months since her last dose, says grandfather

7-YEAR-OLD GIRL, DIAGNOSED WITH GAUCHER'S DISEASE TYPE 1 IN 2017; RESIDENT OF SRINAGAR

"BIMAAR HU, dard ho raha hai (I'm sick, it's aching)," says the child, when asked what she is doing over a telephone call on a Thursday evening.

At the age of four months, she was diagnosed with Gaucher's disease, a rare genetically inherited lysosomal disorder where fat buildup, especially in the liver and spleen, can lead to anaemia and musculoskeletal disorders.

She has been prescribed the Enzyme, Cerezyme Imiglucerase, every fortnight. The cost of the drug? It can go up to Rs 57,55 lakh a year.

The amount has been covered by the government's fund so far, but it's been three months since she took her last dose. "She received her first injection in

December 2022 and there was significant improvement. She started going to school as well," says her 60-year-old grandfather.

Three months ago, AIIMS told them it does not have the drug anymore, he said.

The girl has now missed around 18 doses, says her family. A few weeks ago, her condition took a turn for the worse. "She has been throwing up and fainting. She has almost stopped eating, she says she does not have an appetite. She is severely weak and anaemic so going to school is not an option anymore," says her grandfather.

"We don't know what to do..." he adds.

Her father is the only earning member; he used to drive an auto but has now

switched to a sales job in a pharma firm in Srinagar. She has an eight-year-old brother.

Even for her first injection, it took nearly four months for the family to get the medicine after AIIMS requested funds from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"Our finances are drained... we've been making the rounds of AIIMS Delhi from Srinagar since 2017... we have to bear the costs of travelling and staying in Delhi every time we go for her treatment. Till last year, she was receiving five doses a month. This year, it was upped to six doses a month," says the grandfather.

It was in 2022 that the child, through her father, moved the HC seeking access

to treatment and drugs after waiting for five years. "We would meet other patients of Gaucher's disease at the AIIMS clinic and they were getting the drugs at the time. They told us there are a bunch of people who have moved the HC seeking access to the drug, which is when we came in touch with advocate Ashok Agarwal."

Agarwal has represented a large chunk of the patient-petitioners of rare diseases seeking relief before the Delhi HC.

The injection for the child started after court orders. "It is thanks to the HC's orders earlier that we got access to the drugs and it was for free. With the latest judgment, we thought it would help us. It's been a month, but there is no headway," the grandfather laments.

## Priest held for killing friend in Palam Man mowed down by speeding DJB tanker in CR Park

PRAGYNESH

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

A 22-YEAR-OLD man was arrested Friday for allegedly murdering his friend, after he was reportedly verbally abused and slapped by the latter, police said.

The deceased was identified as Devdas (55) and the accused as Kartik. He has been working as a priest at a temple in Palam's Raj Nagar for the last three years, DCP (Southwest) Surendra Choudhary said.

An officer said the two had been friends for the last one-and-a-half years; Kartik also knew Rama Devi (54), Devdas's companion. "On October 21, Devdas invited Kartik to his house at night for a drink. Rama had gone to her hometown in Andhra Pradesh," the DCP said.

Devdas lived on the second floor

of a building he owned in Raj Nagar, a portion of which he had rented out. "After a few drinks, Devdas allegedly hurled abuses at Kartik..."

Angered by this, Kartik took a chopper, which Devdas used to keep under his pillow, and killed him with it," the DCP said, adding that the accused claimed Devdas had slapped him two to three times earlier as well.

Police said Kartik stashed the body in a gunny bag and returned home to change his clothes. "He then came back and slept at Devdas's house. He kept coming to the flat everyday till October 27 to turn on the water motor, which was Devdas's responsibility, so tenants living on the top floor didn't suspect anything," an officer said.

On October 30, Devdas's sister-in-law, Asha, made a PCR call, stating that a foul smell was emanating from his flat and that the family hadn't seen him for a week. "On reaching Devdas's res-

idence, one room was found locked. The fire brigade broke the lock and a gunny bag with Devdas's decomposed body was found," the DCP said.

Police said Kartik, who went missing on October 27, was traced to his village in Uttar Pradesh's Etah. "A raid was conducted and Kartik was arrested," the DCP said.

Devdas's nephew Vijay Sharma said, "He never had a fight with anyone though he used to get angry very easily... His source of livelihood was the rent he received every month." Rama had been living with Devdas for the last 15 years, he added.

Police said it was she who first sensed something was amiss. "Rama called Devdas's sister-in-law when she couldn't reach him. After the murder, Kartik initially took her calls and told her Devdas had gone to Jaipur on work. Then her calls started to go unanswered," an officer said.

PRAGYNESH

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

A 40-YEAR-OLD man was mowed down allegedly by a speeding Delhi Jal Board (DJB) tanker while he was crossing the road in front of Alaknanda market at C R Park on Saturday. The driver of the tanker was arrested.

The deceased was identified as Mukunda Hazra, a car cleaner and a resident of Govindpuri. "He was taken to the HAH Centenary Hospital where he was pronounced dead," DCP (South) Ankit Singh said.

"The driver, Mukesh, was working for a contractor who runs his tankers for the DJB," an officer said.

Amar, the brother-in-law of the deceased, said that Mukunda was coming to his colony to clean cars when the accident happened. "Around 7:30 am, he was crossing the road when the



tanker hit him... His son had died two years ago on November 12... My sister is all alone now," he added.

"Mukunda's mother lives in Kolkata... he used to send her money. Now, we don't know how things will be managed," Amar said.



The spot in front of Alaknanda market where the victim, Mukunda Hazra (left), was mowed down. Express

Mukunda's wife Renuka, who works as a cook at nearby homes, was inconsolable. "I have lost everything..." she said.

Residents of all pockets of Gangotri Enclave Colony organised a blockade in protest against the accident. Anita Majumdar, vice-president of Pocket B RWA, said, "The traffic light in front of Alaknanda market is covered with hoardings..." Following the protest, Anita said the traffic police deployed

a couple of personnel at the spot.

A traffic police officer said, "We have deployed personnel as of now to issue challans to offenders. As soon as we receive an official request for CCTV cameras, we will take it into consideration." A police officer said the traffic police has been requested to install cameras at the signal.

In a statement on the incident, the Aam Aadmi Party said, "The Alaknanda Market traffic light is an accident-prone spot... Local MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj has sent multiple letters to DCP Traffic, even met traffic officials along with residents for deputing constables as well as installing high-speed cameras so that vehicles jumping the red light can be challaned."

"Around three years ago, the traffic police had assured that they have initiated the tender process for the same, however, it is yet to be installed," it added.

INDIA bloc flags Himanta's 'communal' poll speeches in Jharkhand

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 2

FLAGGING BJP's Jharkhand election in-charge and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Sarma's election speeches as "extremely divisive" and "hateful", INDIA bloc leaders have sought "immediate and strictest action" against him.

A letter, submitted to the Election Commission of India and the state's chief electoral officer by the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), the Congress and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), said that Himanta Sarma "targeted" Muslims at a public meeting and programme in Sarath on Friday.

In his speech, he purportedly said that "they" vote for the same party but "we vote half here and half there".

The letter, made public at a press conference Saturday, reproduced parts of Sarma's speech to claim it was "stoking the flames of hatred and resentment" by using "venomous words" such as "infiltrators".

It also flagged an interview in which he targeted Congress minority leaders and said in case the election body didn't take action in the next 24 hours, they would move court.

"He has knowingly colouring all the people of a particular religious minority in one shade and portraying all of them to be infiltrators so as to exploit existing social divisions and exacerbate them for political gain and create communal tension and break the social fabric of the state of Jharkhand for electoral gains," said the letter, demanding action to show that the "Commission does not stand by such actions of any person which can result in disturbing the process of free and fair elections".

# South's cinema vibrant, focus only on Hindi films in North: Udhayanidhi

'If we fail to protect our language, Hindi would take over... erode our identities'

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 2

"LOOK AT the state of regional cinema across India," Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin told an eager crowd at Kerala's Hortus Literary Festival on Saturday. "Does any other language in any North Indian state have a vibrant film industry like in South India? The answer is a very big no. Almost all the languages spoken in the North have given way to Hindi," he said, elaborating on cinema's role in defending linguistic identity, how Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, and Kannada cinema thrived independently and survived as vibrant film industries, while in the North, "only Hindi films — Bollywood — receive extensive attention".



TN Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin in Kozhikode. X

Standing before a packed crowd at the Manorama Hortus, an art and literary festival in Kozhikode, Udhayanidhi stressed on the power of cinema as more than mere entertainment. In southern India, he argued, it is a means of cultural preservation and resistance — a striking contrast to the dominance of Hindi in northern states. His speech was one of his first political appearances in Kerala after entering politics.

Extensively explaining the origin of the Dravidian movement and the struggles for linguistic and cultural identity, he spoke about how the Dravidian movement had resisted Hindi dominance, and how Hindi has subsumed local languages in northern states.

Udhayanidhi said it was (late DMK leader) M Karunanidhi's famous movie, *Parasakthi*, that reshaped the screen language of the Tamil cinema world. "Similarly, we have a thriving industry in Kerala. In fact, I like most of the Malayalam movies made in recent times. Likewise, the Telugu and Kannada film industries are also performing very well," he said.

Udhayanidhi then asked the

crowd to think for a moment. "Does any other language in any North Indian state have a vibrant film industry like in South India? The answer is a very big no. Almost all the languages spoken in the North Indian states have given way to Hindi. As a result, they have only Hindi films — Bollywood — and Mumbai is extensively producing only Hindi films now. Not Marathi films, not Bhojpuri; Bihari, Haryanvi, and Gujarati film industries receive far less attention as compared to Bollywood..." Udhayanidhi said.

"If we failed to protect our language, Hindi would take over our culture and erode our identities. That is why we led the anti-Hindi movement, not because we had any hatred towards the Hindi language," the DMK leader added.

# India positioning itself as 'vishwamitra'... generating goodwill, says Jaishankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar has said that India is positioning itself as a "vishwamitra" (friend of the world) and that it "wants to be friends with as many as possible".

He was speaking at the launch of a book titled 'Friends: India's Closest Strategic Partners' by Professor Sreeram Chaulia of O P Jindal Global University in New Delhi on Saturday.

"India is today positioning itself as 'vishwamitra'. We seek to be friends with as many as possible. This obviously generates goodwill and positivity towards us. It is reflected in the growing contribution we make to the global good. And indeed in closer engagement with the international community. In some ways, this is diplomacy 101. You could even say common sense. If you look deeper, there are cultural and historical factors at work as well, including the fact that we are not a dogmatic civilisation," Jaishankar said while addressing a small gathering. Jindal Global Law School Vice-Chancellor C Raj Kumar was also present at the event.



(From left) Prof Sreeram Chaulia, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Jindal Global Law School V-C C Raj Kumar and Rupa Publications MD Kapish Mehra at the launch of Chaulia's book in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

"Now, because we are friendly, does this automatically mean that we have many friends? Certainly, as this book demonstrates, the metrics of evaluating relationships make a very powerful case. That these have progressed very significantly in India, yet it is important not to overstate, not to oversimplify, and not to overassume. Life is more complicated than that," said the minister.

He said that the US, Japan, and Australia have benefitted from the QUAD. "They are actually examples of overcoming the

hesitations of history... The UAE and Israel are from a region that is being engaged comprehensively at last. And the final two — Russia and France are actually statements of multipolarity — ours as much as theirs. If all these ties have changed so much in the last decade, I am sure you will agree that much of the credit should go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his personal interest and leadership because, remember, at least three of them had not even seen a high-level visit for three decades," he said.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a visit to Field Gun Factory, a unit of Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), to take stock of critical indigenous defence capabilities in Kanpur, on Saturday. PTI

## TAKING STOCK

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a visit to Field Gun Factory, a unit of Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), to take stock of critical indigenous defence capabilities in Kanpur, on Saturday. PTI

## Priyanka: Modi destroyed dignity of PM's post with hollow promises

New Delhi: In a scathing attack on Narendra Modi, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said the PM has "destroyed" the dignity of the highest post of the country by repeatedly making "hollow promises" to 140 crore Indians.

She also said that instead of worrying about the Congress, Modi should work on "restoring the dignity of his post by resorting to truth". Her remarks came after Modi on Friday said the Congress stands "badly exposed" in front of the people for promising to them what the party knows it will never be able to deliver.

Modi launched a fierce attack on the opposition party as he seized on Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's comments that the Congress' state units should make promises that are properly budgeted. PTI

## In break from 'tradition', Nepal PM Oli picks China for 1st bilateral visit

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE  
KATHMANDU, NOVEMBER 2

NEPAL PRIME Minister K P Sharma Oli is likely to undertake an official visit to China next month, his first bilateral, four months after he took over as head of the new government replacing the Left coalition government led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda).

Official sources said the Prime Minister will visit Beijing most

likely between December 2 and December 5.

Oli's China visit is seen as a visible break from the 'tradition' of the new Nepali PM undertaking his first trip to India.

India normally extends an invitation to Nepal's new prime minister. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is believed to have told Oli in New York when they met in September that he would soon be visiting Nepal.

Oli's visit to China is scheduled at a time when the two biggest

coalition partners in the government — Nepali Congress and Oli-led Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist — are at odds over the conditions of executing projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While the Nepali Congress is firm that BRI projects should be accepted only under grants, the CPN-UML supports projects with loans from China's Exim bank.

Foreign Ministry sources said the dates and agenda of the visit are being worked out.

## DAP crisis: Centre allocates 1.1 LMT fertiliser to Haryana

SUKHBIR SIWACH  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 2

AMID THE ongoing DAP fertiliser crisis in Haryana, the Centre has allocated 1.10 lakh metric tonne (LMT) DAP to farmers. Of this, 40,000 MT have already been dispatched from ports to the state and are expected to arrive in different districts by November 7, officials said. The entire allocation is expected to reach Haryana by November 17.

Haryana government officials said that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has consistently been in touch with Union minister JP Nadda to ensure timely supply of the allocated fertiliser to the state. The projected total consumption of DAP stands at 2.6 lakh MT in Haryana for this season. Haryana additional chief secretary (agriculture) Raja Sekhar Vundu told *The Indian Express* on Saturday that farmers have utilised 1.15 lakh MT DAP fertilizer in October this year compared to 1.19 lakh MT during the corresponding period last year. "This year the Centre allocated 85,000 MT DAP to the state in October against the promise of 1.10 LMT supply. However, the state already had 24,500 MT DAP fertilizer. That way, the state has no shortage of DAP fertilizer and



Farmers outside Bhiwani's Tosham police station where slips for DAP were distributed last week. File

the farmers need not to worry," Vundu added.

Officials added that Haryana has received a substantial supply of 60,000 MT of NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), with 29,000 already distributed to farmers and the remaining stock strategically positioned at market places. NPK is a balanced fertilizer providing all essential nutrients and is recommended as an effective substitute for DAP, officials said.

The Rabi season officially commenced on October 1, marking a pivotal moment for Haryana's agricultural sector. With targets set, wheat is projected to be sown across an impressive 25 lakh hectares, while oil seed crops will cover a sub-

stantial 10 lakh hectares. Officials said that 80 per cent of oil seed crop sowing has already been completed, and wheat sowing is progressing at a brisk pace.

The farmers who have sown mustard this season have been desperate for the supply of DAP fertilizer. At several places, the police were called to control the crowd of farmers who had gathered in front of the offices of co-operative societies for the fertilizer. At one place in Bhiwani district, the coupons for the distribution of DAP were distributed from Tosham police station recently. The officials say the shortage was the outcome of the panic among Haryana farmers with the reports of shortage of the fertilizer across the country.

## Withdraw Waqf land dispute notices sent to farmers, orders Siddaramaiah

PRES TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 2

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday instructed officials to immediately withdraw all notices sent to farmers concerning Waqf land issues. A decision to this effect was taken during a high-level meeting, with senior officials from the Revenue Department, the Minority Welfare Department, and the Karnataka Board of Waqfs.

"CM Siddaramaiah has issued a strict directive for the immediate retraction of all notices sent to farmers about Waqf land, emphasising that no disruption should be caused to them," a statement from the CMO read.

The statement noted Siddaramaiah's dissatisfaction with recent actions by certain officials and highlighted concerns that the JD(S) and BJP were allegedly using the Waqf issue for political gains, potentially disrupting peace in the state.

"Siddaramaiah has urged the public to ignore any misinformation and directed officials to handle the matter with sensitivity," it added.

## Anomalies in MGNREGS led to Rs 35 cr loss in 3 dists of TN, Rajasthan, MP: Govt audit

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

THE INTERNAL Audit Wing (IAW) of the Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has detected discrepancies leading to losses totalling Rs 35.37 crore in some districts of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during 2023-24. Out of this, the IAW flagged losses totalling Rs 34.02 crore in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu alone, besides Rs 1.09 crore in Nagaur (Rajasthan) and Rs 26 lakh in Morena (Madhya Pradesh).

According to sources, the IAW findings are part of the Annual Review of Performance

Audit for 2023-24, a report prepared by the Office of Chief Controller of Accounts and shared with the MoRD. The IAW conducted an audit of 92 works of various rural development schemes, including MG-NREGS, across the country during 2023-24. The report also showed that a loss of Rs 5.20 lakh was detected in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMAY-G) in Pherzawl district of Manipur.

As per the report, the IAW also found cases of wasteful and unauthorised expenditure on works under MG-NREGS, PMAY-G and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) across Gujarat, Sikkim, Manipur, Odisha, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar. The total amount of wasteful and unauthorised expenditure across these states was reported at Rs 15.20 crore.

"In 2023-24, a total of 92 risk-based internal audits were conducted, the highest since the establishment of the internal audit wing in this ministry... schemes run by the ministry are social welfare in nature. Therefore, it is important to spend the money for the purpose it is meant in a transparent manner. The benefits should reach the intended beneficiaries and lead to a robust rural economy. IAW tries to verify the value for money and judicious expenditure in a transparent manner while conducting internal audit of units and risk-based audit of the schemes/programmes," the report noted.

In the last financial year (2022-23), the IAW had detected a loss of Rs 23.17 crore in the implementation of the NREGS, PMGSY and National Social Assistance Program (NSAP). The maximum losses were reported under MG-NREGS (Rs 22.39 crore), followed by PMGSY (Rs 74 lakh) and the NSAP (Rs 2 lakh).

In the MG-NREGS, losses were reported from two districts — Rs 22.28 crore in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Rs 11.80 lakh in Nadia district of West Bengal. The PMGSY losses were reported from West Tripura district (Rs 74 lakh), while losses under the NSAP were reported from West Bengal's Malda (Rs 2.81 lakh).

Queries sent to the MoRD for comment did not receive a response.

**WHERE NEWSMAKERS DROP IN FOR A CANDID CHAT.**

Presents

**The Indian EXPRESS**

**AQDA**

*in conversation with*

**Vandita Mishra**  
National Opinion Editor  
The Indian Express

**Apurva Vishwanath**  
National Legal Editor  
The Indian Express

**BY CHANDRACHUD**  
Chief Justice of India

Associate Partners

University Partner

Hospitality Partner

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
 सिंडिकेट सिंडिकेट Syndicate  
 Regional Office: Punea  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
 Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower / Guarantor mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/ Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Guarantor and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act, Read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule. The Borrower / Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the amount mentioned against their names and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.  
**BRANCH- SANSI ISTAMRAR BRANCH**  
**Name of the Mortgage / Borrower-** Mrs. Indra Devi, W/o Late Jay Prakash Gupta, Libility- Rs.11,16,133.86 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Thirty Three and Paise Eighty Six Only) and interest thereon. **Date of Demand Notice-** 28.08.2024, **Date of Possession Notice-** 28.10.2024, **Description of the Immovable Property -** Sale Deed No - 26, Dated - 07/01/2019, All The Part and Parcel Of The Land And Building Measuring 1 Decimal 500 Sq. Kari Covered Under Khata No- 267, Khesra No- 475, Touzi No- 1/1309, Ward No- 05, Thana No- 63, Situated At Mouza + Anchal- Banmankhi, Mohalla- Rajput Tola / Goswami Tola / Chakla Munshi Tola, Sub-Registry- Dhamdah, Registry + District- Purnea, Bihar In The Name Of Mrs. Indra Devi W/O Jay Prakash Gupta. **Boundary-** North- Surendra Singh (Khesra No. 3181) South- 10 Ft. Road, East- Nij Vendor, West- Manoj Gupta  
**Date-** 02/11/2024 **Authorized Officer (Canara Bank)**  
**Place-** Sarsi Istamrar

**भा.क.अ.प. - राष्ट्रीय लीची अनुसंधान केन्द्र**  
**ICAR-NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE ON LITCHI**  
 मुशहारी प्रखंड, मुशहारी, मुजफ्फरपुर-842002 (बिहार)  
 Mushahari Farm, Mushahari, Muzaffarpur842002 (Bihar)  
 निर्देशक, भा.क.अ.प. - राष्ट्रीय लीची अनुसंधान केन्द्र, मुजफ्फरपुर के द्वारा जेम (गवर्नमेंट ई-मार्केटप्लेस) पर निम्नलिखित बिड/निविदा प्रकाशित किये गये है, जिसे भरने/डालने को अंतिम तिथि 20 नवंबर 2024 तक निर्धारित है, जिसका विवरण इस प्रकार है -  
 1. GeM BID No.- GEM/2024/B/5535603, dated 23.10.2024-BID for Supply & Installation of BIOFERMENTOR इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता निविदा को संपूर्ण विवरण, को विस्तृत जानकारी (गवर्नमेंट ई-मार्केटप्लेस) तथा संस्थान के वेबसाइट [www.nrclitchi.icar.gov.in](http://www.nrclitchi.icar.gov.in) पर प्राप्त करके 20 नवंबर 2024 तक निविदा भर सकते है।  
**प्रशासनिक अधिकारी**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vikas@Bhiku S/o Om Prakash R/o VIII, Shahbad Mohmd Pur, New Delhi.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 24/2013 SC/128/2020 U/s 323/325/341/308 IPC P.S.: Sec-23 Dwarka New Delhi,** it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vikas@Bhiku,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vikas@Bhiku,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
 Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Vikas@Bhiku,** accused of **FIR No. 24/2013 SC/128/2020 U/s 323/325/341/308 IPC P.S.: Sec-23 Dwarka New Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.12.2024.**  
**By Order**  
**Ms. Gurmohina Kaur**  
**AST-05, Room No: 511**  
**DW/14527/DW/2024**  
**(Court Matter)**  
**Dwarka Court New Delhi**

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE, ENT. & LUXURY TAX GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI**  
**L-BLOCK: VIKAS BHAWAN: I.P. ESTATE: NEW DELHI-110002**  
**Tender ID 2024\_EXC\_264377\_1**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**E-Tender for grant of wholesale license for supply of Country Liquor In GNCT of Delhi for the year 2024-25**  
 E-Tender (online tenders) are invited for grant of wholesale license for supply of country liquor in GNCT of Delhi for the year 2024-25. The Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) has been uploaded and available alongwith the Terms & Conditions. It can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>. The last date for submission of e-bids on e-procurement portal of GNCT of Delhi is **14.11.2024 upto 11:00 AM.**  
 All the tenderers/bidders are requested to have digital certification and to get themselves registered with Delhi govt. e-procurement portal. The application service provider can be contacted at "Help Desk" for registration, training (if required) on any working day between 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM at the following address:  
**Help Desk**  
**6th floor, C-Wing**  
**Vikas Bhawan-II (Near Metcafe House)**  
**Civil Lines, Delhi**  
**Phone No. 011-23813523**  
 Sd/-  
**(RAVI JHA)**  
**EXCISE COMMISSIONER**  
 DIP/SHARDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0245/24-25

**SPECIAL, BRANCH**  
**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**  
**NO. SB/Store/2024-25 (505), Bhopal, Dated 29-10-2024**  
**"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"**  
 E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicegp/app>-

| S.NO | Name of Item(s)                 | Qty. | Tender Fees (Rs.) | EMD (Rs)    | Tender No. |
|------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1    | Vehicle Mounted Baggage Scanner | 07   | 10,000/-          | 10,50,000/- | 2nd Tender |

- Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicegp/app>.
- submit through online website Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police. ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicegp/app>

| No. | Tender Activity  | Date & Time                |
|-----|--|----------------------------|
| i   | Submission of written queries - through e-mail: <a href="mailto:sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in">sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in</a> | 07/11/2024 up to 1700 hrs. |
| ii  | Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries   | 08/11/2024 at 1100 hrs.    |
| iii | Bid Submission Start Date  | 11/11/2024 at 1000 hrs.    |
| iv  | Last date of online e-Tender submission  | 19/11/2024 up to 1600 hrs. |
| v   | Bid will be opened on  | 20/11/2024 up to 1600 hrs. |
| vi  | Demonstration from   | 26/11/2024 at 11.00 hrs.   |

4. Tender Schedule:  
 Sd/-  
**D. I.G. of Police**  
**(Intelligence) M.P. Bhopal**  
**Tel. No. 0755-2443654**  
**G-18412/24**

**Shah to release BJP manifesto for Jharkhand elections today**

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah will release the Bharatiya Janata Party's manifesto and address three rallies in poll-bound Jharkhand on Sunday. Shah arrived in Jharkhand capital Ranchi on Saturday night.

"Union Home Minister Amit Shah will release the 'Sankalp Patra' for Jharkhand assembly elections in Ranchi on Sunday. He will also address three rallies at Ghatshila, Barkatha and Simaria assembly constituencies during the day," the BJP said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jharkhand on November 4 and address two rallies. Modi's visit will be followed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who is scheduled to hold a public meeting in Jamshedpur on November 5.

Shah is likely to release 25 key points of the party's manifesto to underline 25 years of Jharkhand's formation and a 150-point document, marking the 150th birth anniversary of Birsra Munda, BJP leaders said.

**Companies not in violation of Indian laws, but sensitising them: Centre on US sanctions**

In touch with US authorities to clarify issues, says MEA

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

DAYS AFTER the United States put 19 private firms from India and two Indian nationals on sanctions for their alleged role in aiding Russia's war efforts in Ukraine, India Saturday said that "sanctioned transactions and companies are not in violation of Indian laws", nevertheless it is working with Indian agencies to "sensitise Indian companies" on export control provisions.

"We are also in touch with the US authorities to clarify issues," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. Washington on Wednesday put 19 private firms from India and two Indian nationals on a list of "nearly 400 entities and individuals" from several countries that will face sanctions for their alleged role in aiding Russia's war efforts in Ukraine.

While this is not the first time that Indian firms have been targeted by US sanctions, the latest move was the "most concerted push so far against third-country evasion", officials had said.

Responding to questions on US sanctions on Indian entities, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have seen reports on US sanctions. India has a robust legal and regulatory

framework on strategic trade and nonproliferation controls. We are also a member of three key multilateral non-proliferation export control regimes—the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime—and have been effectively implementing relevant UNSC sanctions and UNSC resolution 1540 on non-proliferation."

"Our understanding is that the sanctioned transactions and companies are not in violation of Indian laws. Nevertheless, in keeping with India's established non-proliferation credentials, we are working with all the relevant Indian departments and agencies to sensitise Indian companies on applicable export control provisions and inform them on new measures being implemented that could impact Indian companies in certain circumstances," he said.

"Regular strategic trade or export control outreach events for Indian industries and stakeholders are being carried out by agencies of the Government of India. We are also in touch with the US authorities to clarify issues," the MEA spokesperson said.

While announcing the sanctions linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the State Department said: "The United States is today sanctioning nearly 400 entities and individuals for enabling Russia's prosecution of its illegal war... the Department of State is imposing sanctions on more than 120 individuals and entities. Concurrently, the Department of the Treasury is designating more than 270 individuals and entities. The Department of Commerce is also adding 40 entities..."

It said the move aims to disrupt sanctions evasion and target entities in multiple countries, including China, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey and the UAE, apart from India, for selling "items and other important dual-use goods to Russia, including critical components... for its weapons systems".

The US State Department also detailed the charges against four Indian firms on its list of 120 – Ascend Aviation India, Mask Trans, TSMD Global and Futrevo.

It alleged that Ascend Aviation and Mask Trans were involved in the supply of Common High Priority items such as US-origin aircraft and aviation components to Russian companies. The other two Indian firms were among those that were designated for allegedly "operating or having operated in the technology sector of the Russian Federation economy".

The two Indian nationals sanctioned are Vivek Kumar Mishra and Sudhir Kumar, the directors of Delhi-based Ascend Aviation.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT BHUBANESWAR**  
 Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoingar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022  
 E-Mail: [cemlpw.od@gmail.com](mailto:cemlpw.od@gmail.com)  
**Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice**  
 Bid Identification No. 03ML/2024-25

**On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha**

- Name of Work: Operation and Maintenance of existing 13 nos. schemes with intake points on Tel Basin having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift Cluster-XIV in the districts of Kathabada & Bolangir comprising all electro-mechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPE covering vulnerable command area of 14869.84 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 13 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electro-mechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of 10 years on "Turn-key basis".
- O & M Period: 120 (One hundred twenty) calendar months.
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal: 07.11.2024, 10 A.M.
- Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 06.12.2024 up to 5:00 P.M.
- Name & address of the officer inviting Bid: Chief Engineer, Megalift

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".  
 Sd/-  
**Chief Engineer, Megalift Bhubaneswar**  
 A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751022  
**OIPR-32504/11/0007/2425**

**BRIDGE**  
 Dealer: West Vulnerable: East/West

| NORTH   | EAST    |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ AQ9   | ♠ K107  |
| ♥ 2     | ♥ QJ5   |
| ♦ AQJ94 | ♦ 1052  |
| ♣ AK75  | ♣ 10986 |

South got to 3NT on an auction that looked nice on paper but which was not proven yet to be best. West leads the king of hearts. What should East be thinking?

This is a pretty easy hand as long as you spot the important issues in time. West led the king of hearts so surely he has the ace too. With holdings headed by the AK, it is usually right to lead low unless you have a particularly good holding in the suit. Given your QJ5 of hearts you should be able to count on your partner to have the ten and nine too. Which heart do you play at trick one?

Play the queen. Here is something you need to know. IF PARTNER LEADS THE ACE

If your partner had led the ace, that lead would promise the AKJ10 and would ask you to play the queen if you have it and to give count otherwise. With Q63, for example, you should play the queen. With 8753 you should play the eight or seven and with 82 you should play the eight. Both of these plays say you have an even number of cards in the suit. If you have the 742, for instance, you should play the two. This says you have an odd number of cards in the suit. Your partner knows you do not have the missing high card so he will interpret your play as showing how many you have. On the hand here, West did not lead the ace. He led the king. Your correct play is the queen because you also have the jack. It is obvious that the North-South bidding has come off the rails but that won't do you any good unless you take your tricks. So you play the queen, hoping that West will lead a heart to your jack. Your heart continuation will run the suit and you will go plus. West does not do that. Instead, he leads the ace.

Continue unblocking. You think (hope) that your partner has the ten and nine too, so unblocking will let your partner finish the suit.

The West hand: S-J84H-AK10943D-87C-42  
 The South hand: S-6532H-876D-K63C-DJ3  
 If you do this you will set 3NT two tricks. North and South will retire to discuss their conventions.

Dealer: North Vulnerable: East/West

**BRIDGE**  
 Dealer: North Vulnerable: East/West

| NORTH    | SOUTH   |
|----------|---------|
| ♠ 53     | ♠ A87   |
| ♥ AKQ    | ♥ J103  |
| ♦ AJ10   | ♦ K9876 |
| ♣ AJ1032 | ♣ 57    |

| SOUTH WEST | NORTH | EAST |
|------------|-------|------|
| 1C         | pass  | 1S   |
| pass       | pass  | pass |

West leads the spade nine, East overtakes with the spade ten, which you allow to hold, and continues with the spade king. How do you plan the play?

**JUMBLED WORDS**

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Success follows doing what \_\_\_\_\_. There is no other way to be successful. - Malcolm Forbes (3,4,2,2)

**BTAOO**      **LOSDNU**

**TROUT**      **ABNRWY**

Answer: Success follows doing what you want to do. There is no other way to be successful. - Malcolm Forbes

**SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2502**

**QUICK CLUES**  
**ACROSS**  
 7. Plant (5)  
 8. Invigorated (7,2)  
 10. Extreme fear (6)  
 11. Once bitten \_\_\_\_\_? (5,3)  
 12. Consuming or ingesting (6,2)  
 13. Nimble (4)  
 15. False argument (7)  
 17. Traversed (7)  
 20. Notion (4)  
 22. Announced (8)  
 25. Common garden pepper (8)  
 26. Evasive (6)  
 27. Yardstick of poverty (9)  
 28. Sauce (5)

**DOWN**  
 1. Polygon having 12 sides (9)  
 2. Short fight (8)  
 3. Cataloguing (7)  
 4. Confuse (8)  
 5. Concerning this (6)  
 6. Obnoxiously forward (5)  
 9. Ship's prison (4)  
 14. Sleuth (9)  
 16. Not quite (8)  
 18. Barcelona resident (8)  
 19. Insistent (7)  
 21. Disheartened (6)  
 23. Warm and snug (4)  
 24. Scottish squire (5)

**CRYPTIC CLUES**  
**ACROSS**  
 7. Circus performers? May be true or false (5)  
 8. They spend their time together? (4,5)  
 10. Top style of musical party (6)  
 11. Think of using strong drink in freshening tea (8)  
 12. Sweet stuff for Missouri girls (8)  
 13. No, the peon can be changed (4)  
 15. The time has not gone when this may be given (7)  
 17. Help too, may be A-1 (3,4)  
 20. International development agency students were initially girls (4)  
 22. In a manner of speaking, one

may give a single weapon like this (4,4)  
 25. Guard primarily worships at church, with ascending divinity (8)  
 26. That could be the blooming boy that could be dyeing (6)  
 27. Duff TV pollster left out of stalemate election (5,4)  
 28. Young Donovan confused the leader of Argonauts (5)

**DOWN**  
 1. A drab Lola changed in time for the embarkation call (3,6)  
 2. Not full methods, of course (8)  
 3. The lady will see newsmen around mid-week (7)  
 4. Made fiery sergeant dance (8)  
 5. Is it not enough for one who is dog-tired? (6)  
 6. Skins spelt differently (5)  
 9. Gangs require a doctor qualified in surgery (4)  
 14. Lordly type with a heavy face? (9)  
 16. I have investigated first

**Sudden drop (8)**  
 18. Why Lord's appeal? (4,4)  
 19. It escapes one that that's where Smith is: a backstreet (7)  
 21. Criminal lawyer gives company some appeal? (6)  
 23. Even bold bad Sadie initially falls back (4)  
 24. Fish's nags (5)

**Solutions to 2501**  
**QUICK CLUES** Across: 7 Tiramisù, 9 Elxir, 10 Snap, 11 Dishevelled, 12 Accede, 14 Terrific, 15 Sparse, 16 Act one, 19 Praising, 21 Nudged, 23 Antagonist, 24 Suds, 25 Allege, 26 Exploded Down: 1 Plenic, 2 Warp, 3 Mindless, 4 Meteor, 5 Likelihood, 6 Lifetime, 8 Upsets, 13 Eradicated, 15 Strongly, 17 Cenotaph, 18 Ignite, 20 Ironed, 22 Endued, 24 Snob CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 7 Trophied, 9 Roofed, 10 Sten, 11 Longwinded, 12 Maimed, 14 Bel paese, 15 Pushed, 16 Tackled, 19 Onco-over, 21 Dottle, 23 Husbandman, 24 Lams, 25 Wallet, 26 Delicate Down: 1 Greta, 2 Spun, 3 Disodge, 4 Trowel, 5 Downmarket, 6 Released, 8 Darube, 13 Masked ball, 15 Pan-human, 17 Ardently, 18 Framed, 20 Venite, 22 Limits, 24 Jack

**If it's your Birthday**

**Sunday November 3**  
 Today's stars bring qualities which are at once theatrical and magical. If you want to dress up and show off, you'll be in tune with the heavens.

**Monday November 4**  
 You're tougher than you seem. It's an ideal moment to increase the energy you're putting into professional and worldly ambitions.

**Tuesday November 5**  
 Emotional stars are on your side. Your year ahead looks fairly intense, but in a positive way. You'll be repeatedly drawn into deep emotional encounters.

**Wednesday November 6**  
 Life is good. Unusual, life-changing invitations are just around the corner. But rather than look at what might be about to happen to you.

**Thursday November 7**  
 You're reaching an historic turning point, in a very positive way. Lots of tiny and seemingly insignificant events could add up to a major forwards shift.

**Friday November 8**  
 Your feelings for a certain person could be surprisingly strong. You're also in quite a confident mood and therefore able to take the lead.

**Saturday November 9**  
 What is best? One special friend or many, a single lover or a hundred? One thing is certain, which is that you'll be exploring new emotional possibilities, and anyone who attracts your gaze will be a very, very special person indeed.

**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
 You need to hang on to your principles, but much still revolves around money. You feel that you should not be in the business of making other people happy, but of securing your own interests. It is about time that you put yourself first, so don't feel guilty.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
 If you have a spare moment, you may celebrate Jupiter's presence in intriguing parts of your chart by buying yourself a treat or two. Your pleasure may be slightly marred by a hint of provocation in the financial department.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
 You must be prepared for frank and open debate. You may wish that everything were sweetness and light, but it's far better to face up to causes of disagreement. There's little to be gained from papering over the cracks.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
 Planet is piling upon planet, star upon star, and you may be experiencing a welcome rise in energy. However, there are too many choices. If you really can't decide what you should be doing, it is perfectly acceptable to surrender to circumstances and let fate take its course.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
 You are famous for your good ideas but, also, in many people's opinion, for the ease with which you change your mind. However, it's now important to be consistent and realise that your plans must be capable of practical implementation.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)**  
 Your fantasy life appears to be extremely powerful at present. There's just as long as you don't imagine that what you believe to be true really is true. As the days pass, fact and fiction begin to follow completely separate paths.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
 Passions are mounting. This obviously means that romantic dalliances could develop a momentum of their own. It also indicates, though, that all your creative powers should now be at a peak. Cancerian artists, and that includes all of you, will be exploring new avenues or expertise.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
 Your stars mean business, and friends and acquaintances are set to take life extremely seriously and, at any moment, an otherwise light-hearted situation can become extremely intense. What happens in the end is very much up to you, and your emotional wisdom will be thoroughly tested.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
 Power struggles are inevitable, most likely at home or within your family. Never imagine that you are completely faultless, for, even inadvertently, you have contributed to current, awkward emotional situations. An older partner will come to your aid.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
 Discussions and decisions which take place over the current period will be dominated by the Moon, and that means you'll be making rational choices on the basis of your instincts and feelings. And that's no easy feat. Your judgment may be good, but think before you speak.

**VIRO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
 It's difficult to focus on details at the moment and you should be setting off on a fact-finding expedition at work. According to all indications, you'll do well in serious discussions and meetings, but don't be thrown by people who are out to shock you. Family matters could benefit from some of your sensitive skills.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
 It's time to catch up with a few basic life-lessons. It looks very much as if you may have been taking other people for granted, or otherwise under-valuing their gifts and qualities. You would do well to reconsider your habits and preconceptions.

# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY

### MANIPUR

Constable shoots his senior dead

**Imphal:** A Sub-Inspector of Manipur Police was shot dead by a Constable on Saturday morning at Mongbung post in Jiribam district of Manipur. According to reports, Sub-Inspector Md Sahajahan, who headed the Mongbung outpost, was shot by Constable Akojiam Dhananjay using a rifle. Sahajahan received a bullet injury in his chest and was taken to the district hospital where doctors declared him dead. The accused Constable has been arrested and investigation is on to find out the motive of the crime. **ENS**

### CHHATTISGARH

Six dead, one injured as SUV falls into pond

**Raipur:** Six persons, including a minor girl, were killed and one injured after their sports utility vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a pond in Chhattisgarh's Balrampur district on Saturday, a police official said. The vehicle was on its way to neighbouring Surajpur district. The deceased comprise four men, a woman and a minor girl, the official said. **ENS**

**UP:** 5 held for killing journalist, police point to land dispute

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 2

THE FATEHPUR police on Saturday arrested five people, including a revenue officer (Iekhpal), in connection with the murder of a 40-year-old journalist, Dilip Saini, who was allegedly attacked and killed at his residence in Bisauli on October 30. Saini's friend Shahid Khan, who tried to intervene, also suffered injuries, police said.

Dhawal Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Fatehpur, said a search was on for more suspects. Jaiswal added that preliminary investigations indicate that the crime was a fallout of a dispute over land and money.

The police claimed that Saini and the accused knew each other. SP Jaiswal identified the five arrested persons as Ankit Tiwari, Jitendra Patel, Vipin Sharma, Ashish Kumar and Iekhpal Sunil Rana. Police also claimed to have recovered a stick and an iron rod allegedly used in the crime from the possession of the accused. A search is on for four more suspects, including two of the "prime accused", police said.

Saini worked as a stringer for a news agency, while his family lives in another district.

According to the complaint filed by Saini's wife, Manorama, the accused reached their residence around 11:48 pm on October 30 and began arguing with Saini. The confrontation escalated as the accused attacked Saini with a sharp-edged weapon as well as a country-made pistol. When Shahid Khan attempted to protect him, he was also assaulted.

## 'Monitoring other herds': Centre begins probe into Bandhavgarh elephant deaths

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

A TEAM of the Union Environment Ministry's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, which investigates wildlife crimes in the country, has been tasked with probing the death of 10 elephants in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. This will be independent of the probe started by a five-member team of the state government, which is headed by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife).

"The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted a team to enquire into the deaths of 10 elephants in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh. The team is conducting an independent inquiry in the matter," read a statement issued by the Union

Environment Ministry.

Prime facie, there are indications that the elephants died due to toxin poisoning. This is attributed to the Kodo millet crop they consumed following a raid by the herd. Before the Centre decided to initiate a probe through WCCB, the Additional Director General of Forests (Project Tiger and Elephant) and Member Secretary, the National Tiger Conservation Authority, had already visited the tiger reserve on Friday, along with the tiger authority's Nagpur officials.

Earlier on Tuesday, patrolling staff at the tiger reserve had initially found four elephants dead in the Salakhaniya beat of Khitauli and Pataur core ranges. Six other pachyderms were also found in a critical state. By Thursday, the death toll had mounted to 10. Of these 10 elephants, one was male and the rest were females. "Further, among the 10 dead ele-

phants, six were juvenile/subadults and four were adults," an environment ministry note stated.

The postmortem of the elephants was done by a team of 14 veterinarians. Their viscera have been sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, and State Forensic Science Laboratory, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, for toxicological and histopathological investigation.

"The final cause of death shall only be ascertained after thorough inquiry, detailed post-mortem reports, results of histopathological and toxicological reports, and other corroborative evidence. Further, preventive measures are being taken to avoid such incidents, and monitoring of other elephant herds in and around Bandhavgarh reserve has been enhanced," the Environment Ministry statement added.

## Two killed in elephant attacks in three days

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 2

TWO PERSONS were killed and one injured by three elephants near Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh's Umaria district Saturday, officials said on Saturday. The elephants were being tracked by the forest department following the death of 10 others in the reserve in the last three days.

Ramratan Yadav (50) was killed in Devra village, some 10 km away from BTR, when he went to answer nature's call. Meanwhile, Bhairav Kol (35) was killed at Brahe village in the BTR's buffer zone while Malu Sahu (32) was

left wounded in Banka just outside the reserve.

Umaria DFO Vivek Singh said that anything conclusive about whether they are part of the ill-fated herd of 10 would be established "after collection of data".

However, forest officials said that while they are not suspected to be part of this herd, they could be part of another that came to the spot where the elephants died.

"There was a herd of 25 elephants which had turned up two days ago in search of Kodo millets and were chased away. Three of them may have been separated from the group and were involved in the deaths (of two people). All elephants are being tracked," a senior official of the BTR said.

## Heavy rains lash Kerala, orange alert in 3 districts

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 2

INCESSANT HEAVY rains accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning lashed several parts of Kerala on Saturday with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting further heavy rains.

The IMD has upgraded the warning into an orange alert in three districts of the state, including Pathanamthitta, Emakulam and Idukki, predicting very heavy rainfall in isolated places there. Earlier, they issued a yellow alert.

An orange alert means very heavy rain (6 cm to 20 cm) and a yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6 and 11 cm.

A 58-year-old woman died reportedly after suffering lightning strike in Haripad in coastal Alappuzha district. Eight districts, including Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Palakkad and Kozhikode were given a yellow alert predicting heavy rainfall, according to the latest update of the agency.



## UP ABOVE THE WORLD...

Participants practice at the 'Paragliding World Cup 2024' at Bir in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh on Saturday. As many as 94 paragliders from 26 countries, including 32 Indians, are participating in the event. *Express*

## MP doctor, two nurses suspended after pregnant woman 'forced' to clean up after husband's death

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 2

A PREGNANT woman was reportedly forced to clean her husband's blood-stained bed at a local community centre after he succumbed to injuries sustained during an attack on his family in Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh.

Shivraj Marawi (40), his father Dharam Singh Marawi (65) and his sons Raghuraj Marawi (40) were allegedly attacked by a group of 25 people — including relatives — following a land dispute in the usually peaceful Lalpur Sani village Thursday evening.

Shivraj died shortly after being taken to the Gardasari health centre for treatment. A video that surfaced Friday purportedly showed Shivraj's wife Roshni bleeding made to clean the bloodied bed at the primary health centre

immediately after her husband's death. Roshni is five months pregnant.

On Saturday, Chief Medical and Health Officer (Dindori) issued orders to transfer the attending doctor, Dr. Chandrashekhar Singh, and suspended the two nurses Rajkumari Markam and Chhoti Bai Thakur.

In the show cause notice issued on November 2, the CMHO wrote that "in the viral video on social media dated 31.10.2024, it has been found that the deceased's wife was made to clean the hospital bed at the Primary Health Center Gardasari, Community Health Center. Despite arrangements for hospital cleaning being made through outsourcing in this and other health facilities of the district, it is unfortunate that the deceased's wife was made to clean the hospital bed".

## Fight over parking led to clash, not linked to procession: Kolkata police

**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA**  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 2

WHAT ALLEGEDLY began as an argument over parking escalated into a full-blown clash between two groups in north Kolkata's Narkeldanga on Friday night, prompting the police and the Rapid Action Force (RAF) to resort to lathicharge and use of tear gas.

According to police sources, it started as an argument between two youngsters over the parking of a motorcycle in Rajabazar area under Narkeldanga police station around 9:30 pm. Soon, more people gathered and stones and glass bottles were pelted.

The incident occurred around the time of Kali Puja immersions, but the police denied it had anything to do with the event. "Attempts have been made by some on social media to create a fake narrative about the incident at Narkeldanga. No Kali Puja immersion procession was attacked. The issue was related to the parking of a bike that led to a fight between two individuals and further



Security personnel in Narkeldanga area Friday. *Partha Paul*

escalated. However, the police intervened and brought the situation under control. The scheduled Kali Puja immersion procession was completed peacefully and without any hindrance," a post on social media by the police said.

According to the sources, stones were also allegedly pelted from neighbouring buildings. Immersion processions were halted as people started to panic and ran away from the scene.

Eventually, a large contingent of police and the RAF reached the spot and began resorting to lathicharge and firing tear gas.

Immersions eventually continued through a different route under police protection.

The BJP called the incident as an "appeasement politics at its height". In a post on X, Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly and BJP MLA Suwendu Adhikari said: "Maa Kali's immersion procession attacked at Rajabazar, Kolkata. Narkeldanga Police failed to act and protect the devotees."

TMC leader Kunal Ghosh denied these allegations saying the incident had "no relation to politics or religion."

## Kerala court convicts one, acquits 13 NDF workers in 2005 killing of RSS leader

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 2

AN ADDITIONAL district and sessions court in Thalassery in Kerala Saturday acquitted 13 activists of the National Development Front (NDF) — which later evolved into the now-outlawed Popular Front of India (PFI) — in connection with the 2005 murder of prominent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader T Ashwini Kumar.

Of the 14 alleged accused, the court found only the third accused, MV Marshook — then 23 — guilty. His punishment will be pronounced on November 14.

Kumar, then 27, was RSS Kannur district boudhiki pramukh and the district convener of the Hindu Aikya Vedi. A private college teacher, he had earned himself the reputation of being a "spiritual orator".

The RSS leader was killed in broad daylight near Iritty in Kannur on March 10, 2005. On that day, after a vehicle waylaid the bus he was travelling in, four people entered the bus and hacked Kumar to death while others who waited outside hurled crude bombs to scare other passengers. Police had found out during investigation that Kumar, a bachelor, was not involved in any criminal cases and there was no personal enmity with neither the NDF nor the accused gang.

Significantly, Kumar's native village Punnad near Iritty had witnessed stray incidents of violence involving the RSS and the NDF. On 7 June 2004, NDF worker PV Muhammed was allegedly killed by people associated with the RSS and the BJP. Of the 14 accused persons accused in Kumar's murder,



Ashwini Kumar was killed near Iritty in Kannur

two NDF workers — T Yakoob, who was listed as 10th accused and V Muhammed Basheer, who was listed as 12 accused — are serving life term after they were found guilty in the 2008 murder of a CPI(M) worker, Dileepan in Iritty. The eighth accused, PK Shameer, was later arrested in a narcotic case and has been in jail for the last three years.

The police had chargesheeted the accused in the case 2006, but the first and the second accused were absconding then. Trial began in 2018 but got delayed for various reasons. The state police, then under Congress regime, had been accused of handling the case poorly. The first and the second accused, PV Azeez and Nuhil Ameen, had surrendered in 2012 — six years after the chargesheet was submitted — although the investigation team did not seek their custody then.

Special public prosecutor Joseph Thomas told the media Saturday that there were lapses in the police probe.

"The motive of the murder was religious intolerance. The prosecution will appeal against the trial court verdict. When key two accused surrendered years later, police did not question them," he said.

But BJP state president K Surendran described the court's ruling as "disappointing". "The verdict shows that the Left government had played footsie with the PFI," he alleged.

## Hyderabad girl who lost grandparents to blaze dies in hospital

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 2

SRUTI GUPTA, the 15-year-old intermediate student from Hyderabad who had been battling for life after a fire at her home last Monday, died at the Gandhi Hospital on Saturday morning.

Her grandparents, who had raised her since she was a toddler, had died of smoke inhalation in the fire that engulfed their home in Yakutpura area. Fire and police personnel found Sruti, who was doing intermediate first year and was a school topper, unconscious in her room on the first floor.

Majlis Bachao Tehreek leader Amjed Ullah Khan, who helped Sruti's family pay the medical expenses through crowdfunding, said that the girl's health deteriorated in the ICU.

"Late Friday night, she became unresponsive and was shifted to Gandhi Hospital, where she breathed her last in the morning. The tragedy is no one helped this brilliant girl in spite of so many appeals... The crowdfunding helped raise about Rs 1 lakh only, which went to pay for medicines, while her family paid Rs 2 lakh for the treatment," Khan said.

"In some cases we are able to raise a minimum of Rs 5 lakh but



Sruti's grandparents Mohal Lal Gupta and Usha. *Express*

in Sruti's case we struggled to raise Rs 2 lakh. Most of the donations were of Rs 100," he said.

An official from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's office said the CM had taken note of Sruti's condition on Friday and had directed officials to ensure the best treatment for the teenager. Sruti's uncle Ganesh Lal said they ran out of money to pay the hospital bills. "Her condition worsened and we shifted her to Gandhi Hospital. She fought for her life and gave up," he said.

Sruti lost her mother when she was a child and her father migrated to South Africa, leaving her with her grandparents. On Monday night, a fire spread in the kitchen of their one-storey house and firecrackers the family had bought for Diwali also caught fire. Sruti's grandparents Mohal Lal Gupta, 58, and his wife Usha Gupta, 55, died of smoke inhalation.

## In 3 of 8 bypoll seats in Assam and Meghalaya, parties go with kin of leaders

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 2

WHILE SEVERAL parties and their top leaders have been speaking out against "parivarvaad" (dynasty politics), the trend has continued to mark public life. Among the eight Assembly seats heading for bypolls in the Northeast on November 13, three seats will witness debuts of kin of prominent politicians.

### Dipti Mayee Choudhury

After four decades, the Bongaigaon seat in Assam has opened up for a contest. It fell vacant after the state's longest-

serving MLA Phani Bhusan Choudhury of the AGP, who has represented Bongaigaon since 1983, was elected from the Barpeta parliamentary seat in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

Given Choudhury's unbroken record in Bongaigaon, the BJP is not contesting from the seat, leaving it for its ally AGP.

The AGP has announced Phani Bhusan Choudhury's wife Dipti Mayee Choudhury as its candidate from the seat, a choice that has ruffled feathers within the party. Making her political debut, she had said that though she "never had political ambitions", it was "popular support" that pushed her to contest.



(From left) AGP's Dipti Mayee Choudhury, Congress's Tanzil Hussain, and NPP's Mehtab Chandee Sangma

Days before she was announced as the AGP's candidate, 36 leaders from the party's district unit, including its district president and secretary, had resigned over indications that Deepti would be selected as the

party's candidate. Deepti said, "Since I have the public support, I am ready. I personally do not want it at all. I did not seek it. I don't have political ambitions. But this was such a situation where everyone gave

their support, and it is said that if the people want it, you should go with them." The dissident AGP members had been pushing for former AGP district secretary Sainendra Sarkar's candidacy. After Deepti was named by the AGP, Sarkar left the party and filed his nomination as an Independent. The Congress has fielded Brajenjit Sinha.

### Tanzil Hussain

Another seat vacated after the Lok Sabha polls was Samaguri in Central Assam, the only one held by a Congress legislator among the five Assembly seats going for bypolls in the state.

Congress leader Rakibul

Hussain had been winning the Samaguri seat five consecutive terms until he was elected from the Dhubri parliamentary constituency in the Lok Sabha polls, in which he defeated the incumbent Badruddin Ajmal, the AIUDF chief, by more than 10 lakh votes. This was the highest victory margin across all the seats in the country.

The Congress has now fielded Rakibul's 26-year-old son and debutant Tanzil Hussain as its candidate for the Samaguri bypoll. Tanzil is the national secretary and treasurer of the NSUI, the Congress's student wing.

The atmosphere in Samaguri is charged ahead of polls, with

multiple clashes between Congress and BJP workers during rallies. BJP has fielded its state party general secretary Dipu Ranjan Sarma in the seat, which has a sizeable minority population.

### Mehtab Chandee Sangma

In Meghalaya, CM Conrad Sangma's wife Mehtab Chandee Sangma is the National People's Party (NPP)'s candidate from the Gambegre seat in the Garo Hills.

The seat fell vacant after its Congress MLA Saleng Sangma won the parliamentary polls from Tura by defeating Conrad's sister Agatha Sharma in LS polls. Over the last couple of years,

the Sangma family has been facing electoral setbacks in the belt and is hoping to reverse the losses. In the 2023 state Assembly polls, Conrad's brother and former minister James Sangma lost the Dadengger seat in the Garo Hills after three consecutive terms in the Assembly.

Earlier this year, in an upset, Agatha lost from Tura — a seat that has been held by the members of the Sangma family since 1977 barring a two-year gap from 1989 to 1991. Having projected Mehtab Chandee as the NPP's candidate months in advance and with Conrad himself campaigning for her, the NPP is pushing to regain lost ground in the Garo Hills.

# 8 DECISION 2024

MAHARASHTRA • JHARKHAND



## Cong-BJP direct fights in 76 seats hold key to next Maharashtra govt



State Congress chief Nana Patole is in the fray from Vidarbha's Sakoli, where 36 of the direct contests will occur. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 2

THE BJP and the Congress are headed for direct fights in 76 of the 288 Assembly seats in Maharashtra. And with the two parties leading the ruling Mahayuti and Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliances, respectively, these 76 seats — 36 of them in the cotton belt of Vidarbha — will play a crucial role in government formation.

The BJP is contesting 148 seats. While ally Shiv Sena, led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, has fielded 80 candidates, the NCP led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has fielded 52.

Region-wise, the BJP has fielded the most candidates in Vidarbha (47), followed by Western Maharashtra (32), North Maharashtra (17), Marathwada (19) and Konkan, including Thane and Mumbai (33).

In the MVA, the Congress is contesting 102 seats, ahead of alliance partners Shiv Sena (UBT)'s 96 and NCP (SP)'s 87 seats. While the BJP versus Shiv Sena (UBT) contests will be confined to 30 seats, the BJP versus NCP (SP) battle will play out in 39 seats.

The fate of the Congress and the BJP is likely to depend on how the cotton belt of Vidarbha votes. Here, the two parties will be engaged in a direct fight for 36 seats. The region will also see several political heavyweights, including Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, state BJP chief Chandrashekar Bawankule and state Congress chief Nana Patole contesting.

While Fadnavis will contest Nagpur South West for his sixth term against Congress's Praful Gudadhe, Bawankule will contest against Congress's Suresh Bhojar. Patole is pitted against BJP's Krishnalal Sahare. After losing the Chandrapur Lok Sabha seat, BJP

minister Sudhir Mungantiwar will fight to retain his Ballarpur seat against Congress's Santosh Rawat.

The Congress's determination to recapture Vidarbha can be seen from its decision to hand over two important posts, state president and Opposition leader, to Patole and Wadettiwar. It was also here that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi got the most traction during his Bharat Jodo Yatra. The party won five out of 10 seats in the region in the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress's performance in the region was also reflected in its overall performance, with the party winning 14 of the 17 Lok Sabha seats it contested. Similarly, the BJP's dismal show of two seats here was mirrored across the state, with the party winning nine of the 28 seats it contested.

The BJP leadership knows that regaining its hold over the cotton belt is a daunting task.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, when the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 122 seats, the maximum gain came from the Vidarbha region where it won 44 out of 62 seats. In 2019, the party's tally dropped to 29 seats.

But this time around, with the RSS taking to the field with renewed aggression to reach out to the masses, especially in Vidarbha, the BJP is confident it will emerge stronger. The BJP has also been on course-correction mode, from consolidating the Other Backward Class voters to placating Dalits.

"The BJP's dependence on Vidarbha is natural as it has a strong base. Also, the top state leadership including Union minister Nitin Gadkari, Fadnavis and Bawankule hail from this region, giving it a distinct identity and edge," a party insider said.

The Congress is counting on its Dalit, Muslim and Kunbi vote bank to recreate the Lok Sabha magic in Vidarbha, and focusing on issues like jobs. "Unemployment has unleashed unrest, not just in Vidarbha but across Maharashtra. Very little has been done to address the issue by the government," Patole said.

### IMAGE OF THE DAY



**POPULAR FACE:** Union Agriculture Minister and BJP's Jharkhand election in-charge Shivraj Singh Chouhan meets supporters at a public meeting in Palamu district on Saturday. *PTI*

### MAHARASHTRA INFIGHTING

## Rebel woes: BJP worst hit, parties rush to pacify leaders

Of 50 rebels, 36 from ruling Mahayuti; in MVA, most such candidates from Sena (UBT), Congress; deadline to withdraw nominations tomorrow

**VALLABH OZARKAR**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 2

AS THE dust settles after the nominations for the Maharashtra Assembly elections closed on Tuesday, both the ruling Mahayuti alliance and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition find themselves facing a host of rebels who have the potential to damage the electoral prospects of their candidates. Both alliances said they would try to get these rebels to stand down before November 4, the last date for withdrawing nominations.

Of the at least 50 candidates who have rebelled, a major chunk, 36, are from the ruling Mahayuti while the rest are from the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Most of the rebels are from the BJP at 19, followed by 16 from the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and one from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

In the MVA, most rebels are from the Congress at 10 and the rest are from the Shiv Sena (UBT) of Uddhav Thackeray. The 14 MVA rebels are in addition to the candidates from the alliance partners who have filed nominations in the constituencies of Kurla, South Solapur, Paranda, Sangola, and Pandharpur. In some cases, the rebels have also got their family members to file nominations.

At a meeting in Delhi last week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had told Shinde and



Senior Congress leader Ravi Raja joins the BJP in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and party's Mumbai chief Ashish Shelar on Thursday. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

Deputy CMs Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis to control internal rebellions and infighting. After the nomination window closed, Fadnavis said efforts were underway to get the rebels to withdraw their candidature. "We are a big party and we have many leaders who aspired to contest. But in coalition, we have certain limits and we can not accommodate everyone. But we will speak to them (rebels) and convince them. We are sure that they will understand and withdraw their nominations," Fadnavis said, adding that there could be friendly fights in some constituencies.

Nine rebels from Shinde's party are contesting in constituencies where the BJP has

fielded candidates including, Airoli in Navi Mumbai, Mumbai's Andheri East (where former encounter specialist Pradeep Sharma's wife and daughter have filed nominations), Pachora in Jalgaon district, and Belapur in Thane district.

Ten BJP rebels going up against the Sena in seats allotted to it, including Alibaug and Karjat in Raigad district, Buldhana in the district of the same name, Borivali in Mumbai Suburban district, and Jalna in the district of the same name.

BJP rebels are up against the NCP in nine seats while Shiv Sena rebels are contesting in seven seats allotted to Ajit Pawar's party. The lone NCP rebel has filed his papers from

Nandgaon in Nashik district against the Sena candidate.

In the MVA, the Congress has four rebels each going up against the alliance's official candidates in seats such as Kopri Pachpakhadi in Thane district, where Eknath Shinde is the Mahayuti candidate; Byculla in Mumbai; and Ramtek in Nagpur district. The Sena (UBT) has rebels in Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar in Mumbai Suburban, where the SP state chief Abu Azmi is the candidate; Versaava in Mumbai Suburban district, and Mehkar in Buldhana district. The party's rebel in Dharavi, Mumbai, where city Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad's sister Jyoti is the candidate, withdrew one of his nominations and saw the other one rejected.

In the rest of the seats, some have NCP (SP) rebels filing their candidature against official MVA nominees from either the Sena (UBT) or the Congress, while the rest has the NCP (SP) facing rebels from its other allies or from within its own ranks.

MVA leaders met on Thursday afternoon to sort out their problems.

"On Thursday afternoon a meeting between the MVA leaders has been called to ensure that all friendly fights are called off and differences, if any, are settled. We will not allow any friendly fights and the leaders of Sena UBT and NCP (SP) are on the same page with us. Similar efforts are on to convince the rebels to withdraw their candidature," Congress's Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala said earlier.

FOR MORE LOG ON TO  
[INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS](https://www.indianexpress.com/elections)



### KEY SEATS

HOW BJP IS TRYING TO REGAIN GROUND IN JHARKHAND'S KOLHAN BELT

## A watered-down irrigation 'scam' resurfaces, just in time for elections

**MANOJ MORE**  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 2

JUST AS in the 2014 and 2019 Assembly elections, an alleged Rs 70,000-crore irrigation scam has come back to life in Maharashtra.

This time, the issue was brought up by the person alleged to be at the centre of it himself, Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar. Speaking at a rally in Sangli district, Pawar scoffed at the alleged figures, saying the total expense of the project added up to only Rs 43,000 crore.

He then singled out the Maharashtra Home Minister at the time, R R Patil — the two were in the same NCP at the time — for engineering the allegations against him by ordering an "inquiry" by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). "R R Patil backstabbed me," declared Pawar.

### What is the alleged scam?

Between 2009 and 2014, Ajit Pawar was the Irrigation and Water Resources Minister in a Congress-NCP government. He also served as the chairman of the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation. In 2012, an Economic Survey report said Maharashtra's irrigation potential had increased by only 0.1% in 10 years though Rs 70,000 crore had been spent on various schemes during this time.

A retired chief engineer of the Water Resources Department, Vijay Pandhara, and other activists accused Pawar of approving 38 projects without clearance from the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation. After the charges were made, Pawar stepped down as Deputy CM. Three months later though, he was reinstated.

### Why do Pawar's remarks matter now?

With the alleged scam a festering issue, in September 2014, the NCP withdrew support to the then Congress-led Maharashtra government, citing failure to reach a seat-sharing agreement for the Assembly polls. At the recent rally, Pawar said that after the BJP won the 2014 Assembly polls, Devendra Fadnavis, who took over as CM, showed him a file



The alleged scam involving Ajit Pawar surfaced before 2019 and 2014 polls too. *File*

signed by Patil which recommended the inquiry against him in the case.

No sooner had Pawar put Patil on the mat than Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan, who was the

CM when the NCP withdrew support, said he had been vindicated. "I never ordered an inquiry against Ajit Pawar. The file signed by R R Patil never reached me. Unfortunately, Ajit Pawar held me responsible," he said.

### Where does the BJP stand?

All through the 2014 and 2019 Assembly elections, and much after, the BJP targeted Ajit Pawar over the alleged scam, threatening to send him to jail. But, after Ajit Pawar first staged a rebellion against the Sharad Pawar-led NCP in 2019, and joined hands with Fadnavis to form a BJP-NCP government that lasted only four days, the BJP's tone has changed.

The party has stopped targeting Pawar, and did not do so even when he went back to the NCP and became Deputy CM in the MVA government, with its silence on Pawar inviting speculation.

### What is the status of the alleged irrigation scam?

In December 2019, soon after the MVA government came to power, the ACB gave a clean chit to Pawar. In an affidavit to the Bombay High Court, the ACB ruled out Pawar's involvement. While the MVA government fell after splits first in the Shiv Sena and then the NCP, Ajit Pawar did just fine, with the case falling by the wayside as he switched from being a Deputy CM in the MVA to being a Deputy CM in the Mahayuti.



### I HEREBY DECLARE

**AJIT PAWAR, 65**, Maharashtra Deputy CM and NCP's Baramati candidate



|                            |                        |              |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>TOTAL INCOME (2021)</b> | Movable assets         | ₹13.49 cr    |
| <b>₹11.44 cr</b>           | Immovable assets       | ₹97.95 cr    |
| <b>(2019)</b>              | Liabilities            | ₹21.22 crore |
| <b>₹75.49 Cr</b>           | Pending criminal cases | 2 FIRs       |
|                            | Education              | Class 10     |

**YUGENDRA PAWAR, 33**, Ajit Pawar's nephew and NCP (SP)'s Baramati candidate



|                        |                                      |                        |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>    |                                      | <b>₹50.6 Cr</b> (2024) |
| Movable assets         | ₹39.8 cr                             |                        |
| Immovable assets       | ₹10.8 cr                             |                        |
| Liabilities            | ₹22.8 cr                             |                        |
| Pending criminal cases | 1 FIR                                |                        |
| Education              | BSc, Northern University, Boston, US |                        |

### KEY REGIONS

## In Jharkhand's South Chotanagpur, a battle for tribal vote

The BJP is raking up the 'conversion' issue in the region with 15 seats, JMM-Congress coalition is playing the Sarna card

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 2

THE TRIBAL-DOMINATED South Chotanagpur region in Jharkhand is set to witness a fierce battle between the incumbent Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led INDIA alliance and the Opposition BJP-led NDA coalition. The region has 15 seats, spread across five districts, of which 11 are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Of the state's total 28 ST seats, the BJP had won only two in the 2019 Assembly polls. The JMM and ally Congress had bagged 25 ST seats en route to forming the government.

In South Chotanagpur, the JMM-Congress won eight seats in the 2019 polls against the BJP's five seats and All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU)'s one. Of the region's 11 ST seats, the Congress and the JMM had won four seats each. The BJP had won

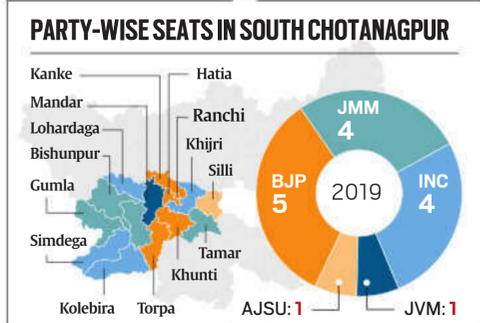
only two ST seats.

In the recent Lok Sabha polls, of the state's 14 parliamentary seats the BJP won eight and its ally AJSU got one seat, but the INDIA alliance won all five ST seats.

In the current Assembly polls, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to reach out to the tribal voters. All the seats of South Chotanagpur, barring Silli and Khijri, are going to polls in the first phase on November 13. The JMM and the Congress are fighting from eight and seven seats, respectively. The JMM has nominated four sitting MLAs, while the Congress has given tickets to five sitting MLAs.

Among the NDA partners, the BJP is contesting 12 seats while its allies AJSU and JD(U) are fighting two and one seats, respectively. The BJP has fielded four sitting MLAs while also nominating two former MPs.

The BJP's campaign in South Chotanagpur is being led by Sudarshan Bhagat, who had



been the Lok Sabha MP from Lohardaga thrice, and former Rajya Sabha MP Samir Oraon, who lost from Lohardaga in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Bhagat and Oraon are contesting from Gumla and Bishunpur respectively.

The AJSU has renominated its sitting MLA, while the JD(U) has fielded ex-NCP leader Gopal

Krishna Patar from Tamar, who is pitted against the JMM's incumbent Vikas Munda.

Tamar will see a high-voltage fight between Munda and Patar, who is an accused in the 2008 murder of Munda's father and JD(U) MLA Ramesh Munda. Patar is currently out on bail. After Munda's killing in 2008, the Tamar seat had gone to the by-

election, in which then CM Shibu Soren lost to Patar, who went on to win the seat in 2009 again.

In Khunti, the BJP's five-time MLA Neelkanth Singh Munda is taking on the JMM's Ram Surya Munda. The Khunti belt had witnessed the Pathalgadi movement in 2017-18 during the tenure of the previous BJP government, when local tribals had erected stone plaques reiterating rights granted to them under the 5th Schedule of the Constitution, and stopped government officials from entering their villages.

The Silli seat will also see an interesting contest between AJSU chief and four-term MLA Sudesh Mahato and the JMM's Amit Mahato. In 2019, Sudesh had clinched Silli by defeating Amit Mahato's wife Seema Devi.

Although all the leading contenders are facing the heat from rebel candidates, the BJP seems to have taken its brunt, especially in South Chotanagpur. A BJP insider

said: "The BJP leadership is working hard to contain the rebel candidates, especially in Gumla and Simdega districts."

Besides "anti-incumbency", the BJP is raking up the issue of conversion of tribals. Sunil Tiwari, advisor to state BJP chief Babul Marandi, said: "We will take this issue to the tribals on how their benefits are going to converted advisad under the Hemant Soren government... Sarna tribals have been left in the lurch."

The Sarna religion code has been a key demand of a large section of Jharkhand's tribal communities, who pray to the nature god identifying themselves as Sarna. The Soren government had passed a resolution in 2022 and sent it to the Centre for its inclusion as a separate code in the Census.

The incumbent alliance also believes its welfare schemes, including the Maiyya Samman Yojna, would offset the "anti-incumbency" factor.

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in  
Twitter: @Pchidambaram\_IN

THE MONETARY Policy Statement of the RBI grabs the headlines for one reason: the policy repo rate. Repo rate is the interest rate at which the central bank (RBI) will lend money to commercial banks in exchange for securities with a promise to re-purchase the securities at a later date. Borrowers are happy if the repo rate is *decreased* because it means that banks can borrow at a lower rate and, consequently, can lend at a lower rate. Inflation watchers are happy if the repo rate is *increased* because the rate is believed to be the instrument to control inflation. If the repo rate is unchanged, it will keep all stakeholders guessing.

GOVERNOR & REPO RATE

The repo rate was reduced from 5.0 per cent to 4.0 per cent on March 27, 2020. It was a big cut, and was justified on the ground that a Covid-hit economy faced the danger of a recession. It remained at 4.0 per cent for 26 months. When Covid waned and the economy showed signs of revival, in May 2022, the repo rate was sharply hiked to 4.40 per cent — ostensibly to tame inflationary expectations. It steadily climbed to 6.50 per cent by February 2023, where it has remained for 20 months. Since May 2022, Mr Shaktikanta Das, the governor, has been an inflation-warrior but the un-

Inflation is not yet on the path toward the target rate of 4 per cent. Food and fuel prices complicate matters. Both do not respond to interest rate changes...The governor argued that there was justification for keeping the repo rate unchanged. The contrary argument is that a high repo rate has the effect of dampening the growth rate of the economy

Fasten your seat belt

changed repo rate means that RBI has not yet succeeded in taming inflation.

No governor can please all the stakeholders. The UPA government constituted a monetary policy committee (MPC) to share the burden of the governor, but the final decision is still the governor's. The governor has to balance growth and inflation, and take a decision.

Inflation is not yet on the path toward the target rate of 4 per cent. Food and Fuel prices complicate matters. Both do not respond to interest rate changes. In September 2024, the year-on-year price increases were for tomato (42.4 per cent), for onion (66.2) and for potato (65.3). The governor argued that there was justification for keeping the repo rate unchanged. The contrary argument is that a high repo rate has the effect of dampening the growth rate of the economy.

GROWTH & INFLATION

Growth and inflation are the two primary concerns of the RBI as well as the government. Mr Shaktikanta Das cheered the *projected* growth rate of 7.5 per cent in the current year but also flagged inflation that is *expected* to be 4.5 per cent. Inflation has not yet reached that level; the inflation rate in September 2024 was higher at 5.49 per cent. The all-India Consumer Food Price Index stood at 9.24 per cent.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Report issued in October 2024 has more to say on the two subjects. On the *'Outlook for Growth'*, after reciting the government statistics, the Report said, "Uncertain global economic outlook, lingering geopolitical conflicts, rising supply chain pressures, and volatile global financial conditions, however, weigh heavily on the outlook to the downside." The Report also flagged other factors such as "geoeconomic fragmentation, deceleration in global demand, and frequent weather-related disturbances due to climate change." On the *'Outlook for Inflation'*, the Report identified the risks as "rising global supply pressures, adverse weather events, uneven distribution of rainfall, prolonged geopolitical conflicts and resultant supply chain disruptions, uptick in food and metal prices, volatility of crude oil prices, and adverse weather events." They add up to 10 separate downside risks.

THE HEADWINDS

The Monthly Economic Review of the Ministry of Finance has a candid assessment. It described the performance of the Indian economy as "satisfactory" but cautioned that "Underlying demand conditions bear watching. Further, risks to growth arise from escalating geopolitical conflicts, deepening economic fragmentation and elevated valuations

in financial markets in some advanced economies."

The NCAER's monthly economic review is balanced. After highlighting the bright spots, the Review pointed out the downsides: moderation in bank credit; deceleration on personal loans, services, agriculture and industry; depreciation of the rupee; and decrease in FPI inflows.

In my view, the bird's eye view is very different from the worm's eye view. While the former is important to have a view of the macro-economy, it is the latter that reflects the gains and pains of the common people. The people's concerns are unemployment, high inflation, stagnant wages, growing inequality between the rich and the poor, over regulation, GST and harsh GST administration, poor quality of education, unaffordable medical services, uncaring bureaucracy, and public expenditure that favours the rich and squeezes out the poor.

Along with the above, several other things could go wrong: the brutal war in the Middle-East could drag in more countries. The Russia-Ukraine war could involve the NATO countries. Manipur could see another conflagration. Maharashtra elections could throw up a surprise. China-Taiwan or South Korea-North Korea could become a hotspot. Mr Donald Trump could be elected President. So, please fasten your seatbelt, there is turbulence ahead.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen\_singh



Uniformity that's not needed

THE PRIME Minister said some things last week that I found worrying and more than a little scary. Worrying because in this country that is the size of a continent, he said he believed that uniformity is the way forward and that anyone who does not go along with his vision of 'one nation, one civil code, one ration card, one election' is against the unity of India. Scary because he seems out of touch with reality. Modi spoke of how his slogan of taking everyone along was true secularism and believed by everyone. Somebody needs to tell him that most Muslims have become alarmingly alienated in the past ten years and that they do not trust the slogan 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sab ka vishwas' anymore.

The Prime Minister was speaking on National Unity Day, an occasion he personally invented, and this time he spoke in the shadow of the gigantic Statue of Unity he built to honour Sardar Patel. Narendra Modi has regained the confidence that he appeared to temporarily lose after the Lok Sabha election. He has gone back to appearing in splendid isolation on public platforms to reinforce the image of being India's only leader.

The event organised under the Statue of Unity was like a mini-Republic Day parade. Tribal dancers in traditional costumes performed, young girls in lilac frocks and tights leapt about in a weird dance and acrobats did acrobatics on motorcycles. And at the end of all this came a fly-past by the Indian Air Force. Then came Modi's turn to address the nation. His speech was very, very long because he made it a point to list what he believes have been his personal achievements in the past ten years. It sounded very much like the speech he made from the Red Fort on Independence Day. And then suddenly a note of menace crept into his voice as he warned people to 'identify urban Naxals and unmask them.'

Why is this worrying? Because in the decade that he has been prime minister, dissidence has been ruthlessly crushed in the name of eliminating 'urban Naxals'. At this point I want to put on record that I do not believe that the elderly professors, priests and leftists jailed for being 'urban Naxals' were in any way a threat to India. If they were, then shame on the men responsible for our country's security and for treating human rights activists and leftists like terrorists. What worried me about the Prime Minister banging on about 'urban Naxals' on a day he personally designated as one to celebrate India's unity is that he seems once more to be distracting from real issues by creating phantom enemies.

For some months after losing his full majority in the Lok Sabha it seemed that Modi had understood the power of democracy and that he was willing to accept that it was not possible for democracy to exist without dissidence. After last week's speech, he appears to have gone back to believing that the only way for India to remain united and strong is for there to be uniformity, even if it needs to be enforced by the jackboot.

The strength of India is that there is no uniformity. Languages, dialects, food habits, clothes and traditions vary so dramatically from one state to the next that it fascinates those who come here for the first time and discover that there is no such thing as typically Indian culture or cuisine. Having spent most of my formative years living in the 'old' India that Modi has tried so hard to refashion into a 'new' India, I concede that there were many things wrong with it. But there were many things right with it and one of the most important of these was the celebration of diversity and dissidence.

If Modi and his Hindutva fellow-travellers are determined to create a uniform new India, it is because they seem not to understand that not only is this an unachievable goal, it is also undesirable. We do not need to become uniform to be proud and patriotic Indians, but this is something that Modi seems never to have understood or perhaps it is something he chooses not to understand. Having spent his impressionable years in the RSS, he has learned that diversity is a threat that could lead once again to India being broken in the name of religion or political ideology.

The opposite is true. If India has managed to remain the only real democracy in this part of the world, it is because we have learned to celebrate our diversity and our differences. If Modi should have learned one thing from failing to get a full majority in this Lok Sabha, it should have been that had he been a less divisive leader, he would have been very much more popular. The glue that holds India together is not religion, it is our diversity.

If we continue to celebrate the different cultures and beliefs that exist in our many-hued land, India will continue to remain united. Uniformity is not something India wants or needs, so please, Prime Minister, can you stop banging on about 'one nation, one law, one ration card'. It is pointless. There are more important things to be done.

inside TRACK

COOMIKAPOOR



PRESIDENTIAL FRONTRUNNERS

The name of the new BJP party president will be declared after the assembly results. In the wake of the unimpressive showing in the Lok Sabha polls, the RSS was keen on Shivraj Singh Chouhan to replace JPN Nadda as BJP president, but the popular former CM of Madhya Pradesh was unacceptable to the Modi-Shah duo. The new president will have to be supported by both the government and the Sangh Parivar and be slightly younger than the present high command. The leading contenders in the race are reportedly Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupendra Yadav. Others in the running such as Vinod Tawde, Devendra Fadnis et al are seen to have handicaps. Both Pradhan and Yadav are 55 and prominent OBC faces. Pradhan, an old ABVP hand, is a favourite of RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale. Yadav, who once headed the RSS's lawyers' unit, has the blessings of Suresh Soni, once Modi's benefactor. Pradhan's recent success in Haryana, where he was in charge of the election, is an advantage. Similarly, Yadav earned kudos when the BJP pulled off a surprise upset in Madhya Pradesh last year. His standing would increase if he pulls off a BJP victory in Maharashtra.

DOUBLE AGENT

A common presumption, which is, in fact, incorrect, is that the cast of characters in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Nijjar in Canada and the attempted murder of Gurpatwant Pannun in the USA is the same. The Canadian authorities have linked the Nijjar killing to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, a premise which is difficult to establish since Bishnoi is in an Indian jail. This perhaps explains the Canadians' unstatesmanlike and immature approach in voicing as-yet-unproven charges, providing motivated leaks to a US newspaper and putting documents on the internet to bolster their claims. In contrast, the US authorities are diplomatically silent, though they believe they have a cast-iron case in a New York court for prosecuting Nikhil Gupta, who was extradited from the Czech Republic. It appears that in the murky world of undercover hit jobs, the US citizen hired to assassinate Pannun was in fact a double agent working for the US government's Drug Enforcement Agency! The double agent, while pretending to carry out the hit job, strung along those who hired him and entrapped them into not just exposing their

culpability, but also boasting of embarrassing details of earlier hit jobs. (But such testimony, even if true, can be considered only secondary evidence in a third country.) The US authorities, unlike the Canadians, have been so discreet that they have not even questioned why Vikash Yadav, who is wanted for questioning in the USA and is now absconding, was most unusually granted temporary bail for six days despite the serious charges against him.

MAHA ROSTER MESS

Considering the deep divisions in the Opposition MVA, Rahul Gandhi and Uddhav Thackeray should have ordered their tough-talking, muscle-flexing lieutenants Nana Patole, president of the state Congress, and Sanjay Raut, executive editor of the Sena daily *Saamana*, to tone down their rhetoric. Sharad Pawar, who acted as the intermediary between the two squabbling allies, is the beneficiary of the bad blood between the Sena (UBT) and the Congress. Consequently, the NCP(SP)'s seat share in the three-way division has risen dramatically to 87 seats. Additionally, the Congress fears that Thackeray is insisting on a disproportionate number of seats because he is determined to be CM one way or the other, even if it means crossing back to the BJP. The BJP, meanwhile, apprehends that Ajit Pawar, whose seat share has been whittled down to 52 after his disappointing Lok Sabha showing, could rejoin his uncle Sharad after the results, which explains why Ajit's photo is missing from the ruling Mahayuti alliance's posters. Adding to the confusion, some 16 BJP persons are contesting on alliance partners' symbols.

ONE HAPPY FAMILY

In contrast to the disharmony and non-cooperation during the Lok Sabha elections, the RSS and BJP are fully united in the assembly polls. In Mathura, the RSS's Dattatreya Hosabale remarked that there may be occasional differences in a family, but ties can never be broken. This was a pointed reference to BJP president JPN Nadda's statement to *The Indian Express* during the recent Lok Sabha polls — that the BJP did not need the RSS as it was now "saksham (capable)" on its own. Recently, Prime Minister Modi tweeted congratulations to Mohan Bhagwat on the RSS entering its centenary year. Of late, Amit Shah has gone out of his way to meet many top RSS functionaries. One-time RSS poster boy Ram Madhav, who was sidelined in the BJP for nearly five years, was appointed election in-charge of J&K. The RSS has nominated functionaries to co-ordinate with the BJP in poll-bound states. Joint general secretary Arun Kumar was in charge of Haryana, Atul Limaye is looking after Maharashtra and Alok Kumar for Jharkhand.

History HEADLINE

SHYAMLAL YADAV



THE CENTRE has indicated that the much-delayed Census could start as early as next year. A key event that could follow is the delimitation of constituencies, a move that's the subject of debate with the southern states saying they have much to lose in terms of their representation in Parliament.

In this context, a short-lived experiment with multi-member constituencies is a sign of how far India has travelled in terms of parliamentary representation in less than eight decades.

The idea behind multi-member constituencies — seats where more than one member would be elected — was to give representation to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Therefore, depending on their population, it was decided that certain seats would be reserved for them. But unlike now, they would not be the only candidates on that seat. Take for instance, a constituency that we hypothetically name 'X'. If X has a high population of SCs, it will be declared a two-member constituency and each party can field a general candidate and an SC candidate. Each voter in this constituency then has two votes. At the end of the electoral process, this seat would send two members to the Lok Sabha or the Assembly, as the case may be. In line with the first-past-the-post system, the two candidates with the maximum votes would be declared the winner.

But the concept of multi-member constituencies lasted only two elections in Independent India — 1952 and 1957.

For the first general elections of 1951-52, 72 of the 489 seats in the Lok Sabha were reserved for Scheduled Castes and 26 for the Scheduled Tribes.

Of these 72 seats reserved for SCs, 71 were two-member seats. North Bengal was the only three-member Lok Sabha constituency, where there was a general candidate and two reserved category candidates — one SC and the other ST.

Of the 26 seats reserved for the STs, 10 seats were single-member reserved constituencies and 15 were two-member constituencies, with North Bengal being a three-member constituency.

Since SCs, unlike STs, are spread across almost all areas of the states, there was no single-member SC constituency in 1952.

Of the 3,283 seats in the state Assemblies, 477 were reserved for SCs and 192 for STs. Mainaguri constituency in West Bengal was the only single-member constituency reserved for SC. Nasik-Igatpuri

Multi-member seats: A short-lived experiment



Nehru campaigning in Jabalpur on Dec 19, 1951. PMML, donated by Nayantara Sahgal)

erstwhile Bombay state, was the only three-member constituency that had one general candidate and two reserved-category candidates — one SC and one ST.

Unsurprisingly, given the sheer dominance of the Congress in those days, all the three winners in the North Bengal three-member constituency in the 1952 election were party candidates — Upendra Nath Barman, Birendra Nath Katham, and Amiya Kanta Basu.

Similarly, in the three-member assembly seat in Bombay, the three winners were all Congress candidates — Bhikha Trimbak Pawar, Pandurang Mahadeo Murkute, and Dattatraya Tulshiram Kale.

Each voter in a multi-member constituency would have as many votes as there are seats in that constituency, but his votes are cumulative. To prevent cumulative voting in multi-member constituencies, for two-member constituencies, the Election Commission would print two ballot papers, each bearing the same serial number but with one bearing the suffix "A".

Ahead of the 1957 general elections, states were reorganised based on the recommendations of the Justice Fazl Ali Commission and constituencies were redrawn by the Delimitation Commission based on the 1951 Census.

Consequently, the Lok Sabha seats went up to 494 (of the 403 constituencies, 91 had two members each) and the count of the state Assemblies went up to 3,102 seats (2,518 constituencies: 584 of

them double-member). There were no three-member seats in 1957.

But the results of the 1957 election were a setback for several general category candidates, among them Congress's VV Giri, who lost from Parvathipuram in Andhra Pradesh — both the winners were from the ST community and Giri stood third. Since it was a two-member constituency, the winner and the runner-up were declared elected.

VV Giri's wasn't the only such case — in as many as 20 two-member constituencies that election, both the winning members were SC or ST candidates. In nine single-member general constituencies, too, the winners were SC or ST candidates. That would prove to be the turning point for the concept of multi-member seats.

Though Giri was appointed Governor of UP three months later, in June 1957, the loss rankled. He challenged the election of the second ST candidate, Dippala Suri Dora, before the then 'Election Tribunal', which upheld Dora's election. Giri then appealed to the Andhra Pradesh High Court and later, the Supreme Court. On May 20, 1959, a bench of five judges upheld the High Court's decision, saying that in a two-member constituency, ST candidates (in this case) were free to contest not only the reserved seat but also the general seat.

Following the verdict, the government decided to amend the Constitution to do away with the system of two-member constituencies.

On the LOOSE

LEHER KALA

leherkala@gmail.com



AN INDIAN techie working in New York, earning the equivalent of Rs 88 lakh annually, created a stir online by saying she'd move back to India in a heartbeat for the same salary. On the Instagram page @salaryscale, this computer science graduate with a Master's in supply chain analytics shared that her income just about covered her basic expenditure saying, "I am always looking for more". From an ambitious young Indian's perspective, a software job in the US is viewed as a dream come true, even if all it allows for is a hand-to-mouth existence. But is it that wrong that a confident new generation expects more out of life than just financial secu-

Life's a marathon, not a sprint

urity? Most of us would have been better off carefully evaluating the trade-offs between high salaries, growth opportunities and free time, while planning our careers.

Instagram and YouTube are full of dramatically inspiring speeches by super achievers on leadership and how they made it. "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do," declared Steve Jobs. Many of us grew up on the belief that we must constantly be striving towards something bigger; the proverbial mountain top is the ultimate aim to understand the kind of magic Jobs was talking about. With all the dreaminess of youth, we imagine standing tall on that peak, looking down and advising those on their way up. Maybe, the world is far too dangerous a place to stop and savour the moment. But

the problem with always thinking there's better ahead, like a compounding savings account, is that by the time you dip into it comes the deflating realisation that delayed gratification has its limitations. A secret, nagging thought emerges that some joy could have been had earlier.

The thing is, no one's ever fully "done" and everyone doesn't want to change the world. This is something that Gen Z and Millennials have instinctively gauged, there's no perfectly inclined path worth chasing madly, at the cost of everything else. Having enjoyed the fruits of their parents' diligent labour, the post-Independence generation when work-is-ownership was the abiding mantra, the main takeaway is—money will come, money will go but time once gone is gone forever. Rather than writing off Gen Z as entitled

slackers for not having the dogged perseverance mentality we did, their lackadaisical approach suggests they know, that rarely does life pan out exactly as planned.

For instance, tens of lakhs of professionals moved to Goa during Covid to explore a cheaper, and better quality of life. Though four years later statistics suggest only 30% stayed back, what would have been considered opting out of the rat race a decade ago has come to mean something entirely different—that not everybody has to slave away in cities like Gurgaon and Bangalore. There's no one way to live; there are many and they're all correct. If people are coming up with innovative ways to maximise and enjoy their time, more power to them.

This is a small but profoundly important mindset change since every day the

newspapers are carrying stories of some wretched student hanging himself in a hostel room, distraught about the pressures the future holds. It is worth noting the hysteria around board exams and college admissions doesn't have to be an inevitable condition; it's something we've chosen. Hectic planning for some unknown outcome has become a default setting so even children are busy nowadays, every hour accounted for with extracurricular activities. Besides taking the fun out of learning, people are exhausted by the time they enter the workforce. If academics and careers could be seen as marathons not sprints, with zig zag routes and circles, some ups and downs, we may even relish the adventure.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

ESTIMATED TO BE AT LEAST 3,600 YEARS OLD

## NEW MIDDLE KINGDOM EGYPTIAN TOMB UNEARTHED

Archaeologists from Egypt and the United States unearthed an ancient tomb with 11 burials near Luxor, officials said. Egypt's Tourism and Antiquities Ministry said Friday the tomb, dating back to the Middle Kingdom (1938 B.C.-1630 B.C.), was found near the Temple of Hatshepsut on the Nile's West Bank. AP

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake

SRI LANKA  
Political sparring over privileges to ex-presidents

Colombo: A Sri Lankan Cabinet sub-committee will soon review the privileges accorded to former presidents of the country and future actions on the matter will be taken based on its recommendations, the Presidential Secretariat has said. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's office Friday also refuted reports that the security of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa has been reduced. The statement by the Presidential Secretariat came after concerns raised by ex-presidents that the new government would slash their privileges. In the run-up to the September 21 election, Dissanayake had vowed to stop all privileges of ex-presidents claiming they were a burden on the taxpayer. PTI

BRAZIL  
Govt: Surprised by Venezuela's 'offensive tone'

Brasilia: The Brazilian foreign ministry said in a statement on Friday it was taken by surprise by an "offensive tone" that Venezuelan authorities used against Brazil, the latest development of a diplomatic row. Brazil's foreign ministry said the choice for "personal attacks and rhetorical escalations" does not match the respectful way its government treats Venezuela and its people. Venezuelan government recalled its ambassador in Brazil earlier this week over what it described as "repeated interventionist and rude statements" from Brasilia. REUTERS

PAKISTAN  
Gunmen attack security forces in KPK, 5 injured

Peshawar: Five soldiers were injured after some unidentified gunmen ambushed a security forces convoy in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Saturday, officials said. The attack took place near Darra Tung in Lakki Marwat when the convoy was travelling from Karak district to an atomic energy project in Kabul Khel. Five soldiers were injured in the attack, the officials said. PTI

## TWO DAYS TO GO FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

## Trump, Harris hold duelling rallies in swing states in campaign's final lap

REUTERS  
MILWAUKEE, NOVEMBER 2

DEMOCRAT KAMALA Harris and Republican Donald Trump head to North Carolina on Saturday to try to clinch support in the southeastern battleground state just three days before Tuesday's U.S. presidential election.

It will be the fourth day in a row that Vice President Harris and former President Trump visit the same state on the same day, underlining the critical importance of the seven states likely to decide the race, which opinion polls show to be on a knife's edge.

More than 70 million Americans have already cast ballots, according to the Election Lab at the University of Florida, below the record early-voting pace in 2020 during COVID-19, but still indicating a high level of voter enthusiasm. Saturday also marks the last day of early voting in North Carolina, where over 3.8 million votes have been cast, while the state's western reaches are still recovering from Hurricane Helene's deadly flooding.

Harris plans appearances with rock star Jon Bon Jovi in Charlotte, the biggest city in North Carolina, which is tied with Georgia for the second-biggest prize of the swing states. Each has 16 votes in the Electoral

College, where 270 are needed to secure the presidency. North Carolina backed Trump in 2020 by a narrow margin of less than 1.5 percentage points, and elected a Democratic governor on the same day, giving hope to both parties.

"It is my plan and intention to continue to invest in American manufacturing, the work being done by American workers, upholding and lifting up good union



Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris at their rallies in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Friday. Reuters

jobs," Harris said Saturday morning in Wisconsin, as she left for North Carolina. "That is the way we are going to win the competition with China for the 21st century."

Trump will hold a rally in Gastonia, west of Charlotte before returning to the state in the evening, where he is due to speak at the 22,000-seat First Horizon Coliseum arena in Greensboro.

"This... is a choice between whether we... have four more years of gross incompetence and failure, or we will begin the four greatest years in the history of our country," Trump said in Michigan Friday.

Harris and Trump were both in North Carolina on Wednesday, Nevada on Thursday and Wisconsin on Friday at one point holding events around 11 km from each other. It indicates the enormous effort put on persuading a relatively small number of voters in a few states, as other states are seen as safely Democratic or Republican.



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

## Biden holds final rally for Harris in Scranton, his childhood hometown

REUTERS  
NOVEMBER 2

BARACK OBAMA once said if there were no Scranton, Pennsylvania, there would be no Joe Biden. The sitting president, whose term ends in January, returned to his childhood hometown Saturday for a final campaign stop in support of Vice President Kamala Harris, seeking to use his sway in a critical part of an important swing state to help her beat Republican Donald Trump.

Scranton has a storied history for Biden, and if he were still the Democratic nominee, a stop here would've likely been as a full-circle moment. Instead it was his swan song of sorts for his No. 2, a muted one at that.

The president rallied union

WHAT US THINKS  
Who will be President?

■ KAMALA HARRIS  
■ DONALD TRUMP

FIVETHIRTYEIGHT (NOV 2)  
48%  
46.8%

REUTERS / IPSOS (NOV 2)  
44%  
43%

THE ECONOMIST (NOV 2)  
48.7%  
47.2%

49%  
48%

Joe Biden at a rally in Scranton on Saturday. AP

workers, a constituency with whom he is popular, in the town where he grew up before his family moved to Delaware, where he would launch his more than fifty-year political career. "Don't forget where you came from," he said, warning of the ramifications if Trump were elected and did away with the Affordable Care Act healthcare program.

## Zelensky urges West to act before N Korea troops reach battlefield

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KYIV, NOVEMBER 2

UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelensky urged its allies to stop "watching" and take steps before North Korean troops deployed in Russia reach the battlefield, and the country's army chief warned that his troops are facing "one of the most powerful offensives" by Moscow since the all-out war started more than two years ago.

Zelensky raised the prospect of a preemptive Ukrainian strike on camps where the North Korean troops are being trained, and said Kyiv knows their location. But he said Ukraine can't do it without permission from allies to use Western-made long-range weapons to hit targets deep inside Russia. "But instead... America is watching, Britain is watching, Germany is watching. Everyone is just waiting for the North Korean military to start attacking Ukrainians as well," Zelensky said late Friday on Telegram.

The Biden administration said Thursday that some 8,000 North Korean soldiers are now

EXPLAINED  
South Korea's countermove

AS PRESIDENT Zelensky warns about North Korean involvement in Ukraine's war with Russia, South Korea is planning a countermove. It has offered intelligence assistance and wider cooperation on the matter, and it is considering sending a team of military monitors to Ukraine, according to South Korean officials.

in Russia's Kursk region near Ukraine's border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight against Ukrainian troops in the coming days.

Ukraine's military intelligence said Saturday that over 7,000 North Koreans equipped with Russian weapons had been transported to areas near Ukraine. The agency, known by its acronym GUR, said that North Korean troops were being trained at five locations in Russia's Far East.



Rescue team members in Chiva, Spain, Saturday. Reuters

## Spain launches biggest op for disaster recovery as flash flood toll reaches 211

REUTERS  
VALENCIA, NOVEMBER 2

THE DEADLIEST flash floods in Spain's modern history have killed at least 211 people and dozens were still unaccounted for, four days after torrential rains swept the eastern region of Valencia, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Saturday.

In a televised statement, Sanchez said the government

was sending 5,000 more army troops to help with the searches and clean-up in addition to 2,500 soldiers already deployed.

"It is the biggest operation by the Armed Forces in Spain in peacetime," Sanchez said. "The government is going to mobilize all the resources necessary as long as they are needed."

The tragedy is already Europe's worst flood-related disaster since 1967 when at least 500 people died in Portugal.

Hopes of finding survivors were boosted when rescuers found a woman alive after three days trapped in a car park in Montcada, Valencia.

The storm triggered a new weather alert in the Balearic Islands, Catalonia and Valencia, where rains are expected to continue during the weekend.

Scientists say extreme weather events are becoming more frequent in Europe, and elsewhere, due to climate change.



A house in central Israel damaged in a missile attack launched from Lebanon on Saturday. Reuters

## Khamenei warns: Will give crushing response to Israel, US over attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DUBAI, NOVEMBER 2

IRAN'S SUPREME leader on Saturday threatened Israel and the US with "a crushing response" over attacks on Iran and its allies.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke as Iranian officials are increasingly threatening to launch yet another strike against Israel after its October 26 attack on the Islamic Republic that targeted military bases and other locations and killed at least five people.

Any further attacks from either side could engulf the wider Middle East, already teetering over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Israel's ground invasion of Lebanon, into a wider regional conflict just ahead of the US presidential election this Tuesday.

"The enemies, whether the Zionist regime or the United States of America, will definitely receive a crushing response to what they are doing to Iran and the Iranian nation and to the resistance front," Khamenei said in video released by Iranian state media.

## Missile attack in central Israel injures 11

A missile attack on a central Israeli town early Saturday injured 11 people. The pre-dawn strike on Tira, which followed air raid sirens

## U.S. TO DEPLOY B-52S, WARSHIPS AS CARRIER LEAVES WEST ASIA

Washington: The United States said on Friday it will deploy B-52 bombers, fighter jets, refueling aircraft and Navy destroyers to the Middle East, in a readjustment of military assets as the Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group prepares to leave the region. The Pentagon said that deployments would take place in the coming months, showing the flexibility of its military movements globally. REUTERS

across central Israel, was one of several barrages fired from Lebanon early in the day. The Magen David Adom emergency service said 11 people were injured in Tira. Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group said Saturday that it had attacked military and intelligence facilities in northern and central Israel.

Meanwhile, senior officials of the rival Palestinian groups Fatah and Hamas are meeting in Cairo to discuss forming a committee to manage Gaza's post-war governance, an Egyptian security source was quoted as saying by Egypt's Al Qahera News TV on Saturday.

## Kemi Badenoch first Black woman to lead UK's Conservatives

REUTERS  
LONDON, NOVEMBER 2

KEMI BADENOCH became the Conservatives' new leader and the first Black woman to head a major British political party on Saturday, after winning a contest on a promise to return the party to its founding principles.

Badenoch, 44, replaces former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and has pledged to lead the party through a period of renewal after its resounding defeat at July election. Badenoch will likely back policies to shrink the state and challenge what she says is institutional left-wing thinking.

She becomes the Conservatives' fifth leader since mid-2016 after winning 57% of party members' votes.

Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed her victory, saying "the first Black leader of a



Kemi Badenoch replaced ex-PM Rishi Sunak. Reuters

Westminster party is a proud moment for our country".

Badenoch herself has publicly said she prefers not to focus on her race.

Asked at the Conservative Party conference earlier this year how it would feel to become the first Black woman leader of the party, she said: "I am somebody who wants the colour of our skin to be no more significant than the colour of our hair or the colour of our eyes."

## WEBSITE THAT LISTS HALLOWEEN EVETS ACROSS COUNTRIES — WHICH PUBLISHED INFORMATION ON THE PARADE — SAID IT WAS A MISTAKE

## All trick, no treat: When Dublin crowds turned up for a phoney Halloween parade

CLAIRE MOSES  
& VICTOR MATHER  
NOVEMBER 2

HUNDREDS OF Dubliners made their way to the city center on Thursday night, excited for a Halloween parade to take place on a mild October evening as they lined up along O'Connell Street, a major thoroughfare.

But they waited and waited (and waited), and a realization settled in: The parade hadn't arrived. The parade was never coming. The parade never even existed.

There was no parade.

So many people had gathered for the nonexistent spectacle that the local police announced on social media around 8 p.m., an hour after the parade was supposed to begin, that no event was planned and asked the crowds to "disperse safely."

It seemed like the ultimate trick. How were so many people duped into lining up for a treat they didn't get, a parade that never was?

The culprit seems to be the website MySpiritHalloween.com, which contains a glut of Halloween event listings, costume tips and game ideas. The site lists Halloween events in

multiple places, including in Britain, Ireland and the United States. That included a parade in Dublin, with a precise location and start time.

The owner of the website, Nazir Ali, said on Friday morning that he had not intended to dupe anybody, claiming the whole thing was a mistake.

"It was not a joke, not a scam," he said. It was "not on purpose." Ali, who owns at least five other websites, declined to say where he was based, but said that MySpiritHalloween.com used artificial intelligence to generate its content. Humans are involved in the website's search engine opti-



People await the Halloween parade that would never arrive, in Dublin on Thursday night. NYT

mization efforts to ensure it ranks highly, he said, but much of the information is produced by AI.

The website, he said, compiled information from about 1,400 Halloween events from all over the world.

The nonexistent parade in Dublin was said to be put on by Macnas, an Irish theater group that has previously staged parades and held one this year in Galway—but not Dublin. (Dublin has hosted Halloween parades in past years, but not in 2024.)

That information was readily available elsewhere on the internet but seems to have been missed by many people who

saw or were told about the AI-generated content, which was also shared across social media by local people and businesses, *The Irish Times* reported.

"Not everything on the site was fake," said Nick Anstead, an associate professor in the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science. "Some of the events cited around the world were real, and it is the conjunction of the real and fake which makes the hoax convincing."

When he realized the mistake, Ali said, he removed the event from the website. "Everyone is

blaming us," he said. "We were very embarrassed."

But for many people on Thursday, the rectification came too late, as they stood in Central Dublin eagerly awaiting people in costumes but seeing only buses and cars drive by instead.

It did not take long for fun to be made of the hoax, including at Dublin Airport, which posted a picture on X of an empty terminal with the caption "our Halloween parade in full flow."

Besides listing parades, MySpiritHalloween.com offers tips for enjoying the holiday.

The site also has itself as being for sale. NYT

# ECONOMY

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION REPORT

# 'More than half of Indian women remain outside labour force due to care duties'

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

INDIA HAS 53 per cent of women outside the labour force due to care responsibilities and needs further investment in the care economy, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said in its latest report. The impact of care responsibilities of women's labour participation' released last week. India would need further investment in the care economy, particularly in the early childhood care and education (ECCE) to support labour force participation of unpaid carers and gender equality in the workforce, the report said.

In comparison, just around 11 per cent of men stay outside the labour force due to care responsibilities in India. The high proportion of women staying outside the labour force comes amid concerns over low female labour force participation rate in India, with most employed in unpaid household work.

"Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Mali and India have more than 50 per cent of women outside the labour force due to care responsibilities and may need further investment in the care economy, particularly in ECCE. On the other hand, countries such as Belarus, Bulgaria, Latvia and Sweden have less than 10 per cent of women outside the labour force

### 'NEED FURTHER INVESTMENT IN CARE ECONOMY'

**INDIA HAS** 53% of women outside the labour force due to care responsibilities and needs further investment in the care economy, the International Labour Organization said in its report 'The impact of care responsibilities of women's labour participation' released last week

**IN COMPARISON**, just around 11% of men stay outside labour force due to care responsibilities in India. **ACCORDING TO** the Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2023-24, 36.7% of females and 19.4% of the workforce in India is engaged in unpaid work in household enterprises

due to caregiving while investing around 1 per cent of GDP in ECCE," the ILO report said.

The report also showed that 97.8 per cent women and 91.4 per cent men in India are outside the labour force due to personal or family reasons.

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2023-24, 36.7 per cent of females and 19.4 per cent of the workforce in India is engaged in unpaid work in household enterprises as against 37.5 per cent females and 18.3 per cent of total workers in 2022-23.

The earlier Time Use Survey 2019 by the National Statistical Office (NSO) had also shown the large proportion of women spending time over unpaid activities such as domestic work and care responsibilities. As per the Survey, around 81 per cent of females aged 6 years and above

spent over five hours daily on unpaid domestic services in India, with the share being higher for the age group 15-29 years at 85.1 per cent and 92 per cent for the age group 15-59 years. Within the 60+ age group, 78 per cent of women contribute to unpaid domestic services. In comparison, men spent just over one hour daily for unpaid domestic services with 24.5 per cent share (6 years and above), 22.5 per cent (15-29 years) and 27 per cent (15-59 years).

For caregiving, 26.2 per cent of females aged 6 years and above spent over two hours daily for unpaid caregiving services to household members, double that of 12.4 per cent for males in the same age group. The share was higher for the 15-29 years age bracket for females at 38.4 per cent and 31.2 per cent for 15-59 age group, while the same for

males was 10.2 per cent and 14.3 per cent, respectively.

According to the new ILO global estimates, which were released on Tuesday, globally, an estimated 708 million women are outside the labour force because of unpaid care responsibilities. In 2023, 748 million people (aged 15 years or older) were not participating in the global labour force because of care responsibilities, accounting for a third of all working-age persons outside of the labour force. Of these, 708 million were women and 40 million were men, the UN agency said.

Before this, the previous estimate by ILO for 2018 had found that 606 million women and 41 million men (a total of 647 million people worldwide) were not participating in the labour force due to care responsibilities. The UN agency said that although the new estimates are not comparable due to methodology changes, they show that care responsibilities continue to be the main reason women are not looking or not available for employment.

Care responsibilities present the main barrier to women entering and staying in the labour force, while men are more likely to cite other personal reasons for being outside the labour force, such as education and health issues. This shows the disproportionate role of women in child-rearing and care along with housekeeping and other care re-

sponsibilities. Women with lower education and those in rural areas face a higher barrier to workforce participation, it said.

"Women shoulder a disproportionate share of care responsibilities, preventing their participation in the labour force due to factors such as low education levels, limited job opportunities, poor infrastructure, rural residence, and inadequate care and support systems. Additionally, societal expectations and norms around caregiving further restrict women's labour market inclusion, and deepen gender inequalities," Sukti Dasgupta, Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department, ILO, said.

Region wise data shows that the highest percentage of women outside the labour force citing care responsibilities as the reason was in Northern Africa (63 per cent), while eastern Europe had the lowest rate globally (11 per cent). In the second spot were the Arab states (59 per cent), followed by Asia and the Pacific (52 per cent). In the Americas, the variation is stark, with 47 per cent citing care as the main reason for being outside the labour force in Latin America and the Caribbean as against 19 per cent in Northern America. In Europe and Central Asia, 21 per cent of women report caregiving as the main barrier to enter the workforce, the report said.

# The multiple contradictions in Elon Musk's unflinching support for Donald Trump



Tesla CEO and X owner Elon Musk with Republican presidential nominee and former US president Donald Trump at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, US. Reuters File

ANIL SASI  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

AS THE US presidential elections grind towards D-day, Elon Musk has turned into the single largest contributor and most vocal proponent of Donald Trump's reelection campaign. Musk, the world's richest man, is now on stage at rallies with Trump, offering cash prizes to potential Republican voters and is turning his social media platform X into a megaphone that amplifies support for the Trump campaign. But there are also multiple contradictions in this developing symbiotic relationship.

### Musk's outlook on Trump's economic plan

Musk may be unflinching in his hardsell of Trump's candidature, but the billionaire has expressed doubts over the basic tenets of the former US President's economic plans, especially over the question of whether those measures would indeed supercharge the American economy. Trump has called for mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, a fresh dose of his 2017 tax cuts and a range of other tax tweaks, alongside higher tariffs on practically all imports.

Musk has raised some doubts about the efficacy of these measures. In one of his multiple responses to a pseudonymous X account on October 29 that alluded to an "initial severe overreaction in the economy" and the "market tumbling" if Trump were to be elected and then gets to roll out his plan, Musk had a three word response: "Sounds about right". On the issue of tax cuts, Musk has acknowledged earlier at a "telephone town hall" that cutting government spending, given the tax cut promises, could be painful.

On the other issue of illegal immigration, the *Washington Post* released a story on October 26 quoting documents stating how "long before he became one of Donald Trump's biggest donors and campaign surrogates, Elon Musk worked illegally in the United States as he launched his entrepreneurial career." South African-born Musk held no legal right to work while building the company that became Zip2, which sold for about \$300 million in 1999 and backrolled most of his other ventures. The *Post* noted that Musk is "arguably America's most successful immigrant."

### Trump's climate change denial, ridiculing of EVs

Trump has spent years ridiculing electric vehicles, saying they suffer from range-related issues,

are too expensive and are made in China. In keeping with his climate change denialism, Trump has vociferously supported internal combustion engine car makers, batted for the Detroit Big Three (GM, Ford and Chrysler) and has repeatedly promised to end federal support for EVs. For Musk, all of that does present a challenge. His personal wealth is tied largely in Tesla stock and his EV hardsell is fundamentally rooted in the environmentally-friendly pitch of battery electric cars that his car company makes. The Detroit three are among Tesla's competitors. And any paring down of federal subsidy could be a serious headwind for Tesla going forward, especially at a time when EV sales are seeing a temporary slowdown.

On the EV issues, there is also a larger Republican versus Democrats divide at play. Public opinion research suggests interest in EVs has some partisan roots, with a 2023 Gallup poll finding that 71 per cent of Republicans would not consider buying an EV, compared with 17 per cent of Democrats, while a more recent 2023 Pew Research survey found that 70 per cent of Republican or Republican-leaning Americans were unlikely to consider buying an EV.

The findings of a new Environmental Defense Fund Action study showed that in states where more than 50 per cent of voters linked to EVs were Democrats, only one (Kentucky) voted for Trump in 2020, with the remainder going to President Joe Biden. Also, in traditionally Democratic-leaning states like California, the average road miles between public chargers is under 10, while in states such as North Dakota or Wyoming, there can be more than 500 miles between chargers. In Musk's support for the Republican candidate, there is this inherent paradox of sorts. But fresh data also shows that some of those sharp divides might be easing off.

The research by the Environmental Defense Fund Action's February 2024 study, which acquired the voter and vehicle data from 12 — a political firm that analyses and sells voter registration and consumer records — suggests that despite common perceptions, some of these trends could be changing and that not all electric vehicle owners are Democrats. In nine of the 31 states that register voters by party, for example, more Republican voters were reported as being linked to records of electric vehicles — including insurance and repair records — than Democrats. Republicans, independents and

third-party voters associated with electric vehicles also exceed Democrats in 24 of those states.

### Starlink's sales pitch vs diplomatic tightrope

Musk's Starlink satellite internet service has provided a clear frontline advantage to Ukraine's smaller military since the 2022 Russian invasion, permitting the Ukrainian forces to share real-time drone feeds between battlefield units, and continue communications in areas where cell phone services have been disrupted by the fighting. Given Trump's perceived soft corner for Russian president Vladimir Putin, Starlink's communications support to the Ukraine forces runs somewhat counter to the expectation, even though recent months have seen some recalibrations by Musk's company.

Over the last few weeks, multiple Ukrainian units across the front lines were reported in a *CNN* story as stating that they had experienced speed problems with Starlink. Earlier in February, Musk had responded to Ukrainian claims the Russians were "hooked on to" Starlink with a statement that his company "did not do business with the Russian government", and that the system would not work in Russia. But the *CNN* report noted that Starlink was unclear if the technology might work in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. "If SpaceX obtains knowledge that a Starlink terminal is being used by a sanctioned or unauthorised party, we investigate the claim and take actions to deactivate the terminal if confirmed," the company said then in a statement.

When it comes to SpaceX, which operates the Starlink satellite system, there is clearly a lot of business that rides on the US government contracts. The company won a \$1.8 billion contract with US military and intelligence agencies in 2021 and is now the major rocket launcher for NASA and the Pentagon. For that, Musk has to straddle a diplomatic tightrope with regard to the commercial obligations of his ventures, including Starlink's Ukraine operations.

Also, for Starlink and for SpaceX, Musk needs access to terrestrial relay stations across the whole world, including Russia and China and other large swathes of territories. Russia also has the capacity to destroy satellites in space and Musk would be keen to avoid that event at any cost. There is a possibility that Musk's bet on Trump is a deliberate hedge on the potential risks that span from owning a business as large in scope and scale as SpaceX.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## BRIEFLY

### CIL has to ramp up output to higher levels: Coal minister

New Delhi: Coal production through domestic sources is important to avoid expensive imports and Coal India Ltd (CIL) has to ramp up production to higher levels in the future, Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy said, as the state-owned behemoth entered its 50th year. PTI

### Berkshire's cash soars to \$325 bn as it sells Apple, BofA

New York: Warren Buffett and Berkshire Hathaway extended their retreat from stocks in the third quarter, further slashing their holdings in Apple and boosting cash to a record \$325.2 billion. In its quarterly report on Saturday, Berkshire said it sold about 100 million, or 25 per cent, of its Apple shares over the summer, ending with about 300 million. Berkshire has now sold more than 600 million of the iPhone maker's shares in 2024, though Apple remained its largest stock holding, at \$69.9 billion. It sold \$36.1 billion of stock overall, including several billion dollars of Bank of America shares, and bought \$1.5 billion. REUTERS

### Amazon posts high growth in premium product sales

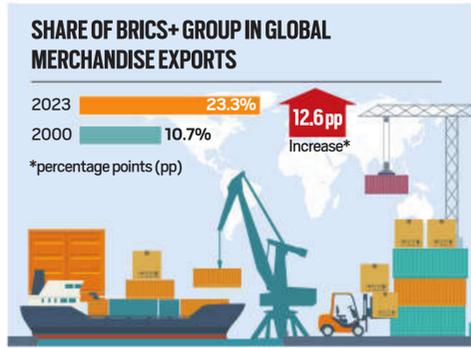
New Delhi: Demand for premium products across categories, including television, smartphones, and large appliances, dominated the Diwali season sale during the Amazon Great Indian Festival (AGIF) 2024 that commenced from September 27. Amazon India vice president Saurabh Srivastava said that the company recorded 10-times growth in Apple iPad sales and five-times growth in Samsung tablets during the Amazon Great Indian Festival (AGIF) 2024. PTI

### ADB lauds India's fossil fuel subsidy reforms

New Delhi: India has since 2010 made noteworthy progress on fossil fuel subsidy reform through a calibrated 'remove', 'target', and 'shift' approach, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a new report. PTI

## 'BRICS+ group likely to surpass G7 in global trade by 2026'

BRICS+ grouping of nations like India, China and Russia is increasing its share in global merchandise exports, imports and is expected to surpass G7 group by 2026, EY India said



## 16.2 PERCENTAGE POINTS FALL: The share of the G7 group in global exports has fallen from 45.1% to 28.9% over the same period

Share of the rest of the world has largely remained stable increasing only marginally from 44.2% to 47.9% during this period

This implies that largely it is the BRICS+ group which has replaced the G7 group in terms of share in global merchandise exports, EY India said in its latest edition of EY Economy Watch

36.1% in 2000 to 62.5% in 2023: China's contribution to BRICS+ exports has surged dramatically

7.9% to BRICS+ exports in 2023: India's contribution

"The importance of BRICS+ group of countries has progressively been increasing in terms of size of economy and in terms of their share in world exports and imports. The BRICS+ group is likely to compete as well as co-operate with the G7 group for determining world economic policies," EY India said

The lead of G7 in managing global economic affairs is likely to come into question as the importance of the BRICS+ group in terms of their share in global population, world GDP and world trade increases

Source: EY India/PTI

## Ammunition cartridge found on Air India plane

After it operated Dubai-Delhi flight on October 27; investigation on

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2

IN WHAT is being seen as a major security lapse, an ammunition cartridge was found in a seat pocket of an Air India aircraft after it operated a flight from Dubai to Delhi last Sunday (October 27), and the matter is under investigation by the police on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Tata group airline. This comes at a time when Indian airlines have been hit by scores of fake bomb threats — mostly posted on social media platform X from anonymous and unverified accounts — over the past three weeks.

"One ammunition cartridge was found in the pocket of a seat

of our flight AI916 after it had landed from Dubai at Delhi on 27 October 2024 and all passengers had safely disembarked. A complaint was immediately lodged with the Airport Police by Air India strictly adhering to the laid down security protocols. We understand the matter is under investigation by the appropriate authorities. Safety and security of our passengers and crew remain the topmost priority for Air India," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday.

While the airline did not comment further on the incident, given that the police investigation is underway, sources indicated that the cartridge was found by airline staff during the aircraft's routine cleaning after its arrival at the Delhi airport

from Dubai. Officials declined to comment on the status of the probe, the angles being investigated, and whether aviation security authorities of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been roped in to assist with the probe.

Notably, over 500 flights of Indian airlines have received bomb threats since October 14, sending the airlines, airports, and security agencies into a tizzy, and forcing a few flight diversions and strict post-landing security checks and screenings in a number of cases. A vast majority of these threats, all of which have turned out to be fake so far, were posted from anonymous and unverified social media handles.

As a result, the country's aviation security ecosystem is on

high alert and security has been enhanced at various Indian airports with the number of security screenings at various checkpoints being increased. This has been done to be doubly sure that no suspected articles are carried on board the aircraft. However, the Indian government has no control over security arrangements at airports outside India.

The relevant government ministries — including the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) — and agencies have gone into a huddle in view of these bomb threats, and are working in close coordination to deal with the spate of threats as well as ensure robustness of aviation security in the country.

## Nvidia to take Intel's spot on Dow Jones Industrial Average

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 2

INTEL WILL be replaced by Nvidia on the blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average index after a 25-year run, underscoring the shift in the chipmaking market and marking another setback for the struggling semiconductor firm. Nvidia will join the index next week along with paint-maker Sherwin-Williams, which will replace Dow, S&P Dow Jones Indices said on Friday.

Once the dominant force in chipmaking, Intel has in recent years ceded its manufacturing

### Once the dominant force in chipmaking, Intel has in recent years ceded its manufacturing edge to rival TSMC

edge to rival TSMC and missed out on the generative artificial intelligence boom after missteps including passing on an investment in ChatGPT-owner OpenAI. Intel's shares have declined 54 per cent this year, making the company the worst performer on the index and leaving it with the lowest stock price on the price-

weighted Dow.

Shares of Intel fell 1.6 per cent in extended trading on Friday, while those of Nvidia were up 2.2 per cent. This development comes a day after Intel expressed optimism about the future of its PC and server businesses, projecting current-quarter revenue above estimates but warning that it had "a lot of work to do."

"Losing the status of Dow Jones inclusion would be another reputational blow for Intel, as it grapples with a painful transformation and loss of confidence," said Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown.

## TGI Fridays files for bankruptcy in US

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 2

TGI FRIDAYS, an American casual dining chain, said on Saturday that it has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection after grappling with prolonged financial challenges and a collapsed deal with UK-based Hostmore.

The court filing was lodged at the Northern District of Texas. Privately owned by TriArtisan Capital Advisors, TGI Fridays has been a beloved dining destination since its inaugural bar opened in Manhattan, New York, over five decades ago, in 1965.

TGI Fridays, owner and operator of 39 US "Thank God it's

### FRANCHISE LOCATIONS TO KEEP OPERATING

TGI Fridays Franchisor has franchised the brand to 56 franchisees in 41 countries. The restaurant operator said that those stores are independently owned and are not part of the Chapter 11 process

Friday!" restaurants said it maintains operations across its corporate-owned 'happy hour' dining places in the US, adding that it has secured a financing commit-

ment to support operations. Rohit Manocha, executive chairman of TGI Fridays said: "The primary driver of our financial challenges resulted from COVID-19 and our capital structure.

"This restructuring will allow our go-forward restaurants to proceed with an optimised corporate infrastructure that enables them to reach their full potential."

In September, British restaurant operator Hostmore dropped plans to buy TGI Fridays after it was removed as the manager of TGI Fridays, which owns the right to collect royalties from the restaurant chain franchise.

Hostmore, which operated TGI Fridays in Britain through its unit Thursdays (UK), saw its

shares crash 90 per cent after the news, and later announced its intention to enter administration, overwhelmed by debt.

The administrators of Thursdays (UK) in October said 35 of TGI Fridays restaurants in the country have been closed, leading to 1,012 job losses.

After the bankruptcy announcement on Saturday, the Dallas-based chain said that all of the franchise locations both domestic and international would be operating as usual.

TGI Fridays Franchisor has franchised the brand to 56 franchisees in 41 countries. The restaurant operator said that those stores are independently owned and are not part of the Chapter 11 process.

Bank of Baroda logo and name in Hindi and English.

REGIONAL OFFICE, PATNA, 1st Floor, Hotel Satkar Premises, Dak Banglow Chauraha, Frazer Road, Patna-800001, Cont No. 0612-2223935, Website: www.bankofbaroda.com

NOTICE

(Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act)

In respect of loan availed by below mentioned Borrower through Bank of Baroda, Danapur Branch, Patna which have become NPA on 08.10.2024 with below mentioned balance outstanding of dates mentioned below. We have already issued detailed demand notice dated 30.10.2024 mentioned below under section 13(2) of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 by registered post with acknowledgment due to you, which has been returned undelivered/due to not accepted by borrower. We have indicated our intention of taking possession of hypothecated securities and Mortgaged Property Owned by following Borrower/Guarantors as per section 13(4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay amount mentioned below within 60 days Details are hereunder.

Table with columns: Name & address of Borrowers/Guarantor, Demand Notice Date, Demand Notice Date, Security agreement with brief description of securities, and Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,SARIN V.C.S/O-CHACKO V C,R/O-C-67/B1,Block-C,Vishwas-Park Uttam,Nagar,West Delhi-110059,have changed my name to SARIN VELLAPPALLIL CHACKO,S/O CHACKO VELLAPPALLIL CHANDY.

I,MAQSUD JAMAL,S/O MOHAMMAD ALI,R/O-536,A,GALI NO-23,JAFRABAD-NORTH EAST DELHI-110053,have changed my name to MAQSOOD JAMAL,for all future purposes.

I,G V Siva Shankar,S/O Kameswararao Gopavarjula, R/O,GH-13/839,Paschim-Vihar, New Delhi-110087,have changed my name to Venkata Siva Shankar Gopavarjula.

I,PRASEETHA RANCHAN W/O Ranjan Paingarappillil Narayanan,R/O 1704/4, (FF), Govindpur Extension, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 have changed my name to PRASEETHA RANJAN for all purposes.

I,R N Yadav S/O Satya Narayan Rai R/O A10/14/2nd Floor Btpp Park Elite Floors Sec-85 Faridabad 121002 have changed my name to Rama Nand Prasad for all purposes.

I,RANCHAN PAINGARAPPILLIL NARAYANAN S/O Narayanan Paingarappillil Neelakandan, R/O 1704/4, (FF), Govindpur Extension, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 have changed my name to RANJAN PAINGARAPPILLIL NARAYANAN for all purposes.

I,Yogesh Kumar Kushwaha/ Yogesh Kumar s/o Govind Ram Kushwaha R/o 344, Sector-29, Faridabad-121008 have changed my name to YOGESH KUSHWAH.

I,LOVENEET SINGH,FATHER OF,MANLUV NARULA,R/O,H.NO. 2547,HUDSON-LINE KINGSWAY CAMP GTB-NAGAR,DELHI 110009,HAVE CHANGED TO MANLUV SINGH NARULA.

I,LOVENEET SINGH,FATHER OF,KYNA NARULA,R/O, H.NO. 2547 HUDSON LINE KINGSWAY CAMP GTB NAGAR DELHI 110009 HAVE CHANGED TO KYNA KAUR.

I,Kamal Dhinagra,S/O Surinder Kumar Dhinagra,R/O C-1/106 Mayfair Tower Charmwood Village,Faridabad-121009, Have Changed My Name To Kamal Kumar.

I,KRISHNANKUTTY,MANIVARN AN S/O-KRISHNAN KUTTY, residing at,91D,LIG-FLATS, J-BLOCK, ASHOK-VIHAR PHASE-1,DELHI-110052,have changed my name to K MANIVARNAN, for all future 0040756837-7

I,Jasleen Kaur Chhadha,R/O.Arvinder Singh Chhadha,R/O-756-600/A,1st floor,Gali.No.19,West Oside Shiv Nagar, Jail-Road, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Jasleen Kaur,for all Purposes. 0040756837-6

I,HARCHARAN,S/O LULA RAM R/O,643/1,T-1, Sector-1, Vasundhara,Ghaziabad-201012,Have Changed my name to HARCHARAN VINAY.permanently. 0040756847-2

I,G Anuradha,D/o Surya narayana Merusomayajula, W/o Venkata Siva Shankar Gopavarjula, R/O,GH-13/839 Paschim-Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Anuradha Gopavarjula. 0040756846-3

I,Ambrish Kumar jha,S/O Madhukant Jha,R/O Flat.No 125/B,Shakti Khand-1, Indiraprasad,Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201014,have change my to Ambrish Jha. Permanently 0040756847-1

I,FARZANA,W/O-MOHD SHAKIR R/O,6511,GALI.NO.1,NAWAB ROAD,SHER KA,PINJIRA QURESH NAGAR,SADAR-BAZAR,DELHI 110060,have changed my name to FARZANA SHAKIR QURESHI,W/O.MOHD SHAKIR QURESHI,for all future Purposes. 0040756846-2

I,Bharat Singh Patwal S/o Anand Singh R/o H.No.108, Block-C, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector-21, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Bharat Singh for all purposes. 0040756828-1

I,Ashish mittal,R/O,B-4/17, Mianwali Nagar,New Delhi-110087,have changed my name to Ashish Mittal to Rayem Ashish Mittal to Rayem Mittal. 0040756837-2

I,Aruna W/o Vipin Kumar R/o House.No.458/25, Veer Nagar,Gurgaon,Haryana-122001,have changed my name to Aruna Kumar for all Purposes. 0040756837-3

Meena W/o Mohammad Ahsan R/O,T-69, Ward No-6, Islam Colony Mehrauli, Delhi-110030, Gali No-17,, have change My name to Mohd Ahsan for all purposes in future. 0040756829-1

Meena D/o Mohammad Rafeeqe Ahmed, R/O, T-69, Ward No-6, Islam Colony Mehrauli, Delhi-110030, Gali No-17,, have change My name to Mohd Rafeeqe for all purposes in future. 0040756829-2

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED TGSPDCL (erstwhile TSSPDCL) e-Procurement Tender Notice

TGSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (1) 33KV 1 Ph PTS 100 VA Burden, 0.2 Class (2)16 MVA Power Transformers (3)63KVA DTRS with BIS EEL-2 (STAR-2) (4) 33 KV 800A (Conv.) DB AB Switches with Solid Core Insulators, on e-procurement platform. For further details of each item above, please visit www.tgspower.com, www.telanganapower.com and www.auction.telangana.gov.in. Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (P&M) R.O. No. : 6105-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-tender notice No: MECH-ONF-AMC-SPART-CNB-24 Date : 30.10.2024 E-Tender Notice

Tender through e-tendering system- "Open Tender in Single Packet System" for and on behalf of the President of India are invited for the work of "Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of 02 Nos. Cummins make Diesel Engines & 02 nos. Cummins make Diesel Generators of HS-SPART/CNB under SSE/Local/CNB" for a period of 03 years.

similar work definition for minimum Eligibility Criteria : Work of supply, installation and commissioning any of the following works for Central or State Government organization/Indian Railway/Public Sector undertaking: "Manufacturing/maintenance of Cummins Engine/Diesel Generator on SPART/SPARMV/SPIC/Rolling Stock." Approx. value of work (in ₹): 56,19,370.11 Bid Security (in ₹): 1,12,400.00 Cost of tender form (in ₹): NIL Period of completion : 36 Months Date & time of closing tender : 21.11.2024, 15:00 Hrs. Date & time of opening tender : 21.11.2024, 15:30 Hrs.

Note:- (1) The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 21.11.2024, 15:00 Hrs. in website http://www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderers require submission their e-tender on this website only. (2) Tenderers other than in the form of e-tendering shall not be accepted against above e-tenders. For this purpose, contractors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III digital signature certificates. (3) Rates entered into rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates in any other financial entry on any other form/letter if attached by tenderers shall not be considered. (4) Documents being attached should be signed digitally by the tenderer. (5) Bid Security: All the tenderers/Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards Bid Security through ONLINE payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. However, the Bid Security shall be deposited either in each through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee Bond shall be as per Annexure-IV and shall be valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period. (6) Tender will be opened at the specified time & date. In case the specified date is declared a holiday, the tender will be opened at the same time on the next working day. (7) In case of any difficulty help desk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (8) Any conditional offer will be summarily rejected. Other terms & condition may be seen in tender documents. (9) The said supplier of goods and/or services would be subjected to GST and A/C as applicable from time to time. (As per railway board letter no 2016/AR-II/116 dated 12 may 2017). 1909/24 (MG) North central railways @ CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. : 35/TRD/DNR/O/24-25. The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur invites sealed open tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works: Tender No. : TRD/DNR/O/35/24-25.

1. Name of work with its location : OHE maintenance activities at UTCL siding at DWHN in the jurisdiction of JETRD/HIL at Danapur division for a period of one year. 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT value) : ₹22,65,070.77. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹45,300.00. 4. Date & time for selling, submission and opening of tender : The tender have to be submitted online on www.ireps.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 28.11.2024 and will be opened on the same day at 12.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website : http://www.ireps.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEE (TRD)/E.C. Railway/Danapur. All correspondence will be uploaded on website if required. Divinl. Railway Manager / ECR/Danapur PR/01446/DNR/ETRD/T/24-25/40

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

GeM-tender Notice Number:- GEM/2024/B/5546187 Date: 28.10.2024 Following e-tender on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Jhansi on behalf of President of India.

E-tender No. : GEM/2024/B/5546187 Earnest Money: Rs. 56,910/- Name of work and Station : Activity based Complete housekeeping contract of TTE Rest House at Khajuraho Railway Station including provision of Man Power for Bedding, Housekeeping, Washing & Ironing of Rest House Linens, Consumable Sanitary, Cleaning Tools/Machines, Magazines and Newspapers, D2H or similar Cable Connection, Catering arrangements including subsidized meals etc. as per Railway terms and conditions for a period of Three (03) Years. Estimated cost of work (for 03 years) : Rs. 28,45,112/-Period of Contract: Three Years Time & date for the opening of tender at 18.00 hrs. on 22.11.24 Website & Notice where the full detail of tender can be seen : E-tender forms shall be available on www.gem.gov.in up to 18.00 hrs till the date of opening of the e-tender i.e. 22.11.24. The e-tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 1893/24 (MG) North central railways @ CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

"IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

Office of Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad SHORT TERM E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

No. 6024/Nivida-Moradabad/24-25 Date 19-10-2024 1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website http://etender.up.nic.in from registered contractors from 05-11-2024 at 10.00 am to 11-11-2024 at 12.00 p.m. Technical bid/Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 11-11-2024 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

Table with columns: Sl. No, DISTRICT, Name of Work, Estimated cost (with Maintenance Rs.in Lacs), Bid Security (Rs.in Lacs), Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season), Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.), Category of road contractor eligible.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender notice no.: 24-25-13-HRT-ABS-LHB Date: 29.10.2024 For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut invites open e-tender for the following works as detailed:- 1. Name of work with its location : "Connection, Disconnection and associated activities of LHB Air Brake system pipe lines & fittings" at Carriage Repair Workshop/Harnaut. 2. Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 2,17,23,540.64 (Rupees Two Crore Seventeen Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty and Paise Sixty-Four Only). 3. Cost of Tender Form : Nil. 4. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 2,58,600.00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Only). 5. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender : The tender have to be submitted online on https://www.ireps.gov.in website up to 12:00 hrs. on 19.11.2024 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 hrs. 6. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website : https://www.ireps.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board in the office of Chief Workshop Manager, Administrative Building, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut, Nalanda, Bihar - 803110. All correspondence will be uploaded on website if required. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer Carriage Repair Workshop/Harnaut PR/01433/HRT/MECH/T/24-25/44

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Maj P Purushottam In proud memory of Maj P Purushottam, (4 BIHAR). While serving as the Defence Spokesperson at Srinagar his office faced a terrorist attack. Although unarmed , he engaged the terrorists in a hand to hand fight, thereby saving the lives of journalists present in the office. In the process, he made the supreme sacrifice. His gallantry serves as an inspiration to us. We, the fraternity of the Veer Biharis, salute him.

The Bihar Regiment Associatio INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP) 03 November, 2024



ITBP salutes its bravehearts Head Constable Ael Singh 14th Bn and Constable Rakesh Kumar of 7th Bn, who laid down their lives in the line of duty on this day in J&K and Uttarakhand respectively in year 2018.

03 NOVEMBER 1999 Late Nb Sub Sunil Kumar

31 Sub Area FS Sec 30.08.1958 - 03 Nov 1999 Late Nb Sub Sunil Kumar was posted with 31 Sub Area FS Sec. The unit was deployed in Counter Insurgency Operation (OP RAKSHAK) under. On 03 Nov 99 at around 1745 hours, he was killed in firing by anti-social elements in a shootout incident took place at Badmi Bagh Cantt in Srinagar while performing duties, thus making supreme sacrifice for the nation.

Col Comdt, OIC Records & All Ranks of Intelligence Corps HC/GD S D PATIL ECL SHEETALPUR 03-11-1995

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty at Poidih Colliery of ECL, Sheetalpur. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noble deed.

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR SALE OF RAILWAY SCRAP MATERIAL

The e-auction schedule for sale of Scrap Lot through e-auction under the jurisdiction of GSD/Pandu Depot for the month of November/2024 has been fixed as per following details:-

Table with columns: Sl. No, Month/Year, Auction Schedule No, Auction Start Date/Time.

Interested Bidder are advised to bid through IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for registration, training, participation in e-auction. Dy.Chief Materials Manager/Pandu

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender No. - PRYJ-Sig-214-2024-25 E-Tender Notice

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Coordination / North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12:00 hrs. The details of the Tender is as under:-

Approx. Cost of work (₹) : 2322240/- Bid Security (₹) : 46500/- Completion Period : 06 Months Date of opening of tender : 25.11.2024

Name of work : Supply of Logic Equivalent Circuit in PNKD-BDN section M/s Hitachi/Make of KFW stations in the section of Sr. DSTE/Kanpur. Availability of tender form : Tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in Time, date & place of opening of tender: Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, prayagraj on or after pre determined date at 12:30 hours. 1895/24 (D) North central railways @ CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH CORRIGENDUM

Ref : Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. P/IEP/24-25/G/Mo/FF-01 Following changes are made :

Table with columns: Sr. No, Equipment/Item Name, Original Bid Submission Date, Revised Bid Submission Date, Original Bid Opening Date, Revised Bid Opening Date, Deptt Name.

Ref: Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. P/IEP/24-25/G/02 Following changes are made :

Table with columns: Sr. No, Equipment/Item Name, Original Bid Submission Date, Revised Bid Submission Date, Original Bid Opening Date, Revised Bid Opening Date, Deptt Name.

All other details shall remain the same. Professor In-Charge (EP)

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CIPET) SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH IN PETROCHEMICALS (SARP)

CIPET-SARP-LARP/Recruit-Spon.Proj./2024-25/03 02.11.2024 CIPET: SARP-LARP, Bhubaneswar invites application from young and dynamic Personnel for the following positions to work under various sponsored projects :-

Table with columns: Sl. No., Name of the Post, No. of Positions, Fellowship.

The Application Form, essential qualification & other details can be downloaded from www.cipet.gov.in. CIPET-SARP-LARP, Bhubaneswar reserves the right to increase/decrease/cancel any or all the posts without assigning any reasons thereof. Officer (P&A / HR)

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kancheepuram

Chennai-600127, Tamil Nadu, India (An Institute of National Importance under MoE, Govt. of India)

ADMISSION TO Ph.D PROGRAMME - JAN 2025

Advt. No.: IIITDM/PhD/Admission/03/01/Jan-2025 dated 25/10/2024 IIITDM Kancheepuram located at outskirts of Chennai is an Institute of National Importance setup by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. IIITDM Kancheepuram invites online applications for admission to PhD programme for JAN 2025 session.

Online application form and information regarding academic qualifications, eligibility and financial assistance are available on the Institute website (http://www.iiitdm.ac.in). Contact us on phdadmission@iiitdm.ac.in for additional information.

Last date for online application: 11.11.2024 Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THROUGH THE PUBLIC NOTICE that our Client Sh. Sushil Kumar Gupta and Smt. Sangeta Gupta R/o H.No. 3109, 2nd Floor, Sector-5, Rajendra Nagar Shahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005, debarred their son Mr. Ayush Gupta and his wife namely Piyanka (Daughter in law) from their movable & immovable property due to misconduct, unfamiliar and cruel activities, after the publication of this notice they have no right of entitlement in our client's movable & immovable property in any manner. D & K ASSOCIATES Advocates CH No. 390-A, Western Wing, The Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, for and on behalf of my client Shri Rajeev Jain S/o Shri Subhash Chander Jain R/o E-415, Model Town, Delhi-9, hereby inform to the General Public at large that Original Rectification Deed duly Regd. as Document No.3057, in Book No.1, Volume No.3367, on pages 07 to 09, Regd. on 05-3-2011, in the office of the Sub-Registrar-VI-A, Delhi regarding Property No E-415, situated at Model Town, Delhi-9 has been lost/misplaced on 30.10.2024 in Model Town, Delhi, while I was going to Photostat Shop, for which FIR/NCR (online) has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, Bearing LR No.2281159/2024, Dt.01.11.2024. Anybody found the same anywhere, please contact at 9891234252. Devendra Pal Singh (Advocate) Enrol. No. D/2621/06 office No.G-4, Balaji Plaza, Plot No. 8, L.S.C., Gujranwala Town, Part-I, Delhi-110009. Ph. No.9891234252

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Ashok Kumar S/o L1 Murari Lal R/o H.No.431, Block-16, Lohi Colony, New Delhi-110003, have served all their relationship with their son Sh. Nitin Kumar and his wife Smt. Nirmal Parcha due to his bad habits. My above named clients have also divorced and debarred his son and his wife from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Sh. Nitin Kumar and his wife Nirmal Parcha will do so at his/her/their own will and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed and dealing done by Sh. Nitin Kumar and his wife Nirmal. Sd/- SHIV KUMAR ADVOCATE CH. NO.-960, PATIALA HOUSE COURT NEW DELHI-110001

## PLAYING TODAY

India vs New Zealand, 3rd Test; Live on JioCinema and Sports18; 9:30 am onwards  
Hylo Open Final: Malvika Bansod vs Mia Blichfeldt; Live on JioCinema; post 8 pm

# Sunday's forecast: More twists and turn

Though New Zealand's 143-run lead with a wicket in hand isn't daunting, India's batsmen should be ready for a tricky run chase

## SANDIP G

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 2

AN ENGROSSING day ended with eleven Indian cricketers and two New Zealand batsmen retreating to the pavilion with jerseys smeared with red dirt, hands sticky with sweat, and shoulders creaking. It was a day that could have drained their emotions and taxed their wits, that saw them both squander and seize advantage. Whereas India have a foot firmly inside the victory chamber, having reduced New Zealand to 171/9, their lead a manageable 143 runs, the door is slightly ajar for the visitors too, thus setting the stage for a pulsating climax on the third day, befitting the wild fluctuations of fortunes this series had endured.

The action of the day was compelling and projected the varied thrills of a Test match. Three high-class half-centuries of varied types were etched. A breezy counter-punching from Rishabh Pant, a composed 90 from Shubman Gill and a resolute 51 from Will Young. Ajaz Patel dusted up his old flame with a five-for; Akash Deep conjured arguably the ball of the game in his over, India's spinners bowled with guile and deceit; Ravi Ashwin pulled off a marvellous catch to alter the game's mood.

Both sides would reflect on the moments that they seized and those that they spilled, the killer instincts that forsook both, how close they were in twisting the dagger on each other's torsos, as well as the where-withal to ensure that they clung onto the cliff, when a nudge would have pushed them into the abyss of defeat.

The visitors were drawing circles in the air when the Pant-Shubman pair—the gleaming present and future of Indian cricket—peeled off 96 runs in 114 balls. Of those 79 arrived in the first hour alone, before they dialled a more conservative approach. Nothing worked, neither the bowlers nor the plans. With a blend of daring and smarts, they shredded New Zealand's best-laid plans, aided no less by the greasy hands of the fielders. At 180 for 4 on a ragged surface, New Zealand could sniff the putrid smell of defeat. But the Kiwis are masterful at inching back into the game without sound and fury. They plot comebacks quietly, without a rumble of the leaves.

## Discipline and belief

There are no grand schemes or tactical ingenuity, but discipline and belief. The knack of getting the right wicket at the right time has been a feature of their triumph. Pant and Gill were dragging the game away from them when Ish Sodhi, playing his first Test in 10 months, trapped Pant LBW. The association, which began in a counterattacking mood before reverting to steadier riffs, had punctured New Zealand's resistance. But the wicket arrived just at the opportune moment. Post lunch, Patel and Glenn Phillips expedited India's collapse with the wickets of Ravindra Jadeja and Sarfaraz Khan, the home-boy for a four-ball duck. With the New Zealand total in sight, Gill too perished, leaving the Indian ship tossing in the violent seas.

At this point — 227/8 when Gill departed — a deficit loomed. But Washington Sundar flicked on the afterburners to gather a 27-run lead. Just 35 minutes remained for tea, but that nine-over mini-session produced a suspenseful watch. The sun battering down, the red earth glimmering, the crowd on the edge of their seats, waiting for an event to occur every ball. Their gasps and sighs formed the backdrop of an intriguing phase.

Akash Deep set the stage with a malevolent nip-backer that burst through Tom Latham's push. A ball ago, Latham was saved



Captain Tom Latham is bowled by pacer Akash Deep off the fifth ball of New Zealand's second innings in Mumbai on Saturday. Amit Chakravarty

by an inside edge upon review for an lbw. But this time he couldn't prevent the full ball at pace nipping deviously late into him to uproot the off-stump and smack the middle one.

Akash Deep roared in rage. India could sense the kill. The new-ball seamed, spun and bounced uncomfortably. But New Zealand survived to nearly equal India's lead. It balanced out a session wherein the visitors had clawed back into the game with disciplined bowling.

The flip-side of the bounding energy is that frustration mounts when a batsman plays and misses, an edge falls fizzes past the fielder, or when a ball keeps low but without the reward of a wicket. Impatience kicks in, discipline begins to ebb, and the bowlers lose the clarity and rhythm. Bye and leg-byes aggravate the pain.

But just before the break point Washington and Ashwin prised out Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra in the space of seven balls. New Zealand stared at a quick bundling up, as it often unfolds in these neck of the woods.

But the respite was fleeting, as Young and Daryl Mitchell diligently quietened the crowd. They rode luck and were at times clueless about the balls that misbehaved. Surviving on this surface required a pact with the devil, a reconciliation that an unplayable would arrive at any time but they would perform their part to protect the wicket.

As the evening wore on, India's patience waned. Misfields and overthrows became frequent. They needed a surge of inspiration. Ashwin provided the moment of benediction for India with an exemplary catch to dismiss Mitchell, who was chiming in with lusty blows.

The day would see 77 runs more runs and five wickets including that of the defiant Young. It left just enough suspense for a racy whodunit script on the final day of a riveting series.

## MUMBAI DIARY

## HAIR DRYER PLEASE!

THE INDIAN team sent out an SoS to the Mumbai Cricket Association asking them to provide hair dryers to dry their sweat-soaked jerseys. The combination of 33 degree Celsius and 52 percent humidity resulted in Test whites dripping with sweat. Some of the players are superstitious and prefer not to change their clothes during a day. So the quick-fix solution was to find hair dryers. The Board of Control for Cricket in India provides four pairs of playing kit to each player for a match.

## PERSONALISED MEALS

HARDIK PANDYA has a personal chef, who even travels for overseas tours. The trend is picking up with at least five players in the current Test team having customised meals. The security staff at the Wankhede had been informed about the time at which the food will be brought to the venue. India captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant, Sarfaraz Khan and KL Rahul are the ones who have personal chefs.

## GILL'S SPECIAL BAT

INDIA OPENER Shubman Gill scored 90 on a turning track on Saturday. He is using the same bat with which he scored runs against England at home in February-March. He had scores of 104, 91, 52 not out and 110. "Yeah, it is the same bat," he said.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

## Ashwin catches a break, finds verve

## SANDIP G

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 2

THE WORLD suddenly felt happier and lighter for Ashwin Ravichandran. He was just withdrawn from the attack, his fingers painning and his heart aching after a spell that promised more and yielded less. In the lonely mid-on perch, he might have been reflecting on his spell, grimacing at the cruel fate, when he saw the ball soar from the toe-end of Daryl Mitchell's bat. He might have seen redemption in the air-borne ball.

First he paused, the split-second stop to process the flight and the prospective destination of the ball, and charted his path to pouch it. He twisted his body side-on. Then he set off, as fast and hard as he could. The angle was still awkward. It's difficult to run backward in a side-on posture. The balance is flimsy, the ankle could flip, the neck could hurt, even worse you could injure the hamstring. You could drop the catch and resemble a fool.

But Ashwin's head was clear. He would pocket the ball no matter what. The eyes didn't waver. His feet did, but he kept his balance. When the ball dropped, he knew he was not under it. But he wouldn't give up. He flung his hands and grabbed the ball, then plunged to the ground where he ensured he fell on his back rather than the elbow. The landing would have hurt him. It mattered the least.

He scampered back to his feet, threw the ball in the air, as high as he could, and punched the air in delirium. The catch was significant in the context of the game as well as his day. It ended a plucky 50-run stand between Mitchell and Will Young that could have pushed India out of the game. The



Ravichandran Ashwin dismissed the well-set Will Young, Rachin Ravindra and Glenn Phillips. Amit Chakravarty

catch was a kiss of life for Ashwin, because it brightened up his day, which until the moment brought only edges, misses, a sole wicket and stifled gasps. He later told the broadcasters: "I was just telling myself that it's going to anyway leave me, I wanted to get as close to the ball as possible and I've got great hands, so I trusted my hands to go through with it."

A different Ashwin emerged from the tumble. His afternoon had begun promisingly with the wicket of Rachin Ravindra, through a wonderful piece of deception in flight and deception. Rachin swept him for a four and assuming he would bowl fuller, rushed down the deck, but the ball dropped

## SCOREBOARD

## INDIA vs NEW ZEALAND

WANKHEDE STADIUM, MUMBAI

Toss: New Zealand won, chose to bat

NEW ZEALAND (1st innings): 235

INDIA: 86/4 (Overnight)

S Gill c Mitchell b Patel 90 (146b, 7x4, 1x6)

R Pant lbw b Sodhi 60 (59b, 8x4, 2x6)

R Jadeja c Mitchell b Phillips 14 (25b)

S Khan c Blundell b Patel 0 (4b)

W Sundar not out 38 (36b, 4x4, 2x6)

R Ashwin c Mitchell b Patel 6 (13b, 1x4)

A Deep run out (Ravindra/†Blundell) 0 (0b)

■ Extras (lb 1, nb 2) 3

■ Total 59.4 Ov (RR: 4.40) 263

■ FoW: 1-25 (R Sharma, 6.5 ov), 2-78 (Y

Jaiswal, 17.2 ov), 3-78 (M Siraj, 17.3 ov), 4-84 (V

Kohli, 18.3 ov), 5-180 (R Pant, 37.3 ov), 6-203 (R

Jadeja, 46.5 ov), 7-204 (S Khan, 47.6 ov), 8-227

(S Gill, 53.2 ov), 9-247 (R Ashwin, 57.6 ov), 10-

263 (A Deep, 59.4 ov)

■ Bowling: M Henry 8-1-26-1, W O'Rourke 2-1-

5-0, A Patel 21.4-3-103-5, G Phillips 20-0-84-

1, R Ravindra 1-0-8-0, I Sodhi 7-0-36-1.

NEW ZEALAND (2nd innings)

T Latham b A Deep 1 (4b)

D Conway c S Gill b W Sundar 22 (47b, 2x4)

W Young c &amp; b Ashwin 51 (100b, 2x4, 1x6)

R Ravindra st Pant b Ashwin 4 (3b, 1x4)

D Mitchell c Ashwin b Jadeja 21 (44b, 1x4, 1x6)

T Blundell b Jadeja 4 (6b, 1x4)

G Phillips b Ashwin 26 (14b, 1x4, 3x6)

I Sodhi c Kohli b Jadeja 8 (14b, 1x4)

M Henry b Jadeja 10 (16b, 1x6)

A Patel not out 7 (14b, 1x6)

■ Extras (b 12, lb 4, nb 1) 17

■ Total 43.3 Ov (RR: 3.93) 171/9

■ FoW: 1-2 (T Latham, 0.5 ov), 2-39 (D Conway,

12.5 ov), 3-44 (R Ravindra, 13.6 ov), 4-94 (D

Mitchell, 27.5 ov), 5-100 (T Blundell, 29.3 ov), 6-

131 (G Phillips, 32.5 ov), 7-148 (I Sodhi, 37.5 ov), 8-

150 (W Young, 38.6 ov), 9-171 (M Henry, 43.3 ov)

■ Bowling: Akash Deep 5-0-10-1, Washington

Sundar 10-0-30-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 16-0-

63-3, Ravindra Jadeja 12.3-2-52-4.

NZ lead by 143 runs

by an inside edge upon review for an lbw. But this time he couldn't prevent the full ball at pace nipping deviously late into him to uproot the off-stump and smack the middle one.

Akash Deep roared in rage. India could sense the kill. The new-ball seamed, spun and bounced uncomfortably. But New Zealand survived to nearly equal India's lead. It balanced out a session wherein the visitors had clawed back into the game with disciplined bowling.

The flip-side of the bounding energy is that frustration mounts when a batsman plays and misses, an edge falls fizzes past the fielder, or when a ball keeps low but without the reward of a wicket. Impatience kicks in, discipline begins to ebb, and the bowlers lose the clarity and rhythm. Bye and leg-byes aggravate the pain.

But just before the break point Washington and Ashwin prised out Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra in the space of seven balls. New Zealand stared at a quick bundling up, as it often unfolds in these neck of the woods.

But the respite was fleeting, as Young and Daryl Mitchell diligently quietened the crowd. They rode luck and were at times clueless about the balls that misbehaved. Surviving on this surface required a pact with the devil, a reconciliation that an unplayable would arrive at any time but they would perform their part to protect the wicket.

As the evening wore on, India's patience waned. Misfields and overthrows became frequent. They needed a surge of inspiration. Ashwin provided the moment of benediction for India with an exemplary catch to dismiss Mitchell, who was chiming in with lusty blows.

The day would see 77 runs more runs and five wickets including that of the defiant Young. It left just enough suspense for a racy whodunit script on the final day of a riveting series.

## LIONS IN WINTER

## Has Rohit and Kohli's drive temporarily dimmed after T20 World Cup victory?

## SANDEEP DWIVEDI

NOVEMBER 2

IS AGE catching up with Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, India's two batting stalwarts on the wrong side of 30? Or had the T20 World Cup triumph re-calibrated their ambitions?

Cricketers vouch that once they wear the India jersey, the aches and pains disappear. They also say that regardless of the mind space they are in, the urge to do well for the country never fades.

There is no doubting these emotions in Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. These are proven performers, the best in business. It's their beliefs and convictions that have taken them to lofty heights, making them deliver at the biggest stage.

But science scoffs at emotions and nationalism. It puts limits on the human body, and also the mind. The love of tri-colour, the pride of representing a nation of billion cricket fans doesn't quicken your reflexes or strides. Even the fittest of men slow down and the most driven can temporarily lose motivation.

Go back to the visuals of that magical evening of June 29 from Barbados after the T20 World Cup final. It was a moment that Rohit and Virat had waited all their lives for. Virat had won the World Cup but that was back in 2011. Back then he was one of the boys, not the Atlas on whose shoulder the game rested. Rohit was one of Dhoni's

merry men in 2007 not the man of the house. His angst was more gnawing.

After the close win against South Africa, Rohit sat in a daze. He didn't know what to do. His mind said 'this was it' but the body wasn't ready to believe, it seemed. So what did he do? He plucked the grass from the pitch and ate it. Maybe, even that didn't give him the idea about the taste of victory.

Kohli would shed tears. He called home, they would have known the importance of the moment. Kohli also knew how much the triumph meant for old pal Rohit. Like friends at college farewells, they would pose for a picture. The T20 World Cup 2024 was a Cup of closures and catharsis.

For Rohit and Virat, it was a triumph of fulfillment — a golden handshake to end it all and walk into the sunset with a sparkling smile. That evening in the West Indies, they had faces of those turning 58, walking out of the office one last time with pleasing thoughts of their kids well-settled and a hefty retirement corpus in the bank.

Rohit and Virat would announce their T20I retirement. But cricket is a strange sport. The three-format structure comes with that anti-climatic '... to be continued' rider. Cricketers say staggered 'goodbyes'. It is done in instalments — T20, ODI, Tests and IPL. The order depends on a player's skill set.

But after the night on the top of an open-top bus mobbed by a jam-packed Marine Drive and the Wankhede fan frenzy; Rohit



The Test series in Australia will be the moment of truth for Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Sportzpicz/BCCI

and Virat would have woken up with a new mindset. They would have felt like Olympic gold-medalists after a day on top of the podium. After achieving the goals they lost sleep over and chased obsessively, their

Just imagine after the T20 World Cup win, the next assignment for Rohit and Virat was to take on Bangladesh and New Zealand at home. It was a big ask to be as motivated as they were during the World Cup campaign.

minds would expectedly go on 'relax mode'. What exactly do you need to tell your mind to coax the body to leave the warm quilt on a winter morning?

Just imagine after the T20 World Cup win, the next assignment for Rohit and Virat was to take on Bangladesh and New Zealand at home. It was a big ask to be as motivated as they were during the World Cup campaign.

At the back of India's incredible 12 year Test series winning streak at home, can they be blamed for taking things lightly?

To give them a feeling of invincibility, was the thrashing they gave Bangladesh — winning Kanpur's rain-curtailed game in virtually two days.

So when New Zealand landed in India, the predictions were easy. It was presumed that New Zealand, having lost to Sri Lanka, would come and do the needful. Take the field, dutifully roll over, give India enough WTC points and give them a cushion for the

five-Test series in Australia.

India wasn't the first team to underestimate the Kiwis, the innovative problem-solving islanders who constantly prove the world wrong. Losing the first two Tests and on the backfoot in the third, India now fear a 3-0 white-wash.

It could potentially be a result with far-reaching consequences. A demoralised India in Australia could be nightmarish. The World Cup last year showed Pat Cummins' side is ultra competitive and ruthlessly punishes the slightest of errors.

## Unexpected setback

But can't the unexpected setback at home fire up the two main pillars of the team? Can this be the new goal they will wake up to? Wouldn't they want to further embellish their sparkling Test career with another triumph Down Under and a WTC win?

It's easier said than done. There's a very relevant piece on the topic by former England captain and *Sunday Times* cricket correspondent Michael Atherton after a frustrating day on the field for the aging English pacer James Anderson towards the end of career.

Quoting the Aussie great Greg Chappell, he writes how the game gets harder mentally with age.

"Experience is a double-edged sword: the more you know about the game, the more you realise what can go wrong ... expectations increase rather than diminish:

age complicates rather than clarifies, and one bad match has greater ramifications". The two Indian greats might whole-heartedly agree with him.

After that forgettable and frustrating day on the field, that Atherton wrote about, Anderson would say: "It reminded me of when I first started playing, when you get frustrated and angry you try to bowl quicker and quicker and it doesn't help. It felt like I was trying a bit too hard." It doesn't need a trained eye to see that Rohit and Kohli — during the New Zealand series — seem to be trying too hard and failing.

After their ultimate moment of triumph at Barbados in 2024, Australia 2025 would be the moment of truth. After conquering the T20 Mount Everest, the aging eyes stare at the base of K2 with hope. After the humiliation at home, there will be doubts in their minds. What if they fail to rise to the occasion in Australia?

Trust an Aussie to put things bluntly. Talking about his final days as a cricketer pro, Ricky Ponting had once said: "I had heard sports psychologists talk about the 'little voice' that sits on athletes' shoulder ... one that says you're no good, that it's not worth it, that you should give up. I couldn't get rid of the little bastard in the end."

In the coming days, the biggest challenge for Rohit and Virat will not be the tough-talking cricketing giants from Australia but that devilish 'little one' that Ponting spoke about.

BRIEFLY

**Krishna Verma wins U-19 gold at Worlds**

Colorado: Indian boxer Krishna Verma won the gold in the women's 75kg category while five other signed off with silver medals at the inaugural U-19 World Championships organised by World Boxing in Colorado, USA. While Krishna notched up a unanimous 5-0 decision over Germany's Simon Lerika in the 75kg summit clash. Chanchal Chaudhary (women's 48kg), Anjali Kumari Singh (women's 57kg), Vini (women's 60kg), Akanksha Phalaskar (women's 70kg) and Rahul Kundu (men's 75kg) lost their respective finals. Five female boxers and a male boxer will fight for gold in the final on Saturday. The tournament is World Boxing's first global event. World Boxing is a breakaway organisation that was launched to ensure boxing's place in the Olympic movement. It aims to replace the IBA as the world governing body for boxing. **PTI**

**Norris wins Sao Paulo sprint, cuts lead to 44**

Sao Paulo: Lando Norris cut Max Verstappen's Formula One lead to 44 points after his McLaren team mate Oscar Piastri obeyed orders and gifted the Briton a sprint-race victory in Sao Paulo on Saturday. Piastri had started on pole position and led until handing over two laps from the end after Red Bull's Verstappen had passed Ferrari's Charles Leclerc for third and became an increasing threat. The switch came just before a virtual safety car (VSC) period left a tense final lap with Australian Piastri crossing the line 0.593 behind Norris in a one-two finish. Verstappen finished third, 0.904 further adrift, but was handed a five-second penalty for a VSC infringement that dropped him back behind Leclerc. **REUTERS**

**Arsenal, Man City lose, drop points in title race**

London: Alexander Isak's early headed goal lifted Newcastle to a 1-0 victory over Arsenal on Saturday at St. James' Park, as Eddie Howe's men delivered a blow to Arsenal's title chase with their first win in six Premier League outings. Bournemouth's Antoine Semenyo and Evanilson got on the scoresheet as the hosts held on for a stunning 2-1 victory over champions Manchester City on Saturday, ending the visitors' unbeaten streak in the Premier League at 32 games. The loss dropped Pep Guardiola's City -- who had not lost in the league since a 1-0 defeat by Aston Villa on Dec 6 -- to second in the table with 23 points after 10 matches. Meanwhile Mohamed Salah earned Liverpool a 2-1 comeback victory over Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday, a win that moved Arne Slot's team two points clear at the top of the Premier League. **REUTERS**

**Bopanna-Ebden bow out of Paris Masters**

Paris: Veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden made a quarterfinal exit from the Paris Masters after suffering a hard-fought defeat in the men's doubles contest here. The third seeded Indo-Australian duo toiled for one hour 46 minutes before going down 6-7, 5-7 to the Dutch-Croatian combo of Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Pietrangeli at the ATP 1000 event on Friday. There was little separating the two pairs with the first set going into tiebreaker. Bopanna and Ebden had a few chances but Koolhof and Pietrangeli saved set points to win the tiebreak and take a 1-0 lead. The second set was closely contested, but they provided Koolhof and Pietrangeli with a crucial break in the 12th game. **PTI**

LONG READ



KANPUR VS BANGLADESH: Shakib Al Hasan dismissed Kohli with a near full-length ball. Sportzpics/BCCI



PUNE VS NEW ZEALAND: Mitchell Santner's dipping full toss got Kohli. Sportzpics/BCCI

# Left-arm spin, a kryptonite

Since 2020, Rohit Sharma has fallen 13 times to this type of bowler, while Virat Kohli & Shubman Gill have been dismissed on 11 occasions

LALITH KALIDAS  
NOVEMBER 2

THERE ARE several points from where India can begin the forensics of a momentous home Test series defeat to New Zealand. But more instantly, they will confront their superior tormentor -- batting against spin -- again on a red-soil strip at the Wankhede Stadium. Even the impulsively optimistic fan will have reservations about this rosette from the shaken hosts. Without overreacting, as Rohit Sharma would want, the faithful will believe the team management has tacitly begun to examine the feet of their premier right-hand batters against spin, particularly the left-arm clan. Captain Rohit and his predecessor, Virat Kohli, have endured similar career graphs against left-arm orthodox spinners, embedding crests and troughs of identical amplitudes.

The tribe hardly ruffled Kohli and Rohit in the pre-World Test Championship era. However, the capricious downfall since 2020 has regressed their effectiveness on turners and even moderately placid home pitches across three WTC cycles in the last four years. Whatever bug hit the duo before the post-COVID red-ball return caught up with the other Indian batters too, including the younger crop.

A red-ball regular only from the start of this WTC cycle, Shubman Gill has already listed a worrying profile that resonates more with the ageing versions of Rohit and Kohli rather than handing spurts of promise against left-arm spin.

When India opted for a refined off-spin attack against the left-hand-heavy New Zealand after the Bengaluru Test, the Kiwi counter was super-effective. Three days in Pune, and the visitors had allowed left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner to bag the first two five-wicket hauls and the best match figures (13/157) of his 29-Test career.

**Anatomy of a fall**

Domestic batting legend Wasim Jaffer cannot pinpoint a reason for the slump but insists India's foremost concern at home is their spin-batting. "Foreign teams will find it hard but even we have struggled as a batting unit," he says.

Kohli's first-innings shocker against Santner in Pune -- missing out on a low full-toss onto the stumps -- could be more than just a 'brain fade' or aberration.

A closer inspection would tell that the faulty slog-sweep is not entirely different from Kohli's dismissal against Bangladesh veteran Shakib Al Hasan during last month's Kanpur Test. Left-armed Shakib, as opposed to Santner, went comparatively flatter and consequently landed the ball just short of the fuller length; Kohli's front-footed heave swooshed past the line as the ball hit the middle stump with the angle.

Meanwhile, Santner mopped up Kohli with pronounced flight and a similar angle that landed right under the toe of the bat.



Kohli's six back-foot dismissals against left-arm spinners at home since 2020.

**Against left-arm orthodox spin in Tests**

|                        | Inns | Runs | Balls | Outs | Avg    | 4s | 6s |
|------------------------|------|------|-------|------|--------|----|----|
| Virat Kohli (2013-19)  | 52   | 775  | 1414  | 7    | 110.71 | 68 | 6  |
| Kohli since 2020       | 31   | 369  | 825   | 11   | 33.54  | 30 | 2  |
| Rohit Sharma (2013-19) | 19   | 357  | 581   | 7    | 51     | 40 | 10 |
| Rohit since 2020       | 25   | 376  | 700   | 13   | 28.92  | 41 | 4  |

**Against left-arm spin in Tests since 2020**

| Player       | Movement   | Inns | Runs | Outs | Avg  |
|--------------|------------|------|------|------|------|
| Virat Kohli  | Front Foot | 31   | 212  | 4    | 53   |
| Rohit Sharma | Front Foot | 25   | 211  | 8    | 26.4 |
| Shubman Gill | Front Foot | 28   | 196  | 9    | 21.8 |
| Virat        | Back Foot  | 30   | 136  | 7    | 19.4 |
| Rohit        | Back Foot  | 21   | 106  | 1    | 106  |
| Gill         | Back Foot  | 29   | 135  | 2    | 67.5 |
| Virat        | Charging   | 3    | 21   | 0    | -    |
| Rohit        | Charging   | 18   | 59   | 4    | 14.8 |
| Gill         | Charging   | 16   | 40   | 1    | 40   |

Source: Cricket-21

There was negligible drift to put Kohli under the pump, but the round-arm releases from around the stumps are seemingly enough to cast doubts in the India No.4's mind.

As per Cricket-21 data, the two slogsweep dismissals account for two of the four times Kohli has been out playing left-arm spin on the front foot since 2020. The average (53) is still appreciable when he has tackled left-armers on the front in this period, scoring 212 runs. But in the first half of his career between 2011 and 2019, Kohli only fell twice on the front foot, amassing 443 runs.

The distending concern is Kohli's back-foot degeneration against the left-arm

tweakers, an example he laid out in the second-innings of the Pune Test, versus Santner again. Since 2020, Kohli has fallen seven times to left-arm spin on the backfoot -- averaging 19.4 -- all in the sub-continent. All seven of these dismissals are either bowled or leg-before. Contrastingly, his long-time teammate Rohit has struggled to tackle the left-armers while moving forward.

A general hallmark of Rohit's batting prowess in Tests has been his takedown of spin on his day. Rohit has struck more sixes (55) against spin and averages higher (45.28) against the tweakers than the quicks in his career. During his non-opening days be-

**INDIA BATTING AT HOME**

|                         | Between 2013-18 | 2019 onwards |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Batting average         | 41.55           | 36.23        |
| Total innings (players) | 438             | 415          |
| Total dismissals        | 369             | 359          |

**AGAINST LEFT-ARM SPIN**

|                 | Between 2013-18 | 2019 onwards |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Wickets lost    | 58              | 122          |
| Bowling SR      | 81.1            | 59.3         |
| Bowling average | 43.1            | 36.77        |

tween 2013 and 2018, Rohit walloped left-arm spinners for 71 runs in only 39 deliveries with seven fours and five sixes and was never dismissed.

The shares have dwindled drastically afterwards. Rohit has aggregated only 59 runs in 60 balls with four dismissals while charging down to the left-armers in the last four years. Rohit's front-foot stride has also marked eight dismissals in the period, including his latest against Santner. Five of Rohit's 17 dismissals at home this year also belong to the left-armers. The 37-year-old has been stumped four times in his career, all of it coming in the World Test Championship era against slow left-arm spin.

**An India crisis**

This isn't essentially highlighting a weakness of India's two senior-most batters alone. The Rohit-Kohli phenomenon extends to an India crisis against left-arm spin.

Between 2013 and the end of 2018 when India racked up 10 consecutive home series wins with a solitary Test defeat, the batters averaged 41.55 in 438 combined innings. There was also a higher grade of 50-plus scores for Indian batters, with 41 centuries and 66 50s while losing 363 wickets to bowlers. The Indians were least troubled by left-arm spinners, who only accumulated 15.9 per cent (58) of the total wickets at a trifling 81.1 strike rate.

Since 2019, India have been infested by left-arm spin attacks, conceding 122 of their 348 wickets to the club.

Once a nominal challenge, left-arm spin has evolved to become the most potent bowling class to deflate India in India. The left-armers have improved their strike rate by a resounding margin to 59.3, bettering right-arm pace (66.1) and spin (64.5).

Jaffer believes that left-arm spinners have evolved in probing right-handers around the

bat. "The left-armed's angle poses more problems. They generally bowl stump-to-stump and batters can read the spin wrong. They challenge both the outside and inside edges plus lbws and bowled dismissals come into contention. Against off-spinners on turners, you can get away with the outside-edge plus the impact can be outside off-stump," Jaffer explains.

Five of the top 10 match-bowling figures from visiting teams in India this century have been credited to left-arm spinners, three of which have cropped up within the last three years. The two-time WTC finalists have attempted to curb this specific threat in their backyard by slotting in three left-handers -- Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja -- in the top seven. But the staggering dips of their right-handed stars are an unabating concern.

The over-dependence on training against side-arm throwers has deteriorated the defences, feels Jaffer. "The batters play side-armers a lot more to prepare for the 140-plus deliveries. They don't even face that many bowlers in training and I don't think they play spin as much compared to before."

"The nature of the game is to attack and I don't think today's batters focus on the defensive game that much. That probably is the issue. The first thing that comes to their mind is to attack and that can sometimes be your downfall," observes Jaffer.

Rohit has fallen the most (13) to left-arm spin since 2020, with Kohli (11) and Gill (11) following suit. Cheteshwar Pujara was nearly flawless countering the left-armers on the back foot and with his typical advances down the surface but fell seven times on the

front foot in this phase, two more than his entire career haul between 2010-18. Shreyas Iyer was briefly favoured for his superior game against spin in the middle-order. But the Mumbaier was toppled by left-arm spin nine times in only 17 meetings before other setbacks deprived him of a spot.

Even Sarfaraz Khan has found the initiation tricky, with three of his five sub-20 dismissals occurring at the hands of the left-armers.

It was exaggerated sharply when Santner extracted Sarfaraz's off-stump on his fourth delivery during the 359-run chase in Pune. The deterioration is particularly diabolical for Rohit and Kohli at a time when left-arm spinners have become a staple presence in front-line Ranji Trophy XIs. In Jadeja, Axar and Kuldeep, healthy competition is alive even within the national set-up.

Jaffer, though, does not believe playing domestic red-ball games will help them with a necessary fix. "They have played so much that they can work on the flaws on their own."

**The left-armed's angle poses more problems. They generally bowl stump-to-stump and batters can read the spin wrong. They challenge both the outside and inside edges plus lbws and bowled dismissals come into contention."**

WASIM JAFFER  
FORMER TEST OPENER

HYLO OPEN

# How Malvika came good in two contrasting games to reach biggest career final

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN  
NOVEMBER 2

MALVIKA BANSOD is a self-confessed bookworm. In a recent interview with *The Indian Express*, after her impressive quarterfinal run at the China Open that included a big win over Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, she had said: "I read Bhagavad Gita and travelogues and have recently started enjoying reading dictionaries." At that point, she was still at "a", but on Saturday in Saarbrücken, Germany you could file her semifinal win under "c" for clutch or "e" for excellent.

With a gritty, calculated, almost nerveless display of badminton, the 23-year-old reached the biggest final of her career as she defeated Julie Dawall Jakobsen 23-21, 21-18 in 44 minutes at the Hylo Open Super 300. As the shuttle sailed wide from the

8th-seeded Danish shuttler, Malvika let the moment sink in for a second and then fell down on the court on her back. Covering her eyes with her hands, she lay down there for a few more seconds before standing up with a wide smile and acknowledging her opponent.

**Nerves held**

She trailed by some distance in the opener but managed to come good in the endgame, holding her nerve at a crucial point in 19-19. In the second game, she was facing a resurgent Jakobsen, turning the tables on her and closing down a big gap to make it 17-17. But Malvika came through both situations with an impressive calm.

It has not always been easy on the international circuit for the Nagpur shuttler, with the flashy wins few and far between. The skill level was always there, as her win against Saina Nehwal at the 2022 India



Malvika Bansod recently beat Paris Olympics bronze medalist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung. BAI

Open signified, drawing praise from the former world No 1. But on the back of her run at China Open, and now reaching the final in Saarbrücken, she is showing she can add consistency to her game as well.

On Sunday, she will face another Dane test when she takes on Mia Blichfeldt, former world No 11. Her only other final at this level was at the Syed Modi International in 2022, when she came through a fully Indian lineup before finishing second behind PV Sindhu.

Early in the semifinal, a few steep strokes from the tall, physically stronger Jakobsen saw her trail 2-5. At 4-9, Malvika showed the first signs of finding a solution to the power problem, as she tried a couple of acute angle flicks. Jakobsen continued to stay in front with a 11-6 lead in the mid-game interval, taking advantage of the Indian's lack of control at that point. Malvika, however, closed the gap down to

11-13 on the back of a few errors on the trot from Jakobsen. The Indian drew level at 13-13 on a run of six straight points and took her first lead at 18-17.

The all-important rally at 19-19 was initially given in favour of Jakobsen, but Malvika used technology to turn the verdict as the Hawkeye showed that the Indian's toss to the backcourt had just about caught the line. After the Dane saved the game point with her brute power, Malvika played a superb rally with her deft touches and did a little jump. A second game point too, however, was saved by Jakobsen's smash. It would be third time lucky for Malvika, as she played a well-constructed point, drawing Jakobsen forward with a couple of tight net shots before inducing a crosscourt error.

It was a fine turnaround and she carried the momentum into the second game, continuing to take the pace off the shuttle

every chance she got, and built up a superb 11-4 lead. With the finish line in sight, all she needed was to rein in the errors and continue covering for the occasional smash to either of the flanks from the Dane. The lead swelled to 15-7 with a cracking service return winner.

But her shot quality started dipping as it was Jakobsen's turn to put together a string of points, making it 12-15. It seemed like the storyline of the opening game was being written in reverse when the Dane made it 17-17. But Malvika's backhand drive -- which had been working well all match -- drew an error of judgment from Jakobsen. And just like that it was three match points for Malvika, and she managed to convert on her second.

Earlier in the day, Ayush Shetty's campaign came to an end as he went down fighting against Christo Popov of France, 17-21, 13-21 in 49 minutes.

# THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

# eye



PHOTO COURTESY: ANUSHK

## MALABAR

It blares from FM stations and tea stalls, Insta-reels and ringtones, government campaigns, football stadiums and temple concerts. And after taking over Kerala, Malayalam rap is now going global

Sandip G

**N**ERVES SEIZED rapper Fejo when he stood on the rickety podium raised in the promenade of Kadakkal Temple in Kerala's Kollam district and gazed down at the sea of waving hands. Live shows are a stroll for him, he feeds from the energy of the heaving crowd but this was different. "This was the first time I was singing for a temple festival. I scanned the audience, and I saw many elderly people with their grandchildren. I was unsure whether they would appreciate the music," he says. "I have never heard of a temple conducting a rap concert. Maybe, they wanted to woo a younger crowd but you know how people perceive rap. So I gave them a brief intro about the genre. That it is somewhere between poetry, music and speech," he says.

Minutes into the show, Fejo, aka Febin Joseph, could see the puzzled stare on some faces, but as the concert rolled on, gathering an undulating tempo, he saw even the elderly swaying their heads to his rhymed verse. "This was the moment I realised that rap is no longer a subaltern culture in the state but has entered the mainstream, cutting across age and cultural barriers," says Fejo, who would go on to conduct concerts in temples, churches, a mosque in Thrissur's Chavakkad district and perform in Georgia and Canada.

Rap merging into the Malayali consciousness was a cultural phenomenon he had never imagined when he began making parody songs of Senegalese-American rapper Akon in his teenage in the mid-aughts. "When I grew up, it was unthinkable. Songs were meant to be composed in a certain way, with the conventional rhyme scheme and meter. We didn't have the culture of independent albums, except devotional ones. Songs were only composed for movies. I never thought I would be making money singing rap songs," says Fejo, whose *Koode Thullu* is probably equivalent to the heavy metal *Born To Be Wild* (Steppenwolf), in its path-breaking relevance.

The odd rock band sprung but mostly sang covers of classic hits and had a niche following. Unlike the Tamil music industry, which straddled genres as early as the avant garde-llayaraja fuelled '80s, its Malayalam counterpart was less experimental. The first time a singer broke the mould — injecting English rap into a Malayalam song, Jassie Gift in the smash hit *Lajjavathiye* — the pundits scoffed him for spoiling the language's lyrical legacy. Zip to 2024, the Malayalam rap industry is vibrantly diverse as well as an increasingly broad-based cultural trend, imperceptibly blending into the pop culture and movies, besides language, fashion and advertising. It blares from FM stations and tea stalls, Insta-reels and ringtones, government campaigns, football stadiums and temple concerts. Their images on t-shirts have acquired a Che Guevara-esque cult. It is the lingua franca of

the youth, impossible to avoid.

The leap has been exponential — according to Spotify numbers, Malayalam hip-hop grew by 300 per cent year-on-year in 2023. Since its popularisation five years ago, the worldwide consumption has shot up by 5,300 per cent. A raft of young Malayalam rappers — Fejo, Hanumankind, whose *Big Dawgs* generated global adulation, Dabzee, MHR, Vedan, Baby Jean, NJ, Thirumali, MC Couper and Joker to name a few — have set the charts afire with their variegated themes, styles and diction.

"It's going global, bro. Who would have thought!" says Fejo.

The sunsets in Changaramkulam are splendid. A palette of colours spreads across the skies, illuminating the quiet currents of Bharathapuzha with a glow of deep tangerine and bubble-gum pink. The riverfront village, tucked in the innards of Ponnani Taluk in Kerala's Malappuram district, whizzes into life. Glasses clink on the rickety tables of modest waterholes; roadside eateries turn into a flash of culinary gymnastics; the streetlights reluctantly wink to life; tea shops bristle into *addas*.

From Kannan's tea stall, pipes out the jaunty beats of *Manavalan Thug* from the movie *Thallumaala* (2022). The 65-year-old owner, Raghavan, tries to catch a hum or two: *Maniyara thorakkana chiriyyindu, chiriylu chelu pothinjenduu...* he stops, saying it's too fast to sing along. "You have a smile that unlocks harem, a smile wrapped in beauty..."

"It's addictive, isn't it?" he asks his friend and regular Jasekutty. "After all, our boy has sung it," he replies, referring to Dabzee, aka Mohammed Fasil, who lives a couple of miles away from the shop.

The 33-year-old artist is the identity of the village, faceless like hundreds of others in the country. There are no foam-board cutouts to celebrate him, his face doesn't peer from the walls or electric posts, they don't always whistle his songs, or put them as their ringtone. But warmth and love ring in their voice when they talk about him. "His songs capture the rhythm of Malabar, its culture and heritage, our dialects and twangs. We can resonate with it, like how Vaikom Muhammad Basha made our slang mainstream through his novels," says Ahmed Kodinhi, a school teacher in Manjeri, on the western corner of Malappuram.

The infusion of local dialect is deliberate. "I used to be ridiculed for my slang by people from other parts of Kerala, so I feel sort of obligated to represent my culture and its voice," says Dabzee, who quit his corporate job in the Middle East for his "real calling."

After its release in 2022, *Manavalan Thug* became a game changer in Kerala's hip hop scene. "It was when hip-hop became really massy. It required a movie to make it mainstream, and *Thallumaala* did the job. Then hip-hop just shot over the roof," says Muhsin Parari, a director, writer and lyricist.

## RAP



STRAIGHT FIRE

(Clockwise from top) Rappers Hanumankind, Dabzee, Fejo and music producer Sushin Shyam

So did Dabzee's popularity. He says he grew up listening to music his father listened to, and *Mapilapattu* was one of them. He dexterously weaves the hip-hop ethos into the framework of *Mapilapattu*, a Muslim folklore genre that has been in the state's culture since the 17th century. Parari explains: "I think *Mapilapattu* is a natural body for rap. In rap, you put in a lot of syllables in short sentences. It is the same in *Mapilapattu*. It was just a matter of them finding each other." He strikes a football analogy. "It's a bit like tiki-taka, you need to find rhythm in short spaces," he says, referring to the revolutionary slick and short passing style of FC Barcelona and Spain that changed how the game was played as well as

viewed. It is no coincidence that several of the rappers are from Malappuram. The Malabar dialect of Malayalam, with a heavy influence of Arabic, is intrinsically more supple than those in central and southern Kerala. Hanumankind has his roots in Ponnani, Parari is from Edavanna, Baby Jean is from Othalur and Joker and MHR are from Tirur. Everyone, though, is different. Dabzee has more melodic hooks, Baby Jean is more conversational in the Eminem style; Hanumankind is groovier and the Hanimans style.

Contrarily, Fejo, who is from Kochi, where a gruffer brand of Malayalam is spoken, says he has bumped into linguistic hurdles. "I think

you can't express anger in Malayalam. No matter how angry you want to be in Malayalam, there is an underlying sweetness that defeats the purpose, unlike say Tamil or Hindi. The best is Punjabi. But then you adapt and bend the language," he says. Fejo is experimental, incorporating reggae and folk strains into his music. The dialectical rigidity has not prevented rappers from popping up in other parts of the state. Like MC Couper and Raftaar, who are from Thiruvananthapuram, where a coarser twang of Malayalam is spoken. Vedan is from Thrissur, Thirumali from Kottayam. The band Palakkadan Dystopia, eponymously, is from Palakkad. "In the end, it's about how you connect with the audience and the relatability of the theme," says Parari. It's like the glorious sunsets of Changaramkulam. A palette of colours spreads across the state's hip-hop spectrum. No matter the city they hail from, they have been grappling with similar circumstances, creative questions and obstacles.

Seven years ago, when an engineering student allegedly died by suicide, his death became heavily politicised. A disturbed Fejo wrote *Oru Private Aravushala* (A Private Slaughterhouse). "I could relate to it because I had studied in that engineering college. But I didn't set out to write about politics. I've also written about love and friendship," he says.

Hip-hop itself is often misconstrued solely as a body of protest though it began dwelling on social themes only in 1982, nine years after it was born in a house party in the Bronx. But social causes and angst feature predominantly in Malayalam rap. Parari's *Native Bapa*, considered the first hip-hop song in Malayalam, satirised the gunning down of four Muslim youths from Kannur by security forces in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir. "We were tired of the usual narratives propagating the stereotypes of Muslims and Dalits as savages. We wanted to give different perspectives of these to Kerala society," Parari says. Its sequel, *Death of a Native Son*, was a tribute to Rohith Vemula, the Dalit PhD scholar at Hyderabad who died by suicide in 2016.

Similarly, Vedan's songs vehemently question caste equations. He was raised in a Harijan colony near the Thrissur railway station. After his Class X, he took up odd jobs before moving to Thiruvananthapuram to work as a studio boy. In those years, he got hooked to rap, especially of the late American rapper Tupac Shakur. "So when I decided to sing, I thought I would write about caste and oppression." The result — *Voice of the Voiceless* — was a lashing whip with delightful wordplay on societal hypocrisies. Like *Njaan paananalla parayanalla pulayanalla nee thamburanumalla/ Aanel oru ma'irumilla*. (I'm not a Paanan or a Parayan or a Pulayan. Nor are you a Thamburaan. Even if you are, I don't give a f\*ck!). "My politics is not subtle," he asserts. He wears black, an ode to his idols, Karl Marx and Periyar.

He wrote the powerful song *Va* after he

saw a bunch of kids from so-called lower castes being driven out of a ground with choicest casteist expletives. "There are no hard and fast rules. There is no social obligation to anything. It's your choice, your music. Be comfortable in your skin," says Fejo.

The creative freedom, thus, has liberated a music industry trapped in conventional labyrinths.

Fejo remembers the first time he uploaded a song on his YouTube channel in 2011. "We didn't have an internet connection those days. So I hit an internet cafe, and it took me four hours to upload the song. The people in the cafe got suspicious of me. What I am implying is that the internet was the biggest game changer for its accessibility as well as speed," he says.

Close to a lakh watched the video, largely from the Middle East. Parari remembers a time they used to text battle with a group called Insignia on Orkut. It took several months for Parari and friends to recover the initial investment of Rs 2 lakh. Things though have changed. "The biggest spur for hip-hop was that the artists began to get money for their works. They could stop worrying about finances and focus on their craft," Parari says.

Fejo agrees: "There was a time when I used to set apart the money I got from stage shows to produce my next song. With internet connections becoming cheaper and video-hosting services proliferating, we got visibility and more money. Then came Spotify and others. The reel culture completely changed the game. It also meant, new singers, if their product is good, could become an instant success. There is less shell time," he adds.

The other cycle in hip-hop's monetary evolution was the beginning of music composers collaborating with them. Fejo felt fully secure of his profession when Sushin Shyam requested him to do a song for the movie *Maradona* in 2018. Dabzee felt the same when he sang in *Thallumaala* (co-written by Parari), its music composed by Vishnu Vijay. Six years after *Maradona*, Sushin set music for the runaway blockbuster of the year *Aavesham*, in which he had collaborated with a clutch of hip-hopsters, from Hanumankind and Malayali Monkeys to MC Couper and Dabzee. The latter's *Illuminati* has entered the cult of fame in Malayalam music. The pandemic years too helped when people took refuge in reels and sought variety in music and movies.

The next motion in their journey, Fejo says, is getting labels like Mass Appeal, Universal and Sony Music, which have already begun investing in videos featuring independent singers. Parari says the *coup de grace* moment would be when it becomes a self-sustainable and standalone stream as hip-hop is in the West. "When music is consumed not as part of cinema but as an independent entity in itself," he says. Or the rappers' declaration of independence hour, and when it has breached the socio-cultural walls.

## DOWN IN JUNGLELAND

RANJIT LAL Author, environmentalist and bird watcher



THE TUSKER

Too many elephants have encountered our violent side

## A Mammoth Task

Our attitude towards elephants has been bipolar

UNFORTUNATELY, THE elephants in the room are literally the elephants in the room! These big, gentle (when not provoked) pachyderms are in trouble on both the continents they call home: Africa and Asia. In Zimbabwe and Namibia, there are plans to cull herds (at least 200 elephants in Zimbabwe) to feed humans because we have encroached their territory. In India, a 20 per cent drop in elephant numbers has been recorded in the last five years, though the official report is yet to be released, ostensibly awaiting data from the North-East. Figures from the Northeast might show a miraculous rise to make up the deficit, so we can say, hey all is well after all!

But man-elephant conflicts are increasing, be it in tea gardens, coffee plantations, agricultural areas and villages, which have intruded on their ancient migratory routes. And elephants are smart — if they are driven away from fields, they will head for the godowns where the grain, rice and paddy are

*The Elephant Whisperers* (2022). In Kenya, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has raised 320 orphaned baby elephants, whose mothers were butchered by poachers.

But too many elephants have encountered our violent side. True, a herd can lay waste to entire fields and a year's worth of crops in a single night. But setting off firecrackers and shotgun blasts in their faces only causes mayhem, where both traumatised elephants and humans become casualties. Fortunately, in some areas, with the judicious use of drones and smartphones, the movements of herds can be tracked and the elephants can be headed away before they enter ground zero. People also use fences made of beehives to keep the elephants away. But we must always remember, we are the trespassers, not they.

The treatment meted out to Shankar, Delhi zoo's solitary African bull elephant, speaks volumes about our callous approach. To chain a sentient animal — used to roaming on open grasslands — for two years is appalling. Okay, he was in musth, with testosterone levels maybe 60 times the normal and got violent, but that could have been anticipated. They are now searching for a couple of lady companions for him and one can only hope that he has not forgotten how to be a gentleman after being in

Man-elephant conflicts are increasing in places where we have intruded their migratory routes

stored or even thrust a trunk through your kitchen window. Many smart pachyderms have learned to lie in wait by the side of highways running through their forests, where they waylay travellers and trucks carrying delicious treats like sugarcane. They can put away as much as 600 lbs. (270 kg) of vegetation a day, feeding up to 18 hours a day.

Our attitude towards them is, as it is with most animals, bipolar. On the one hand, we worship them and make them participate in noisy rituals and processions, laden with colossal howdahs. I am amazed at how tolerant these animals are in the face of such discomfort. Several have had meltdowns, even trampling their mahouts to death. But many elephants have devoted mahouts who will be at their side through thick and thin, tending to them like family. Orphaned baby elephants are, if lucky, taken in and raised by ordinary people like Bomman and Bellie did in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai a few years ago, and attained stardom, courtesy the documentary film

solitary confinement for so long.

In the wild, solitary bulls and mothers with calves are the most dangerous animals you could encounter: unpredictable and short-tempered. Despite their bulk (5-6 tonnes for bulls), they can move with uncanny silence and run at 40 kmph, which is much faster than we can. Also, as is well known, they have excellent memories. Which was why, I got a little worried when, several years ago, while on a trip to the vet's, we passed an elephant sashaying down the road and our obstreperous Labrador, Wag, stuck his head out of the window and barked rudely at it. We drove on, but a red light ahead halted our progress. I looked back and the elephant was approaching steadily. I thought, she's going to pick up our little red van, scrunch it up and fling it across the road when she reaches us. I forced the excited dog to look the other way, but then a shadow fell over the car as the elephant drew abreast. Luckily, as she did, the lights changed and we were off and lived to tell the tale.



LET GO AND ENJOY

What if we could be comfortable with our dark, dusty and threadbare corners that we hide from each other?

## Invitation to a Scruffy Way of Life

To unclench and let it be. To live an unfiltered life. To savour little joys of imperfection

### IMAGINE

SHELJASEN



Shelja Sen is a narrative and family therapist, writer, co-founder of Children First. In this column she curates the know-how of the children and youth she has the honour of working with. Email her at shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

SONA HAD recently moved back to Delhi from abroad and invited some friends home to reconnect and catch up. After the meal, she was left with a sense of disappointment though she could not figure out what was missing. "I had planned everything perfectly," she said, "for friends I love and who matter so much to me." I was very curious about what she meant by the word, "perfectly". She sat still for some time and then with a sigh, wondered, "Maybe that is the problem, I was trying too hard to make it perfect." Sona explained how she had worked for days in micro-planning the meal, rearranging the furniture and hiding the shabby stuff. "I was so busy performing and perfecting that there was no time to connect," she reflected. I wondered if she could remember times with her friends from the past that she cherished. With a tender smile on her face, she remembered how they would gather spontaneously, over "a potluck meal and have *addas* where the only thing that mattered was togetherness." I asked her what was different in those gatherings and she replied, "All of us welcomed all of us."

I was reminded of this conversation while listening to a podcast in which the writer Oliver Burkeman talked about the concept of "scruffy hospitality," (attributed to a priest Jack King) which honours, "If we only share meals with friends when we are excellent, we aren't truly sharing life together."

Growing up, I lived in a socially bustling household. My parents loved to have family and friends over all the time. Unlike me, they were happily oblivious to the mess in the house. As soon as I learned that someone was visiting the house, I would go around tidying up. It was a joke that people would hide their

stuff before I hid them in an obscure corner never to be found. This pattern continued into adulthood. If friends would call to say that they would be dropping in an hour's time, rather than looking forward to a good time, I would be rushing around pummeling the cushions, burying the scruffy bits in the cupboards and hiding any evidence that humans lived in our home. This frenzied commando-worthy operation would build up until the bell rang when I would dive into the bathroom to make myself presentable. Sounds familiar? No wonder having friends over seemed more of an ordeal than something to enjoy.

We have been indoctrinated into thinking that we have to present the most "show-worthy", "best version" of ourselves to others. Shabby, run-down homes become symbolic of our laziness and failures. This idea is exploited and commodified by our consumerist culture. We have grown up with the pictures of gorgeous homes in catalogues which we have dreamt of attaining one day. Anything less is not good enough and invites shame.

This Diwali season look around and observe how the celebration is being co-opted, packaged and marketed to us. We are made to believe that we will find the elusive worthiness and happiness if only we could become glossier. But all that it is doing is making us more miserable in the dogged pursuit of more. "Earn more, want more and spend more". As we cram our homes, landfills and oceans, the industries continue to thrive, but the cost to the Earth is high.

I call it the burden of an infinity loop of Ps (proving, pretending, perfecting, pressurising, performing, posing, pushing, etc.). The burden multiplies much more if we bring in issues of normative judgments on people who struggle with poverty, disability, unemployment or who are not accepted due to their sexuality, gender expansiveness, neurodivergence, etc. What if we could be comfortable with our dark, dusty and threadbare corners that we hide from each other?

The interesting thing is that most of us prefer to show shiny versions of ourselves to others and yet feel very honoured when others show their scruffy parts. It's like dropping into

our friend's home uninvited and they welcome us warmly with no attempt to hide the laundry basket lying in the corner or scrambling to change out of their pyjamas. And being invited over for a rustled-up meal which you relish over deep conversations, laughter and togetherness. If you have enjoyed that experience you would know the joy of being included and feeling at home. Why is it that we find it difficult to give others what we seek from them?

In that context, the scruffy home is a powerful metaphor for life. The shift for me has come in waves. It began when my kids (and dog) were little and their clutter was huge. As they grew up, they seemed to be oblivious to the chaos that surrounded them. "Don't you think you should clean your room before your friends visit," I would appeal and their inevitable response was, "We don't care and they don't care." My husband did not care much, too, unless it came to his kitchen and cooking. But that is his story to tell. Then came the pandemic and a realisation that this "stuff" really does not matter in the big picture of life. We adopted the Japanese "*wabi-sabi*" and became comfortable in our unvarnished, imperfect homes. Then finally came our cats! They made our sofas into scratching posts, and curtains into swinging ropes and their litter trays took over the pretty corners of our home. We learned to shrug our shoulders, smile and go with the scruffy flow.

What is the philosophy of a scruffy life? To unclench and let it be. To slow down and savour good conversations and connections. To live an unfiltered life. To invite people who matter to us into our lives and homes. With grace and respect. Without any rush to hide the lived-in human bits. To invite and receive without judgement. To be comfortable with each other's sloppiness. To not be lured by the Instagramable aesthetics. To savour little joys of imperfection. To pay attention to what matters and let go of what does not. To say no to the burden of societal expectations of what is deemed as worthy. It is not just a way of life but a response to unrealistic demands on us. An act of resistance. To be liberated. So that all of us welcome all of us.

•••  
We are made to believe that we will find the elusive worthiness and happiness if only we could become glossier  
•••

## Map for Lost Souls

As Muzaffar Ali turns 80, a look at the life and lines of the filmmaker, poet and designer who has given hope and a sense of belonging to many

BULARAHA hai kaun mujh ko chilmano ke uss taraf/Mere liye bhi kya koyee udaas bekarar hai. These words written by the great Urdu poet Shahryar, composed into haunting music by Khayyam, and given much-admired prominence for posterity on film by the peerlessly talented and wondrous human being and artist Muzaffar Ali, changed my life forever. The words from *Yeh kya jagah hai doston*, a song from *Umrao Jaan* (1981), that speak of someone calling me on the other side of the closed blinds, waiting restlessly with feelings of disquietude and sadness for me, took over my entire being, gave me sense of belonging, a ray of hope, and brought Ali into my world at age nine. Lost to the splendour and grandiloquence of his film, I dared to live with audacious hope, new confidence, rare comfort and heartfelt feeling as, line by line, my life unfurled before my own eyes, and I came of age.

*Tamaam umr ka hisaab, maangti hai zindagi*, another line of this song, says that life asks from us an accounting of the entirety of our time on this earth, and, at age 80, Ali's has been a life most well lived. He has inspired multitudes, showing a way forward to lost souls like me and giving loving comfort to relatives, friends and strangers. At his 80th birthday dinner, Kathak dancer Manjari Chaturvedi credited Ali with having been her lifelong muse. Of course, anyone who has followed Manjari's incredible journey will understand

### SLICE OF LIFE

**Suvir Saran**

*Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller*

how poignant that compliment is, as Manjari isn't merely a dancer; her dancing goes beyond the confines of art and becomes a story and narrative that are lived palpably on stage. Life will always be favourable in its accounting

of Muzaffar Ali's life, as Manjari and I are two of the many for whom this man of words, cinematic brilliance, artistic prowess, and generosity of self has been a pillar of strength and a font of aspirational dreams.

*Yeh kis makaam par hayaat, mujh ko leke aa gayee* are words that also inform me. Muzaffar *sahab* has been at those points in his life where he has had to accept what is and make peace with it. After garnering incredible critical success with his films *Gaman* (1978), *Umrao Jaan*, *Anjuman* (1986), and *Aagaman* (1982), he began work on his labour of love, his film *Zooni* — a film that I have been privileged to see portions of, that fell victim to the unrest and insurgency in Kashmir in 1989. Fleeing the Valley with the actors and crew in tow, any hopes of starting the shooting again were quashed by two decades of waiting where actors aged, and so did time, and with its passage the film, too, passed away. But Muzaffar *sahab* continued to live, love and share.

*Na jis ki shakl hai koyee/Na jis ka naam aai koyee* — that who doesn't have a face, the one who is without a name. Through the character of the *tawaif* (naughty girl Ameeran in *Umrao Jaan*), Muzaffar Ali gives the viewer a deep insight into the life of a remarkable human, one society would have otherwise robbed us of gaining tutelage from. *Umrao Jaan* had me healing from scars of my own identity crisis. When I asked Manjari about what role Ali has



SUVIR SARAN

### GRACE AND GRANDEUR

Through *Umrao Jaan*, Ali shows us that a *tawaif* is a woman of art, poetry, music and etiquette

played in making us understand the place of a *tawaif*, she said, "Muzaffar *sahab* gave *tawaifs* a respectful identity; he gave *wajood* (the ideal essence of existence) to a *tawaif*. Through *Umrao Jaan*, he shows us that a *tawaif* is a woman of art, poetry, music, etiquette and more. She has her own persona, not dependent on others — financially, in thought or sexually, she is one who never has to worry about conforming to norms of society."

In Muzaffar *sahab* I see glimpses of my own father, who was taken too early from us. I see generosity of self, love for life, quick wit and ready humour, and deep, heartfelt gratitude for life. Tall and statuesque, born to the

Raja of Kotwara, a seat established in the year 1007 at Lakhimpur Kheri, 100 miles from Lucknow, Muzaffar *sahab* is quick to remind me that *zamindari* was abolished in 1950 and all royal titles were taken away. This is the integrity that makes this man more a man amongst his peers. He has no illusions of grandeur, yet he has the magnanimity, grace, gentility and vision that are associated with royalty. I see a man acutely aware of the privilege his birth afforded him as well as the responsibility that it placed upon his shoulders.

*Hade nigah tak jahaan ghubaar hignubaar hai* — where till the horizon all one sees is despair. These lines connected with me as a pre-

teen. In my life as a gay kid I had no idol to idolise, not even a word for my different identity, as my vocabulary at age nine hadn't yet given me a label. In the poetry of *Umrao Jaan*, I found solace and hope; I saw in action people who challenged the status quo.

With Meera Ali, his wife for the last 34 years, Muzaffar *sahab* started the House of Kotwara, a clothing line that captured the attention of fashionistas, even before there was such a term. My kurtas from their collection remain my favourites, bereft of heavy work, spared of forced bling. In every inch of the fabric, I feel and sense the handwork of people stitching and embroidering, weaving and dyeing the fabric with care, pride, deep humanity and timeless culture. When I asked Meera Ali what brought them to do this, she said it was about bringing *Dwaar pe rozi*, employment at the doorstep for women who can't leave their homes yet need employment. Their work gives them a way to command both agency and respect. The couple have trained thousands of women over three decades.

*Kab milee thee kahaan bichadi thee hamein yaad nahin, Zindagi tujh ko to bas khwaab mein dekha hamme* (When we met, and when we parted ways, I hardly remember, life, I have only beheld you in my dreams. These lines of yet another song from *Umrao Jaan* are the perfect analogy to the depth and heft of Muzaffar Ali's life and stature. A man too incredible to define in just one song, a man who has lived a dreamy life, too brilliant to be human, and too human to be dreamy. In my childhood Muzaffar *sahab* gave me rich hope and comfort, and as he has turned 80, he teaches me to live with dignity and grace, with authenticity and pride, to allow life to happen, and to live to be one with it.

# The Art of Living It Up

Art collector, philanthropist and now a sensation after the success of a reality show.  
The fabulous life of Shalini Passi



Rinku Ghosh

**S**HALINI PASSI is a natural headline-grabber. Be it her pantomime costumes, her boomerang-shaped mansion in central Delhi where she shuffles her artworks from time to time — she gets curators to clean them — or her sippers, she sets her talking points. “Yes, I am proud to be a socialite. The word used to have positive connotations in the 1920s, as somebody who used their power and influence to promote causes that mattered. They were great organisers of events. And I believe I am the last of them,” says the art patron and philanthropist, taking down the entire breed of influencers and their paid partnerships.

A viral sensation after the success of the Netflix reality show, *Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives*, she has proven that she can beat any modern-day influencer at their own game. Posing in a Dolce Gabbana dress, with a 1970s-style headband, against a wall of black and white photographs of Delhi at dawn that she captured doing Covid, Passi is unabashed about her complexities and priorities. As she is about her passion — she would leave the house between 4.30 am and 5 am during the pandemic to zip around Delhi to complete her photo series. “I just have to finish what I have set my mind on then and there,” she says. She sets her own grammar, placing the pop-artsy porcelain puppy vases by Jeff Koons atop an 18th-century Italian walnut refectory table or putting a Ravinder Reddy head in the middle of a corridor.

Born and married to privilege, she doesn't deny the advantage she has, her long-time friendship with the film industry or why hosting charity balls comes naturally to her. “I am a Lutyen's child,” she admits. However, decades of ruling a self-created insular world in the power Capital may have given her status but not the fame that has now spotlighted the work of her foundation — a platform for emerging talent of arts, architecture, design and fashion as well as her role as UNICEF's Champion for Children. “Bollywood is a powerful medium. That's why all of us girls worked hard for the show. I've worked so much more for so many other things in my life. But post-show, the donations keep coming in, it amplified my work,” says Passi, who has given away her show earnings for her girl child education project in Bihar's Purnea district. She has also got a lot of love from ordinary women, for her unique brand of *savoir-faire*.

As she toys with the idea of her best shot from the terrace that overlooks her 20,000 sq ft-home at Delhi's Golf Links, Subodh Gupta's brass and steel Buddha anchors her in the moment. She admits that she is a control freak. “But I am seeing a therapist and learning to let go, not micro-manage every aspect of my life,” she says. A thalassaemic minor who also battles anaemia, she sticks to a largely raw fruit and vegetable diet and avoids dependence on iron supplements. She doesn't have sugar, carbs or caffeine and eats home food. She has dinner by 6.30 pm, then goes out to meet friends. Except when she is hosting at home or a hotel, one doesn't get to see much of Passi on the social circuit. “I flew to Mumbai to attend Manish

**ALL THINGS BRIGHT**

Shalini Passi at her Golf Links home in Delhi, with the photographs of Connaught Place she took during Covid

Malhotra's Diwali party, stayed awhile but took the 5 am flight to return home,” she says.

It's easy to call Passi a maximalist but there's a part that's grounded too. “Yes, I paint, dance, scuba dive and sing, but only as hobbies. I am not an expert diver but I trained in cold waters in Delhi to hone my skills for the show. I am not an artist extraordinaire but just a patron,” she says, having supported Khoj Studios and the Kochi Biennale. Although the works of MF Husain, Bharti Kher and SH Raza adorn her walls, she shuns art shows and fairs. “They are commercial places. You would find me in local museums where I can understand how an artist's work is a comment on the society of their time.” As a collector, she goes to any extent — she once parked herself outside the studio of Belgian artist Ado Chale in blinding rain till he agreed to craft a table for her.

As a child, Passi had a sheltered life. Her grandfather came from Pakistan and took up the construction business. An Arya Samaji, he thought playing cards was equivalent to gambling. “I never learnt how to play cards. My mom and sister are amazing at it. But I was brought up by my grandparents mostly, hence the discipline. My grandfather built the Vayu Bhavan, the Doordarshan building and Palika Bazar among other landmarks. I went to Modern School Barakhamba, then Jesus and Mary College. We lived in Greater Kailash before moving to Jor Bagh. My uncle was an architect. Growing up with blueprints, materials, textures and visiting sites with my father and grandfather, I wanted to be one too. But I was poor in math, so I turned to art and design,” says Passi.

Keen on sports in her school years, she recalls her practice runs, from Barakhamba Road and around Connaught Place. “That's how I began admiring buildings. I took up art classes at Triveni Kala Sangam under Rameshwar Broota and was influenced by the works of BC Sanyal and Manjit Bawa. I spent a lot of time at Lalit Kala Akademi. I was deeply influenced by Amrita Sher-Gil, would curl up my hair and dress like her,” says Passi.

But she never continued studies in fine art, whether at home or abroad, as her family thought that she wasn't quite cut out for survival in an unpredictable creative universe. “My family didn't like it when my photo appeared in a newspaper during a college protest,” she says. She came into her own after she married businessman Sanjay Passi at 20. Owner of the automobile dealership company Pasco, she chose him because he was grounded. “I wanted a partner with deep value systems who didn't smoke, drink or gamble. His family saw me at a wedding and that's how we got married. My first photo in the society pages appeared when he was honoured in 1999 for being the country's highest tax payer,” she says.

Did she need to play to the gallery over the years? “People have challenged me and I've given them what they wanted. The show has worked. But so long as I am able to sleep at night peacefully without guilt, and not harm anybody, I'm okay,” says Passi, who even comments on her memes. In fact, she has already moved on, contemplating a travel show and a film on Partition. “Life must be lived effectively,” she adds.



**PACKING A PUNCH**  
Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu

## NO MORE DEMONS IN MY HEAD

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu on her latest action show and bringing women to the centre of storytelling

Justin Joseph Rao

**T**ODAY, ON-SCREEN, actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu can kick and punch, pump bullets and defuse a bomb, all because she has battled and won against an unseen but deeply felt opponent — the demons in her head.

“I am actually now able to make logical, practical, creative decisions without all the demons in my head playing games,” the actor says as she charts her career, which began with a loved debut in 2010 and is now on the verge of going global with Russo Brothers' backed Prime Video series *Citadel: Honey Bunny*.

In the show, Samantha plays an agent on a dangerous, undercover mission. Her partner-in-crime is actor Varun Dhawan, who is also her husband. In *Citadel*, she reunites with *The Family Man* director duo Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK, who had featured her as the main antagonist.

These are powerful parts for Samantha, whose Telugu and Tamil works rarely gave her such heavy lifting to do. “I didn't even know I wanted to be an actor, I always wanted to study. So, to just find my space in this big world, it took me quite a few years to work through all the insecurities and questions, ‘Am I good enough?’” she said.

The question of taking on a more author-backed role didn't occur to her till a few years ago because until then, she was just trying to cement her position.

In the last few years, Samantha's rise has been meteoric. Before the acclaim of *The Family Man* season two, there was the chartbuster *Oo Antava* track from Allu Arjun's Telugu blockbuster *Pushpa*, with which she danced through all language barriers and became an overnight sensation. Hindi projects naturally followed, including an appearance on Karan Johar's chat show *Koffee With Karan*. In between, the actor kept her cool amid intense scrutiny following her divorce from actor Naga Chaitanya and then being diagnosed with myositis, an autoimmune medical condition. Such a steady focus on her career, she said, is a recent gift.

“It takes you a while. The last couple of years of my career have been the calmest. I am jealous of actors who are way more rooted and know themselves really well early on in their careers and what they want,” she said.

With an action-packed role such as the one in *Citadel*, Samantha said it is “empowering” to be a part of a powerful show that places women at the centre of storytelling and not reduce them to damsels in distress, with men doing all the heavy lifting.

“I feel more responsible now at this stage of my career for the roles I am picking. I want them to represent women in society. Often the characters are a misrepresentation of women. The women of today have changed preconceived notions and somehow, we are still in the past. Only lately has there been a shift in representation and the fact that the *Citadel* universe has strong female characters is a welcome change.”

Her co-star on the show, Dhawan, has fought his own battles to bag *Citadel*. Before the pandemic, the actor had a string of box office flops which had dented his position.

He needed an action project, but as close friend and producer Aditya Chopra gently put it, it was a risk investing huge amounts of money to mount an action film headlined by Varun Dhawan. But *Citadel* came knocking. “When this came, I asked Raj and DK, as well as Amazon what's the budget? Because my knowledge came from Aditya Chopra about how much one needs to make something look good in action. I'm grateful to them for giving us this platform because that's needed to make action look big and the actors larger than life,” said Dhawan.

Filmmakers Raj and DK direct the Indian leg of the globe-trotting espionage series, the American version of which was headlined by actor Priyanka Chopra, playing the spy Nadia. The director duo said a lot of action that they mounted was because they knew all of it was in safe hands because of Varun and Samantha.

“We could have given this show a contemporary setting, but we thought, what if we get away with technology? A lot of films use high-tech stuff, so we thought let's not have any holograms, gadgets or crazy communication devices that connect you with anyone across the world. We took out all of that and thought let them use their guns, fists and a pager. So, we kept it raw, real and got actors who are very good with action,” said Raj.

The first season of *Citadel* starred Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden. In *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, the series follows Dhawan and Prabhu, who play Chopra's parents.

## ‘Not a critics’ baby but younger generation loves it’

Indian-American filmmaker Tarsem Singh on how his film *The Fall*, once rejected by critics, has found a strong following

Alaka Sahani

**W**ITH THE disclaimer that “it was not a critics' baby”, Indian-American filmmaker Tarsem Singh, 63, recounts how he restored his visually-stunning sophomore feature, *The Fall* (2006). “It is the kind of film, about which everyone thought ‘how ugly is your child’ when we made it. Nearly, a decade later, a lot of older critics had died and the younger generation started loving it. When I attended the Toronto International Film Festival (for the screening of his film *Dear Jassi*) last year, many people mentioned how they went into so much trouble to watch *The Fall* and downloaded it from strange sites,” says the writer-director. That's when Tarsem decided to undertake a 4K restoration of the film.

Though Tarsem initially approached Criterion about restoring the movie, he never heard from them. He then decided to take up the task of restoring *The Fall* himself and found support from Efe Çakarel, founder of MUBI. *The Fall*, which is called “a long-lost classic” and “a hard-to-find epic”, is currently streaming on MUBI, after its 4K restored version was screened at the Locarno Film Festival earlier this year.

Filmed over four years in over 20 different locations across the globe, the film is a visual feast of “magnificent costumes and stunning locations”. Set in a Los Angeles hospital in the 1920s, in silent-era Hollywood, stuntman Roy Walker (Lee Pace) is brought to a hospi-

tal after an on-set accident. There, he befriends Alexandria (Catinca Untaru), a young Romanian immigrant nursing a broken arm. Roy tells Alexandria a fantastical tale of epic heroes taking revenge on an evil ruler. The story transports her from the hospital into the exotic landscapes of her imagination. While Alexandria forms a warm bond with Roy, he has other plans — he intends to die by suicide and tries to make Alexandria steal the morphine pills for him.

When this fantasy-adventure premiered at TIFF in 2006, critics panned it. “The timing was incorrect and Harvey Weinstein (American film producer convicted of sex-offences) tried to sabotage its prospects. He was really angry that I didn't show him the film before. He was sitting in the front row during its premiere and decided to walk out three times. That put everybody off,” recalls Tarsem, whose first major breakthrough work was REM's *Losing My Religion* video, which won MTV's Best Video Award. The film reviews were not favourable and no one wanted to buy it. “I told my brother it was not like a book that somebody will pick up and read. We needed to follow through. I worked for another two years and released it myself,” says Tarsem.

Even though the limited theatrical release failed to garner much attention for the film, over the years it has found much love from a section of avid film lovers. “People who loved it appreciate the fact that *The Fall* has not dated even though many movies of that pe-



**FINDING ITS FEET**

(Left) a still from *The Fall*; filmmaker Tarsem Singh

riod have,” says Tarsem who directed his first feature film, *The Cell*, starring Jennifer Lopez, in 2000. He went on to direct *The Immortals* (2011) starring Henry Cavill, *Mirror Mirror* (2012) starring Julia Roberts and *Selfless* (2015) starring Ryan Reynolds.

When Tarsem was trying to make *The Fall* and later trying to release it in theatres, he found help in his Hollywood friends, director David Fincher and filmmaker-actor Spike Jonze. “They have been very good friends for a very long time. Fincher tried forever to introduce me to people and get the film financed,” recalls Tarsem. However, when people asked Tarsem if he had a script, his answer would leave them unsure. “I used to tell them, it's a

nutshell of an idea,” he recalls. When he found the young actor Untaru, he decided to go ahead with *The Fall*'s production. “I went off and made the movie. I thought that's all I had to do. After the Toronto premiere, nobody wanted the movie even for free.”

That's when Fincher and Jonze lent their names to the film “for free” and supported it “unconditionally”. They came on board as its ‘presenters’ since they believed the movie needed to be seen. “I will tell you what they got out of it: curry at my home,” says Tarsem, who believes that cinema has gotten a lot more wonderful today but drawing eyeballs and figuring out distribution are still a challenge.

## SUGAR-FREE LIFE



Dr V MOHAN

Is your blood sugar making you tired?

A follow-up with a diabetologist four times a year will take care of your energy deficit

PEOPLE WITH Type 2 diabetes generally have a tendency to get more tired and fatigued. They also feel low compared to people without diabetes. Why is this so?

First, when blood sugar levels go high, sugar spills into the urine and depletes the body of water leading to dehydration. When one is dehydrated, one feels tired. Certain medicines like SGLT2 inhibitors, (Dapagliflozin, Empagliflozin) lead to excessive urination. If you are on one of these drugs and feel pulled down, you should tell your doctor about this.

The second reason for people to feel exhausted could be hypoglycemia or low-sugar reactions. If the dosage of medicines (either tablets or insulin) is excessive and blood sugar levels go down as a result, you would see hunger, sweating and tiredness as the usual symptoms. If one feels unusually tired, one should check whether the sugar levels have gone very high or very low. Check blood glucose levels either with a hand-held glucose meter or even better, by wearing a continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) sensor for 14 days. This can identify whether the blood sugar is going high or low even during sleep.



## FACT OF THE MATTER

When blood sugar levels go high, sugar spills into the urine and depletes the body of water, leading to dehydration. When one is dehydrated, naturally one feels very tired

Nutritional deficiencies, like those of vitamins and minerals, can lead to decreased energy levels. People with diabetes, who also have kidney complications, tend to lose albumin or protein in their urine. This can lead to low serum albumin levels and subsequent lack of energy. Moreover, when renal insufficiency or kidney failure sets in, haemoglobin levels tend to drop and one develops secondary anaemia. This will obviously result in fatigue.

People with diabetes are also more prone to developing certain forms of cancer. That's why excessive tiredness combined with loss of weight and loss of appetite should alert one to the possibility of co-existing cancer somewhere in the body. Similarly, diabetes-related complications — painful neuropathy, eye problems, foot infection or heart problems — can weaken people with diabetes.

Other drugs taken for comorbidities can sap one out. For example, diuretics taken for blood pressure or to reduce swelling of the feet can lead to loss of sodium or potassium in the body. Statins are equally draining.

How can you prevent these low phases in people with diabetes? First, keep sugar levels under tight control. That will automatically give you more energy. Sleeping well, about six to eight hours per day and on time, can pump up your energy. Regular physical exercise improves muscle strength. Adjust your medication if required.

Many of my patients have been undergoing treatment for decades and have not complained of fatigue or depression. In fact, they tell me that they feel better and more energetic than their counterparts without diabetes. So, it is possible for you to have not only a long and healthy life, but also a life full of vitality, vigour, strength and positivity even if you have diabetes. A regular check-up with a diabetologist (at least four times a year) is a must if you want a complication-free life.

(Dr Mohan is chairman, Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, Chennai)

# Take care of every woman's heart

Smoking, alcohol, stress and birth control pills are the new triggers for younger women, say cardiologists



GETTY IMAGES

Parul

WHEN A 32-year-old marketing executive walked into the emergency room of Fortis Hospital, Mohali, complaining of severe fatigue, mild chest discomfort and shortness of breath, she thought her blood pressure was fluctuating once again. As the staff decided to do a routine electrocardiogram (ECG), Dr Arun Kochar, additional director, cardiology, immediately ordered a troponin test, which indicates damage to the heart muscle. It showed she had already suffered a heart attack.

"Her symptoms were atypical as she did not have chest pain but her test results suggested acute myocardial infarction. An angiography revealed that she had severe blockage in major heart arteries. We had to do an emergency bypass surgery. Two years later, she is on a regular follow-up and her heart is functioning absolutely normally. Heart disease can affect any woman, regardless of age, even with the cardio-protective properties of estrogen in their reproductive years. A cocktail of smoking, alcohol, stress and birth control pills is the new trigger," says Dr Kochar.

Women's heart health is now a matter of concern across India as the age of patients keeps getting younger. Nobody knows it better than Dr Neelam Dahiya, assistant professor, department of cardiology, PGIMER, Chandigarh, which was among the first government hospitals to open a preventive heart clinic. In between procedures, OPD consultations, ward rounds and research projects, she takes time out to chat with families accompanying their patients about the risk factors of heart disease. "Most are not aware of risk factors, even simple tests that can indicate underlying triggers or lifestyle changes

that can prevent heart disease. I ask everybody who is obese or with a family history to take a test," she says.

Data from the last three years at PGIMER shows that 13-15 per cent of women who suffered from cardiovascular diseases (CVD) were under 50 years of age. Not only that, the study found risk factors of heart disease were much more common in women, who were likely to have worse outcomes than men in terms of mortality, by as much as 50 per cent.

## WHAT ARE RISK FACTORS AMONG WOMEN?

A recent PGIMER study, says Dr Dahiya, shows that 44 per cent of women who suffered cardiovascular disease were obese with only one per cent of them having adequate fruits and vegetables in their daily diet. "Higher body fat and lesser physical activity are red flags. High sugar, salty foods and an unhealthy diet can tip you over the edge," she says. "Often women mistake their chores to be an indicator of physical activity. What they do not understand is that while they may tire you out, they are low-impact and do not burn calories," Dr Dahiya adds.

Prof (Dr) Rajesh Vijayvergiya of the Advanced Cardiac Center, PGIMER, Chandigarh, says that heart attack is the leading cause of death in women, though it has a lower age-specific risk compared to men. "Risk factors like diabetes and abnormal cholesterol are more strongly associated with heart disease in women in comparison to men. Diabetic men have a two to three-fold

## DEEP DIVE



**HIGHER RISK**  
PGIMER data shows that 13-15 per cent of women who suffered heart disease were under 50 years of age



Scan the code to read more health special stories

increased risk of heart disease, while diabetic women have a three to seven-fold increased risk. Diabetes eliminates a gender advantage for women at any age," he says. Which means women's markers on hypertension, cholesterol and diabetes should preferably be on the lower side of the healthy range.

Dr Vijayvergiya and his team treat about five young premenopausal women with heart disease every month. In fact, PGIMER's pilot-scale study in north India, which was published in *Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry*, found risk factors such as hypertension in 75 per cent patients, diabetes in 36 per cent and metabolic syndrome (a cluster of conditions that precede a heart attack) in 75 per cent respectively. "The metabolic syndrome is very easy to track with numbers. Your waist circumference should not be more than 85 cm, triglycerides should not be more than 150 mg/dL, HDL or good cholesterol should not dip below 50 mg/dL, blood pressure should not be more than 130/85 mmHg and fasting blood sugar should no way go higher than 110 mg/dL," says Dr Vijayvergiya.

Smoking and birth control pills can increase the risk of heart attack in women because they both affect the blood in different ways. The first restricts blood vessels and leads to rapid clot formation. Nicotine in cigarettes also increases blood pressure and heart rate. Birth control pills can thicken the blood and increase blood pressure. "Combining the two substances can increase the risk of cardiovascular issues like heart at-

tacks and strokes," says Dr Kochar. "Smoking has a greater influence on cardiovascular health in women compared to men, in whom it is one of the prime causes of high mortality and morbidity. Smoking erodes the cardio-protective effect of estrogen. The risk increases with the number of cigarettes smoked daily," he explains.

A lesser talked about risk factor is stress cardiomyopathy, commonly known as the broken heart syndrome, which occurs when a person experiences sudden acute emotional stress that can rapidly weaken the heart muscle. This manifests in middle-aged women faster than other age groups. A woman's risk of developing the condition increases five times after the age of 55.

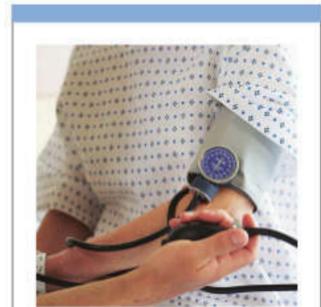
"Loss of estrogen may also play a part in the higher risks of heart disease after menopause. But we need to focus on heart health from our 20s," says Dr Dahiya. The early onset of menopause and fast-dipping estrogen levels, sometimes before the age of 40, is a key reason for the rising incidence of heart attacks.

Emerging heart disease risks for women include pregnancy-related complications, autoimmune diseases, mental health factors, breast cancer treatments and sleep disorders, she adds.

## WHAT'S STOPPING WOMEN FROM GETTING CHECK-UPS?

Dr Dahiya puts it rather bluntly. "Women may be the centre of their households but are not priority for advanced and costly medical treatment or tests," she says.

Of course, the biggest disadvantage for women is that they have very atypical symptoms — usually severe fatigue, shortness of breath, chest discomfort (not typical angina), light-headedness, nausea and vomiting. They may have neck, back or jaw pain with more nausea and less perspiration. A higher incidence of atypical symptoms results in de-



## What to screen

- Assessment for smoking status, diet, alcohol intake and physical activity
- Record blood pressure (BP), and body mass index (BMI), at least every two years
- Measure fasting serum cholesterol and blood glucose according to the person's risk for hyperlipidemia and diabetes, respectively
- After age 40, everyone should be evaluated for heart disease — ECG, Echo and TMT. It should be repeated every two to five years depending upon underlying risks

lays in seeking medical care. "The discomfort in the upper abdomen, pain in the shoulders or jaw, or a sensation that radiates through both arms are often brushed off as indigestion or stress," says Dr Kochar.

In some cases, high uric acid can be a red flag. Difficulty getting to sleep or waking up unusually may be a sign of a heart attack. Watch out for the unexplained cough.

## BUT THERE IS HOPE

All these risk factors are modifiable and controllable if we discipline ourselves on diet, exercise, stress and adequate sleep. And as per WHO, up to 80 per cent of non-communicable diseases can be prevented. "As Indians, we have higher body fat and less physical activity, eat more sugar and salt and less fruits and vegetables compared to the Western population," explains Dr Dahiya.

While everybody should screen their blood markers from their 20s, after 40, everyone should be evaluated for heart disease using ECG, echocardiogram and treadmill test (TMT) as per the advice of a physician. These should be repeated depending upon the underlying risks of every individual. "With checks and balances, we have even managed pregnancy in a few young women who had angioplasty in the past," says Dr Dahiya.

Dr Vijayvergiya suggests a simple diet formula that can take care of all markers. "Increase vegetables (>200 gm), fruits (>200 gm), cereals, and fibre (> 20 gm/d) in your daily diet. Salt intake should be < 5 gm/d. Avoid foods with a high saturated fat content like red meat, dairy products, coconut and palm oils. Cut out high trans fats like deep-fried fast foods, bakery products, packaged snack foods and margarine. All healthy adults should do 30 to 45 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise, five days a week. Maintain a blood pressure <140/90 mmHg and a fasting blood sugar <110 mg/dL. Give up smoking," he advises.

## What you eat is how you age

Dr Prasun Chatterjee, geriatrician at AIIMS, Delhi, on the most common complaints of those above 70 and the screening tests they should take

Anonna Dutt

WITH PRIME Minister Narendra Modi recently expanding the scope of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) for people over the age of 70 years, the face of public healthcare as we know it is expected to change. As it provides up to Rs 5 lakh health coverage to people aged 70 years and above, regardless of their income and economic status, they can now access treatment, which had been out of their reach because of high costs.

Making health cover universal over the age of 70 is very significant as India's population ages and is more likely to require hospitalisation. At the time of the 2011 census, only 8.6 per cent of India's population was over the age of 60 years. This is expected to increase to 19.5 per cent by 2050, according to the government's Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI). In terms of numbers, Indians over the age of 60 are likely to be 319 million in 2050 — up more than three times from the 103 million in 2011. Yet much of the disease burden is avoidable, if we are mindful about our lifestyle, says Dr Prasun Chatterjee, geriatrician from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi.

## What are the most common health complaints among the elderly?

For those between the ages of 65 and 75



GETTY IMAGES

## NEED TO KNOW

Your eating behaviour clearly has an impact. You cannot treat your stomach like a dustbin and not everything has to be palatable. You should eat home-cooked, simple meals as much as you can

years, the complaints are similar to those you would see in people in their 40s — diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery disease and stroke. Infection is also very common among the elderly, particularly pneumonia and urinary tract infection. This is because the immune system is weakened with age — we call it immune senescence. Knee and joint pains are common in this age group.

Among 75-year-olds, we see multi-morbidities or multiple health issues. There is some forgetfulness or dementia, some gait and balance problems and Parkinson's, a brain disorder that causes a gradual decline in movement, balance and coordination. The risk of falls and fall-related injury also goes up in this age group. Cardiovascular problems get exacerbated, heart failure being very common. There is a high prevalence of various cancers in this age group — bone, lung, stomach or colon cancers.

One thing we often do not talk about is depression and social isolation that is also commonly experienced by people over the age of 75 years.

When it comes to the very old category — people over the age of 80 or 85 years — sarcopenia or weakness of muscles happens in addition to other health issues. Nutritional

problems are very common in this age group. We see something called anorexia of ageing, when decrease in appetite results in malnutrition. We also see anaemia because of poor food intake.

Being a tertiary care hospital, we do not see healthy people often. But there has definitely been a paradigm shift among the ageing population as we see more and more people living longer and healthier. We see 90-year-olds, who have been able to prevent forgetfulness and dementia by increasing their cognitive reserve, which is the ability of the brain to withstand age-related damage and ageing because of sharpening thinking abilities and building resilience throughout their lives.

They have been able to retain their muscles with regular exercise and a high protein diet. An active body has meant that they have been able to maintain social connections and are less likely to have depression.

## How can one age healthy?

Ageing actually starts from the womb of the mother, meaning healthy ageing should be practised throughout the life.

Exercise is the most important aspect — children should play regularly and not spend

a lot of their time sitting in front of televisions, computers or phones. Adults need to follow an exercise regimen at all ages. If you do not exercise in youth, your life later is likely to be more painful.

Your eating behaviour clearly has an impact. You cannot treat your stomach like a dustbin and not everything has to be palatable. You should eat home-cooked, simple meals as much as you can. If you see older people right now, you will see they have not developed the taste for fast food simply because they didn't grow up with it. But children these days are very fond of processed foods. We must restrict sweet and processed foods in their diet.

Having a purpose in life is equally important. Someone with a purpose is likely to be happy and likely to live longer.

## What are the types of screening that one should undergo?

People over the age of 60 years — those who have just retired — should go to their doctor at least once to get their overall physical and mental health check-up. There are quick screening methods. We do a comprehensive geriatric screening, which is a head-to-foot assessment where we check everything from hearing, vision, lower limb gait and speed, heart and lungs.

Elders should screen for some cancers such as prostate cancer, which is very common in this age group. Colon cancer is something that people should keep an eye out for — a stool test can be fairly indicative. Women should be screened for many gynaecological cancers, such as those of the ovaries, cervix and breast.

Another important test is that for haemoglobin. Silent blood loss from the food pipe is something that is common in this age group. For bone health, I recommend the DEXA scan from the age of 60. Women must take this test at 55 because they start experiencing bone loss soon after menopause. If everything is normal, then the scan may be repeated after five years.

Other than physical functions, there is a need to check mental functions such as memory ability as well.

## DOC, I HAVE A QUESTION



Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Click here & JOIN OUR FREE Telegram Private Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Click here & JOIN OUR FREE Telegram Private Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Click here & JOIN OUR FREE Telegram Private Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,

**JOIN OUR FREE CHANNEL <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Click here & JOIN OUR FREE Telegram Private Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Click here & JOIN OUR FREE Telegram Private Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Click here & JOIN OUR FREE Telegram Private Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Click here & JOIN OUR FREE Telegram Private Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,

**JOIN OUR FREE CHANNEL <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**

**Click here & JOIN OUR FREE Telegram Private Channel <https://t.me/+Bu7senHpQdhlODg1>**

Those who want to join my FREE Channel,  
You will get all those newspapers in the morning at the appointed time -1:00 A.M. which you have been getting till  
Now. for UPSC-CSE-IAS Prelims+Mains+Interview 2024-25  
THE HINDU & INDIAN EXPRESS Newspapers, All City Editions  
THE HINDU Delhi HD Edition, THE HINDU UPSC IAS Edition, Indian Express UPSC IAS Edition, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU EDITORIAL HD, TH + IE COMBO EDIT FOR UPSC HD,  
Editions:- Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Hyderabad, International, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore,  
Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & More.  
Editorials All In One HD  
Magazines:- Yojana, Kurukshetra, Down To Earth, Economic & Political Weekly, Front Line,  
**Join Our FREE Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Van2VRb6RGJOKH6oBd0F>**