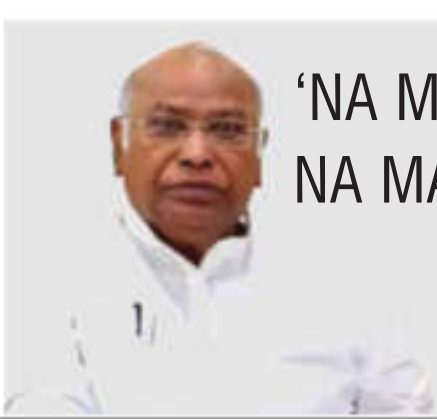




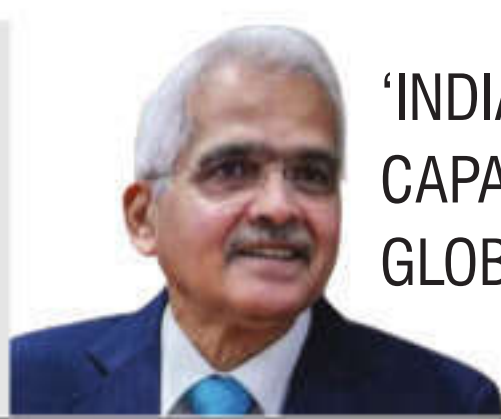
TRUMP NAMES FOSSIL FUEL EXECUTIVE CHRIS WRIGHT AS ENERGY SECY

P10



'NA MANIPUR EK HAI, NA MANIPUR SAFE HAI'

P5



'INDIAN ECONOMY CAPABLE OF HANDLING GLOBAL SHOCKS'

P12

WOMEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY: INDIA BEAT JAPAN 3-0

P14



WEATHER

Thunderstorms. Storms could contain frequent lightning. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 29°C and 19°C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max. 72% Min. 52%

TEMPERATURE

Max. 29.4°C Min. 19.8°C
SUN RISES 05:51 hrs SUN SETS 16:52 hrs
MOON RISES 19:05 hrs MOON SETS 08:21 hrs

New Moon on 1 December

THUMBNAILS



The Line of Control in Keran sector receives fresh snowfall, in Kupwara on Sunday. ■ ANI

GRAP-IV in Delhi-NCR: In response to worsening air quality in Delhi-NCR, the Commission for Air Quality Management has decided to activate Stage-IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) from Monday. Delhi's daily average Air Quality Index (AQI) rose sharply to 441 by 4 p.m. on Sunday, and further escalated to 457 by 7 p.m., according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board. This spike prompted an emergency meeting of the GRAP Sub-Committee, where the decision to involve GRAP-IV measures was taken.

Shah reviews security situation in Manipur

NDA ally NPP withdraws support to BJP government in Manipur

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI/IMPHAL, 17 NOVEMBER

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday convened a high-level meeting with senior officials in the national capital to assess the security situation in Manipur.

Sources indicated that the Home Minister planned to hold a detailed review meeting on Monday to discuss the concerns and strategies surrounding the fragile security scenario in Manipur.

The development comes after a curfew was imposed in the valley districts in Manipur and internet services were suspended as fresh protests erupted against the killing of six people, whose bodies were found in Jiribam and neighbouring areas after they were allegedly kidnapped by Kuki militants.

Amid the protests, and civil society organisations demanding the resignation of elected legislators over the government's failure to protect civilians and end the Kuki-Meitei conflict, now in its 18th month,



Photo shows an MLA's house being burnt. ■ SNS

NDA ally National People's Party (NPP) on Sunday withdrew its support to the Manipur government.

Mr Shah convened the review meeting after he returned to his residence in Delhi, postponing his planned visit to Vidarbha, where he was expected to attend a series of rallies ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls on 20 November.

Three women and three children who were staying in a relief camp went missing after a gunfight between security forces and militants in Jiribam district on 11 November, with Meitei organisations alleging that they were kidnapped by militants.

Protests erupted in the

Imphal valley since Saturday morning following news that the lifeless bodies of the kidnapped civilians, including an infant, have been found in a mutilated state. Protesters attacked the homes of several state ministers and MLAs and clashed with security forces, leading to injuries.

Following the developments, the Ministry of Home Affairs had said on Saturday that all security forces have been directed to take necessary steps to restore order and peace in Manipur. In light of continued tensions, the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Anish Dayal Singh also reached Manipur on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP) has withdrawn its support to the BJP-led N Biren Singh government, alleging that it has completely failed to control the ethnic violence in the state and restore normality. The NPP has seven MLAs in the Manipur Legislative Assembly, while the BJP has 37 MLAs and enjoys the support of the Naga People's Front (NPF) with five MLAs, one JD(U) MLA and three Independents.

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an apex body of the Meitei community, has given a 24-hour ultimatum to the Centre and the state government to take "decisive action" against armed groups or face public anger, as violent protests continued in the valley districts and the houses of several ministers and MLAs were attacked by mobs. A group of 13 civil society organisations also called for the resignations of all 50 Meitei MLAs in Manipur, including Chief Minister N Biren Singh, citing a lack of political will and warning of a potential public uprising.

India, Nigeria reaffirm their commitment to jointly fight terrorism, piracy, radicalisation

NIKHIL VYAS

NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Sunday reaffirmed their commitment to jointly fight terrorism, piracy and radicalisation.

Mr Modi is on a State Visit to Nigeria from 17-18 November. He held official talks with Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Abuja on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, Nigeria conferred its second-highest national award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON), on Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his first official visit to the country.

This made PM Modi the second foreign dignitary to receive this honour after Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, who received the award in 1969.

Mr Modi and Mr Tinubu had a restricted meeting followed by delegation-level talks at Abuja's Aso Rock Villa, which serves as the office and residence of the Nigerian Presidency.

PM Modi recalled his warm meeting with President Tinubu at the G-20 Summit in New Delhi. He noted that the two countries enjoy special bonds of friendship defined by a shared past, common democratic values and strong people-to-people ties.

The Prime Minister conveyed his sympathies to Pres-



Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu confers Nigeria's second highest honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON), on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Abuja on Sunday. ■ ANI

ident Tinubu for the destruction caused by the recent floods in the country.

President Tinubu thanked the Prime Minister for India's timely assistance with relief material and medicines.

The two leaders reviewed the ongoing bilateral cooperation and discussed ways to further strengthen India-Nigeria Strategic Partnership. Expressing satisfaction at the progress of ties, they agreed that there was immense potential for collaboration in the fields of trade, investment, education, energy, health, culture, and people-to-people ties.

Mr Modi offered India's experience in agriculture, transportation, affordable medicine, renewable energy, and digital transformation to Nigeria.

President Tinubu appre-

ciated the development cooperation partnership offered by India and its meaningful impact in creating local capacities, skills, and professional expertise.

"The two leaders also discussed enhancing defence and security cooperation. They reaffirmed their commitment to jointly fighting terrorism, piracy and radicalisation," a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Mr Modi and Mr Tinubu also discussed global and regional issues. President Tinubu acknowledged India's efforts to amplify the concerns of developing countries through the Voice of the Global South Summits.

The two leaders agreed to work together to meet the development aspirations of the Global South.

I-T ultimatum to taxpayers: Disclose assets held abroad, or face penalty of ₹10 lakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER:

Failure to disclose assets held abroad or income earned on foreign shores in the ITR can attract a penalty of Rs 10 lakh under the anti-black money law, the Income-Tax (I-T) Department cautioned taxpayers on Sunday.

The department issued a public advisory as part of a compliance-cum-awareness campaign launched recently by it on Saturday to ensure that such information is reported by the assessee in their Income Tax Return (ITR) for assessment year (AY) 2024-25.

The advisory specified that foreign asset, for a tax resident of India in the previous year, includes bank accounts, cash value insurance contracts or annuity contracts, financial interest



in any entity or business, immovable property, custodial accounts, equity and debt interest, trusts in which a person is a trustee, beneficiary of settlor, accounts with signing authority, any capital asset, etc., held abroad. "Failure to disclose foreign asset/income in the ITR can attract a penalty of Rs 10 lakh under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015," the advisory stated.

The I-T department said taxpayers falling under this criteria must mandatorily fill the foreign asset (FA) or foreign source income (FSI) schedule in their ITR even if their income is below the taxable limit or the asset abroad was acquired from disclosed sources.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has also launched a Compliance-Cum-Awareness Campaign for Assessment Year (AY) 2024-25 to assist taxpayers in accurately completing Schedule Foreign Assets (Schedule FA) and reporting income from foreign sources (Schedule FSI) in their income tax returns (ITR).

In a statement, CBDT said informational messages will be sent via SMS and email to resident taxpayers who have already submitted their ITRs for AY 2024-25.

Blow to AAP: Minister Kailash Gahlot quits party, Cabinet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

In a major setback to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in the national capital, senior party leader and minister Kailash Gahlot resigned from the Cabinet as well as the party on Sunday.

Mr Gahlot, in his resignation letter to AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal, mentioned the party's political ambitions taking over from the commitment towards the people of Delhi that according to him, left many promises unfulfilled, as the reason for his move. Mr Gahlot has been with the AAP since its inception and has been an important minister in former CM Kejriwal and his successor Atishi's Cabinet. (Details on Pg 9)

COP29: India expresses dissatisfaction with developed countries over climate finance

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

India has expressed dissatisfaction over the unwillingness of developed countries to engage with the developing world on the Climate Finance and Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) at CoP29 being held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Reacting to the interventions by developed countries asking for including mitigation paras from Global Stocktake at CoP28 into the MWP, India regretted the insistence of developed countries to expand scope of MWP from what was agreed in the past, thus inhibiting progress on the agenda item. India aligned its stance with the views expressed by the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), the Arab Group and the African Group of Negotiators (AGN).

On Saturday, New Delhi delivered its statement at the closing plenary of the Subsidiary Bodies on the 'Agenda on Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation



Ambition and Implementation Work Programme (MWP)', at CoP29.

India expressed serious concern over the progress the CoP29 made during the week. "We have seen no progress in matters that are critical for developing countries. Our part of the world is facing some of the worst impacts of climate change, with far lower capacity to recover from those impacts or to adapt to the changes to the climatic system for which we are not responsible," the Indian statement said.

The statement further said: "We notice a tendency to ignore the decisions taken in the past - related to the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme at CoP27 and the context of the Global Stocktake in the Paris Agreement, where it informs the parties for undertaking climate actions."

India stressed that the MWP was established with specific mandate that it shall be operationalised through focused exchanges of views, information and ideas, noting

that the outcomes of the work programme will be non-prescriptive, non-punitive, facilitative, respectful of national sovereignty and national circumstances, while taking into account the nationally determined nature of nationally determined contributions and will not impose new targets or goal.

Expressing frustration on the unwillingness to engage on this issue by the developed countries during the past week in this Finance CoP, the statement said: "If there are no means of implementation, there can be no climate action. How can we discuss climate action, when it is being made impossible for us to act, even as our challenges in dealing with the impacts of climate change are increasing?" India asserted that those with the highest capacity to take climate action have continuously shifted goalposts, delayed climate action, and consumed a highly disproportionate share of the global carbon budget.

(See also Page 11)



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The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.

Councillor murder bid: Cops search for second weapon

Divers were employed to search a canal near the home of ward no 108 councillor Sushanta Ghosh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 17 NOVEMBER

Following the alleged attempt on the life of Trinamul Congress councillor of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), Sushanta Ghosh, a resident of Kasba, police continued their investigations, with divers being deployed in a canal to search for a second weapon.

The search has been ongoing since morning and continued for 40 minutes, as investigators believe that another firearm might have been brought along to either kill or intimidate Mr Ghosh.

They suspect that the weapon could have been discarded in the canal. Mr Ghosh is the councillor of Ward No. 108 of the KMC. The alleged murder attempt took place on Friday but failed.

One revelation after another



The main accused Gulzar in the Kasba firing incident is produced at Alipore court. ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

er is emerging in the shooting incident. A land dispute theory has also come to light.

It is alleged that hired contract killers attempted to shoot and kill Mr Ghosh.

Police on Sunday deployed divers to search the Shan-tipally canal, located just 80

metres away from Sushanta Ghosh's house in Chakraborty Para, Rajdanga.

On Friday, two miscreants arrived on a scooter in front of Mr Ghosh's house. One of them, seated at the back, dismounted and aimed a pistol at the councillor. The

Mr Ghosh is the councillor of Ward No. 108 of the KMC. The alleged murder attempt took place on Friday but failed as the assailant's weapon misfired. While one of the attackers was caught by Mr Ghosh and his associates, the other managed to escape.

assailant tried to fire twice, but the weapon malfunctioned. When the miscreant attempted to escape, Mr Ghosh and his associates caught him and handed him over to police.

However, the scooter driver managed to escape and remains at large. Investigators suspect that the driver was also armed and might have discarded his pistol while fleeing near the canal. This

has led the police to search the canal for the missing weapon, though it has yet to be found.

Following this, police personnel began searching the adjacent jungle for the weapon. After combing through the jungle, the search extended to an abandoned construction site near the canal.

So far, police have arrested three individuals in connection with the attempted murder.

On the day of the incident, they apprehended the alleged shooter, Yuvraj Singh. The next morning, they arrested a taxi driver, Ahmed Khan, accused of transporting the shooters to various locations from Howrah Station. On Saturday, police arrested Afroz Khan, alias Gulzar, one of the main conspirators, from Galsi in East Burdwan. He was reportedly trying to flee to Bihar.

Tension in Murshidabad over clashes between two groups

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 17 NOVEMBER

Tension has erupted in Bel-danga in West Bengal's Murshidabad following clashes between two groups of people as a result of which train services were disrupted in the area for some time.

The incident took place on Saturday night. The district police officials have claimed that although the tension was acute late Saturday, the situation has come under control from Sunday morning because of their timely action.

Although information had spread that tension was over a particular religious festival, the district police officials have claimed that the tension was because of some local issues.

The district police superintendent of Murshidabad, Surya Pratap Yadav rushed to the spot on Saturday night along with a huge police contingent. He also told media persons that the tension broke out because of some local issues.

"We are trying to identify those involved behind the



tension and book them accordingly. I request everybody to cooperate with the police in maintaining the law and order situation. I request all concerned not to take the law into their own hands," Yadav said.

Following the clashes which extended to the areas adjacent to the Beldanga Station, Bhagirathi Express got stranded at the station for a long time during the early hours on Saturday night. Following the clashes in which sharp weapons were used, district police sources said, some people from both sides received injuries.

Local people claimed that bricks, stone and crude bombs

were hurled and some of the local shops were vandalized and set on fire. As a matter of precaution, a huge police contingent has been deployed in the area and constant patrolling was being done by them.

BJP's state president in West Bengal and Union Minister of State Sukanta Majumdar has claimed that an attack targeting a particular community was made at Beldanga on Saturday night in line with what is happening in Bangladesh.

He also questioned why Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the police Minister of the State are reluctant to tackle such issues.

Torch rally taken out seeking justice over RG Kar issue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 17 NOVEMBER

One hundred cyclists carrying torches took part in a rally from Sodepur in North 24 Parganas to Shyambazar Five Point Crossing demanding expedition of legal procedure giving punishment to the person or persons involved in the ghastly murder and rape of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on 9 August.

The rally was flagged off by the father of the deceased.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had taken over the probe into the incident exactly a hundred days ago today.

The trial in the case has started at the Sealdah court after the CBI filed a chargesheet alleging the involvement of civic police

The trial in the case has started at the Sealdah court after the CBI filed a chargesheet alleging the involvement of civic police volunteer Sanjay Roy in the rape and murder of the doctor. The Supreme Court is overseeing the matter.

volunteer Sanjay Roy in the rape and murder of the doctor. The Supreme Court is overseeing the matter.

The Sealdah court is now taking statements of the persons, including the doctors, who were present during the post mortem.

IN SEARCH OF JUSTICE



Members of the Shikhar Adhikar Rakha Committee, Progressive Writers Association and Indian People Cultural Association organise a 100-second silence demonstration on RG Kar issue. ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL



Late-night car accident in Howrah: Two dead, three injured

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 17 NOVEMBER:

A late-night car accident in Howrah has resulted in two fatalities, including the driver. The incident occurred around 1 a.m. last night on Foreshore Road in Shibpur. The car crashed into a stationary trailer parked on the roadside.

Two people died, and three others were injured and hospitalised. The car involved in the accident bore the plaque carrying the name of Giasuddin Mollah, MLA of Magrahat West in South 24 Parganas. However, the MLA denied any connection to the car.

Mustaq Khan (25), a resident of Watgunge, was driving the car with four others when the accident occurred. The speeding car lost control and collided with the rear of the stationary trailer. The impact was so severe that the front of the car ended up under the trailer, trapping the occupants inside.

Police from the Shibpur police station arrived at the scene and rescued the passengers from the wreckage. Mustaq and another person were declared dead at Howrah District Hospital. The remaining three injured passengers are undergoing treatment.

Mustaq's father, Mohammed Mukhtar, confirmed that his son was driving the car and had been working for MLA Giasuddin. However, the MLA denied any involvement in the accident.

Police are investigating the cause of the accident and are reviewing CCTV footage from the area.

TMC counters BJP's Litti Chokha festival with Phuchka Utsav

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
ASANSOL, 17 NOVEMBER

To counter the Litti Chokha festival of the BJP the TMC has resorted to a Phuchka Utsav in West Burdwan district. Phuchka or Pani Puri is one of the most popular street foods of West Bengal.

Yesterday, the former MP and former state president BJP, Dilip Ghosh had organised the Litti Chokha festival in Ukhra Cinema Hall More where he claimed that the TMC is a party of thieves and looters, after the attempt on the life of the Trinamul Congress councillor Sushanta Ghosh at Kasba.

Dilip Ghosh accused the TMC of anti-Hindu activities and claimed that Hindus will only be safe under the

BJP rule in the state.

Countering the event organised by Dilip Ghosh and the district BJP, today Narendra Nath Chakraborty, district president of TMC in West Burdwan and also the MLA of Pandaveswar organised a Phuchka Utsav at the same venue.

"There is no future of Dilip Ghosh in BJP, only two leaders Sukanta Majumdar and Suwendu Adhikari are significant in the lotus brigade in the state. Dilip Ghosh has come to fight here, but the people of Asansol-Durgapur has sent him back to Midnapore in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," claimed Narendra Nath Chakraborty.

TMC block president, Kalobaron Mondal, Zilla parishad member Krishna



Banerjee and several senior leaders of TMC were present in the Phuchka Utsav today in Andal.

State government to launch drive to promote safer helmets for two-wheeler riders

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 17 NOVEMBER

In an effort to prevent loss of life in road mishaps involving two-wheelers, the state government will introduce a state-of-the-art helmet.

This comes after it was discovered that many motorcyclists are using poor-quality helmets that would not protect their heads in the event of an accident.

The West Bengal Motor Vehicle Association will launch a massive campaign across the state from 23 November, urging motorcyclists to use IS 4151:2015 helmets approved by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

This decision was taken at a high-level meeting held in the Transport Department. The drive will be part of the

This comes after it was discovered that many motorcyclists are using poor-quality helmets that would not protect their heads in the event of an accident.

Safe Drive Save Life initiative launched by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Snehasis Chakraborty, the state's Transport Minister.

It has been decided that city police and their district counterparts will conduct extensive drives to inspect the quality of helmets.

Initially, riders will be advised to use proper quality helmets,

failing which they will be fined.

A senior officer from the state Transport Department said the state government is determined to reduce road accidents. "We aim to make the state accident-free, and the state government will leave no stone unturned to achieve this," the officer said.

The officer explained that the new type of helmet approved by the Bureau of Indian Standards will prevent head injuries for motorcyclists in accidents. He noted that many two-wheeler riders often do not use proper helmets.

"Many two-wheeler riders believe that wearing a helmet is a casual affair. So they buy poor-quality helmets and use them. These helmets crack during road accidents and cannot prevent head injuries," he said.

However, some motorcyclists, especially those who go on long-distance rides, use proper helmets, gloves, elbow pads, and knee pads. These accessories are manufactured by two-wheeler manufacturers.

City police have already launched a massive drive against two-wheeler riders who are not wearing helmets. Offenders are fined Rs 1,000. The rider is also fined if the pillion rider is not wearing a helmet.

"The drive, which was launched before Kali Puja, has been very effective, and two-wheeler riders in areas where many were previously seen without helmets have now started using them," the officer said. "The drive will continue and is expected to yield even better results," he added.

464th Ras Mela in Moynagarh celebrates centuries of culture and communal harmony

BISWABRATA COSWAMI
MIDNAPORE, 17 NOVEMBER

The historic 464th Ras Mela, a centuries-old celebration of communal harmony and cultural heritage, has officially begun in Moynagarh. Rooted in the traditions of East Midnapore, this festival underscores the enduring spirit of unity and shared cultural identity among local communities.

Tracing its origins to 1561, the Ras Mela was initiated by Raja Govardhanananda Bahuballindra of the Moyna royal family. What began as a family-centered event around the worship of the deity Shyamsundar Jiu-Radhika has grown into a beloved community-wide celebration. The festival, transformed into a public event in 1870, now serves as a platform for



religious devotion, cultural preservation, and artistic expression.

This year's festivities commenced with the iconic midnight boat procession on Kartik Purnima, a sacred full moon night. Shyamsundar Jiu was ceremonially transported from the palace temple to the Ras stage on the banks of the Kalidah moat in a grand, elaborately decorated boat. The event drew thou-

sands who gathered to witness the spiritual and historical spectacle, accompanied by traditional kirtans, dhak drumming, and vibrant fireworks.

For the next eight days, the deity will journey by boat from the palace temple to the Ras stage each morning, returning at night. The final day is marked by a grand procession, music, fireworks, and the distribution of Kadam

and large Batasas, beloved local sweets.

Beyond its religious importance, the Ras Mela showcases the region's rich artistry and craftsmanship. Local artisans present terracotta items, clay pots, and woven mats, while folk performers and craftsmen add to the festive atmosphere. The unique mats from Sabang and other handmade goods draw visitors from across the region, contributing to the fair's vibrant cultural landscape.

The Ras Mela also stands as a beacon of communal harmony, uniting Hindu and Muslim communities in its organisation and celebration. This inclusive spirit, recognized by the State Heritage Commission, reflects the festival's role as a symbol of coexistence and unity in the region.

Set against the historical backdrop of Moynagarh, with its royal legacy and protective moats, the festival serves as a living testament to the area's cultural richness. The Moyna Ras Mela Committee, formed in 2012, has played a pivotal role in preserving the traditions while embracing modern participation.

As the fair continues through 30 November, it remains a cherished event for residents and visitors alike. More than a festival, the Ras Mela embodies a blend of history, spirituality, and artistry, connecting the past with the present and inspiring future generations. This year's celebrations reaffirm the enduring relevance of Moynagarh's cultural heritage and the universal message of unity it represents.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WEST BENGAL VALUATION BOARD
Notice relating to Maynaguri Municipality
Public Notice No : 72/WBVB Dated : 18/11/2024
Under provisions of Sub-section (1) of Section 9 of the West Bengal Valuation Board Act, 1978 (West Bengal Act LVII of 1978) the Govt. of West Bengal by Notification No. 195/UDMA-11014(47)/15/2023-ESTT-MA Dated, Kolkata, the 30th June, 2023 has specified that the General Valuation of land and buildings within the Maynaguri Municipality area in the district of Jalpaiguri shall be taken up by West Bengal Valuation Board. In accordance with the Section 16 of the West Bengal Valuation Board Act, 1978 and the Rules made there under, every owner or occupier of land and building(s) in Maynaguri Municipality area is mandatorily required to file a statement (Schedule III) within 90 days from the date of this public notice regarding the particulars of his / her holding for the purpose of determination of annual valuation. The statement is required to be furnished in the Form as specified in Schedule III of the West Bengal Valuation Board (Valuation of Land and Buildings) Rules 1984, which is available free of cost in the Board's office or in the Camp Office of the Board at Maynaguri Municipality on any working day (except Saturday and holidays) between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. All concerned of Maynaguri Municipality area are accordingly requested to submit such statement within 90 days of publication of this Notice at the aforementioned camp office of the Board or in this Board's office as a statutory obligation on their part. Failure to provide the information or filling false information regarding the municipal holding (land or building) may lead to penal action as per section 25 of the West Bengal Valuation Board Act, 1978.
Dated : 18/11/2024
West Bengal Valuation Board
Poutra Prashasan Bhavan,
Bidhannagar, Kolkata – 700064
Member Secretary
West Bengal Valuation Board
ICA-N 517(2)/2024

Jhansi Hospital fire: Toll rises to 11, negligence suspected

The tragedy unfolded late Friday night when a short circuit sparked a fire in the NICU, claiming the lives of 10 newborns initially; later the DM confirmed the death of another child, making it 11 infants

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JHANSI, 17 NOVEMBER

The death toll from the devastating fire in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of Jhansi Medical College has risen to 11, officials confirmed on Sunday.

The tragedy unfolded late Friday night when a short circuit sparked a fire in the NICU, claiming the lives of 10 newborns initially.

On Sunday, District Magistrate Avinash Kumar reported the death of another child during treatment, bringing the total fatalities to 11.

At the time of the incident, the SNCU housed 49 newborns, out of which 39 were rescued. However, the cause of the fire remains unclear.

While the hospital administration attributes the fire to a short circuit, officials have yet to provide details about how the electrical failure occurred. Preliminary investigations



suggest that the short circuit was caused by an overload of medical equipment in the SNCU.

The resulting sparks report-

edly ignited the oxygen concentrator, escalating the blaze beyond control. Police are continuing to probe other potential causes of the fire.

The SNCU primarily cares for newborns suffering from conditions like jaundice and pneumonia. Experts highlighted that

the ward was accommodating three times its intended capacity at the time of the incident.

Consequently, critical equipment like warmers and monitoring devices had to operate continuously, causing them to overheat.

Hospital administration allegedly failed to regulate the use of this equipment on Friday night, leading to extreme overheating, a short circuit, and eventual oxygen leakage. The leaked oxygen fueled the flames, which rapidly engulfed the ward.

Chief Fire Officer Rajkishore Rai confirmed the overload as the likely trigger for the short circuit and stated that other aspects of the incident are under investigation.

The incident has raised serious concerns about overcrowding, infrastructure safety, and administrative negligence at the hospital. Authorities have promised a thorough investigation to determine accountability.

Fire safety verification to start in UP hospitals from Monday

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 17 NOVEMBER

In the wake of the death of 11 newborns in a fire that broke out in the Maharani Lakshmi Bai Medical College in Jhansi, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to launch safety checks in every hospital in the state afresh.

A Fire Department team will start conducting verification of every government and private hospital and medical college from Monday.

In view of the incidence of fire in hospitals in the state, the Union Health Ministry had already given instructions to investigate the mishaps.

Sources claimed here on Sunday that the Directorate of Electrical Safety carried out inspections at government and non-government hospitals of the state in June 2024. During the inspection of around 524 hospitals, many shortcomings were found in the SGPPI and the Maharani Lakshmi Bai Medical College, Jhansi. Following the inspections, instructions were issued to the college administration to take steps to improve and avoid such mishaps.



After the incident in Jhansi, the Directorate has decided to run the campaign from Monday all over again. In the fresh campaign, it will be confirmed whether the deficiencies in the hospitals have been rectified after the issuance of the instructions to do so. If not, a notice will be issued to them and a letter will be sent to the government including the Medical Education Department, and the Health Department.

Earlier, mock drills were conducted in government colleges reports of which were sent to the departments, but private hospitals and medical colleges paid no attention to it. After the Jhansi incident, instructions have been issued to them for fresh verification. Meanwhile, the Fire Department

in Lucknow has sent notices to about 80 hospitals running without security arrangements. According to the letter sent to the CMOs, there have been no proper fire safety arrangements in these hospitals for many years. What's more, KGMU and Balrampur are also included in the hospitals operating against the standards despite treating thousands of patients from all over the state every day. There are a total of 906 government and private hospitals and nursing homes operating in the state capital, of them only 301 have NOC.

According to Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Mangesh Kumar, more than two hundred hospitals running in Lucknow are not meeting the fire safety standards.

Campaigning to end Monday evening in 9 Assembly bypolls in UP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 17 NOVEMBER

The campaign for the nine assembly byelections has intensified in Uttar Pradesh with just 24 hours left to end electioneering before the elections on Wednesday.

Polling in nine assembly seats will be held on November 20 from 7 AM to 6 PM and counting of votes will be taken up on November 23.

Campaigning will end tomorrow at 6 PM.

This bypolls in UP has been termed as a semi-final before the 2027 assembly election and it has turned into a prestige matter for

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after the BJP's not so good performance in the Lok Sabha polls in UP.

Similarly, there is a lot of pressure on Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav in these bypolls to repeat his feat like the Lok Sabha polls.

However, this time Congress has not fielded any candidate and the grand old party is supporting the SP.

In all the nine seats, there is a direct contest between the BJP and the SP, but the Mayawati-led BSP is contesting in all the seats, and that could impact the results for both SP and the BJP as the BSP could dent the dalit votes in the state.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has single-handedly led the campaign for the BJP and had already visited each assembly segment at least twice along with holding roadshows to woo the voters. The CM has been assisted by his ministerial colleagues and the state BJP leaders.

On the other hand, SP President Akhilesh Yadav spearheaded the campaigning and visited the constituencies. Out of nine seats, four were held by the Samajwadi Party, three by the BJP, one each by BJP ally Nishad Party and the SP's former ally Rashtriya Lok Dal that switched sides to the NDA before the Lok

Sabha polls. Eight of these seats, except Sisamai, fell vacant after their MLAs were elected as MPs in the Lok Sabha polls. In Sisamai, the bypoll is being held due to the disqualification of SP MLA Irfan Solanki, who was convicted in a criminal case.

Karhal and Katehari seats are important seats in this bypolls which were held by the SP but this time BJP has put all its pressure to wrest them.

Among the by-election seats, Ghaziabad, Khair and Phulpur were held by the BJP while the Meerapur seat was won by RLD which was earlier with the SP. Now the RLD is also with the BJP.

Akhilesh Yadav claims BJP's internal survey shows party losing all nine seats in bypolls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
AMBEDKARNAGAR, 17 NOVEMBER

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav fiercely attacked the Yogi Adityanath government on Sunday, claiming that the BJP's internal survey indicates the party is losing all nine seats in the Uttar Pradesh assembly byelections on November 20.

Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the BJP conspired to postpone the elections in the Milkpur seat in Ayodhya after the internal survey of the party showed that it is losing ground.

Addressing an election meeting in the Katehari assembly constituency on Sunday, Akhilesh Yadav said the elections were initially scheduled for November 13, coinciding with the festival period when



many people return home. He claimed that voters, who had come for the holidays, were determined to vote against the BJP, and the party realised its defeat. As a result, he alleged, the BJP postponed the elections to November 20. The SP President praised the students of Prayagraj for their unrelenting protests for

jobs and employment opportunities, which forced the Yogi government to step back and accept their demands.

He said that those who gave the slogan 'One Nation, One Election' are now unable to even conduct a single examination, despite promising to hold record examinations. Akhilesh Yadav also

expressed grief over the death of children in Jhansi, calling such incidents tragic in today's time. He questioned why the government should only be alert when children are involved.

Taking a jibe at CM Yogi, Akhilesh said that the Chief Minister is already scared. He added that with the elections nearing, CM Yogi appears to be confused and frustrated. On the slogan 'Batoge Katoge', Akhilesh Yadav said that this was the language of the British, who had a habit of dividing and ruling. He claimed that now CM Yogi is following in their footsteps. The SP President added that he is waiting for positive thoughts from the CM. 'Our saints remain silent, but here everything is upside down. Our Chief Minister says that a person becomes a saint not by clothes, but by thoughts'.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADDENDUM TO THE NOTICE OF 120TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN INDIA

Addendum to the Notice dated November 22nd, 2024, convening the 120th Annual General Meeting of the Association Scheduled to be held on Wednesday, the 27th November, 2024 at 11 AM.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

3. To approve the new construction of Club building.

To Consider and if thought fit to pass the following resolution as Special Resolution:

(a) **RESOLVED THAT** the proposal for demolition of the existing club building and construction of new Club building in the present Association's premises at 13/2, Promothesh Barua Sarani, Kolkata-700019 subject to obtaining necessary approvals and sanctions from Kolkata Municipal Corporations and/or other Statutory Authorities, as applicable, is hereby approved;

(b) **RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the present Petrol Pump be closed and another petrol pump be opened at a convenient place.

(c) **RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the Managing Committee of the Association, be and are hereby authorised to settle any question, difficulty, or doubt, that may arise in giving effect to this resolution and to do all such acts, deeds, and things as may be necessary, expedient and desirable for the purpose of giving effect to the above resolutions and for matters concerned or incidental or ancillary thereto.

NB: Explanatory Statement pursuant to Section 102(1) of the Companies Act 2013 relating to the Special Business to be transacted at the 120th Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Explanatory Statement pursuant to Section 102(1) of the Companies Act 2013 relating to the Special Business to be transacted at the 120th Annual General Meeting of the Association for item no. 3 (a, b and c)

The Articles of Associations have given powers to the Managing Committee of the Associations regarding purchase, of the immovable properties of the Association subject to the approval of the members in a general meeting.

As such the chairman tabled the details of the proposal for Construction of a new bigger Club Building as the present building is in dire need of thorough repairs, requiring huge funds, and to offer better facilities to its members at the Premises No 13/2, Promothesh Barua Sarani, Kolkata-700019, as proposed by the Managing Committee at their meeting held on 22/10/2024. The Managing Committee has proposed to demolish the existing building and construct a new Club Building in the present Association premises 13/2, Promothesh Barua Sarani, Kolkata-700019 as per the prevailing / applicable rules and regulations and subject to grant of necessary approvals / sanctions of Kolkata Municipal Corporation and / or any other Statutory authorities as notified by the Government. It is also proposed to close the present petrol pump located at the Association premises at 13/2, Promothesh Barua Sarani, Kolkata-700019 and open a new petrol pump at a convenient location subject to necessary approval and co-operation from HPLCL. By doing so, as per the suggestion of M/s Arature (architects), the Association will be able get a sanction from Kolkata Municipal Corporation of considerably larger FAR (Floor Area Ratio) / constructed area, which will benefit all the members of the association. The details of proposed plan of the new building will be kept at the registered office of the Association for the member's inspection. Accordingly, the committee express their intention to a detailed discussion with the members of the Club.

The approval of the members of the Association is sought for the above proposal.

The Managing Committee recommends the resolution as set out at Item No. 3 of the Notice as a Special Resolution, for approval of the members

None of the Members of the Managing Committee of the Association or their relatives are in anyway concerned or interested in the above resolution apart from in the capacity of the being the members of the association.

By Order of the Board of Managing Committee
Prabir Roy
Hony. Secretary General

Date : 14th November, 2024
Place : Kolkata

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUMANJOY Patra, S/o. Samarendra Nath Patra, R/o. 127/7, Swami Vivekananda Road, P.S.: Shibpur, Dist.: Howrah, Pin-711011, W.B., shall henceforth be known as Sumanjay Patra vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public Howrah, dated: 7-11-2024. Sumanjoy Patra and Sumanjay Patra both are same and one identical person.

LOST & FOUND

LOST PROPERTY NOTICE

On the morning of Sunday, 10-11-2024, I lost two important documents in the Andul Bazar area. These documents include:

- A Sale Deed registered at the Howrah District Sub-Registry Office in 2010, with Registration Number 2755.
- A Rectification Deed registered in 2019, with Registration Number 051300777.

I have already filed a General Diary Entry (G.D.E.) with Sankrail Police Station under G.D.E. No. 632, dated: 11-11-24.

If anyone finds these documents, please contact me at the following address:

Subal Nandi
Mohiary, Domjur, Howrah
M: 6290048144

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Karhal assembly bypoll an all-Yadav affair

MANOJ BHADRA
MAINPURI, NOVEMBER 17

The crucial assembly election for the Karhal assembly seat in Uttar Pradesh that has attracted all eyes turned out to be a family affair contested between the sons-in-law of late Mulayam Singh Yadav, and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav.

The candidate from the SP is former MP Tej Pratap Yadav (photo), who is the son-in-law of Lalu Prasad Yadav while the BJP candidate Anujesh Yadav is the son-in-law of the late Mulayam Singh Yadav.

The entire Yadav family is campaigning in Karhal for their respective candidates but most of them have sided with Tej Pratap. Mainpuri MP Dimple Yadav, wife of Akhilesh Yadav, had permanently camped in Mainpuri campaigning with her family.



If we look at the situation, not only Akhilesh Yadav but the reputation of the entire Saifai family is also at stake in the Karhal by-election. Political experts say if SP's vote bank decreases in Karhal and BJP gains, then its big message will go to the entire country. This is the reason why, along with many ministers, CM Yogi has also held public meetings here twice with an appeal for a change this time.

Though a BSP candidate

too is in the fray, his presence is here no more than as a 'vote katwa'.

Among the 2.07 lakh electorate in the seat, Brahmins and Dalits together hold the lead with over 1 lakh votes followed by other backward classes and upper caste votes.

As much as the name of this assembly seat in Mainpuri is settled, the political equations here are equally complicated. Karhal is also one of the four assembly seats in the district.

Since the formation of the assembly segment, except for the 2002 elections, SP's dominance remained intact. In 2002, Sobran Singh Yadav became MLA on a BJP ticket. After this, he joined the SP and was elected MLA from here on a party ticket for three consecutive times later on.

SP President Akhilesh Yadav decided to contest

the assembly elections in 2022 with Sobran Singh being one of his proposers. Akhilesh contested the elections from Karhal and won by defeating BJP candidate, Union Minister Dr. SP Singh Baghel.

After winning the Lok Sabha elections from Kanauj in 2024, he resigned from Karhal. The contest for the Karhal seat which has its own identity in politics is even more interesting this time.

SP candidate Tej Pratap Yadav is married to Lalu Prasad's younger daughter Rajlakshmi. The BJP candidate, Anujesh Yadav, is married to Sandhya alias Baby Singh, daughter of Mulayam Singh Yadav's younger brother Abhayram Yadav and sister of MP Dharmendra Yadav. BJP candidate Anujesh is also the brother-in-law of former chief minister and SP president, Akhilesh Yadav.

TENDER

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER

ABRIDGED NIT

The Executive Engineer (WS) BPS, KMC invites e-tender online percentage two bid system for the following work:

NIT No. : KMC/WS/KBPS/24-25/14 (1st call)

Name of the work : Supply, delivery and installation of MS fabricated 700 MM Dia butterfly valve with heavy duty AT-150 gearbox and actuator in delivery line of HT Pump No. 3 at Kalighat B.P.S. Estimated Cost :Rs. 8,28,367.52. Earnest Money: Rs. 16,600.00. Period of Completion: 10 Days. Last date of submission of bid: 30.11.2024 at 2 p.m. Tender will be opened on: 03.12.2024 at 2 p.m. The bid forms and other details are available on and from 20.11.2024 at 2 p.m. from the website <https://etender.wb.nic.in>

Cancellation

NIT No. : KMC/BS/O&M/PUT/01_02/2024-25 (2nd call) Published on 14.11.2024 (Key No. 840/24-25) of Bustee Services Department. The above mentioned e-Tender may be cancelled.

856/24-25

WORKS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE

e-mail: - seec_bls@rediffmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.CCEEC-06/ 2024-25

B - 593 No 3845 Dt: 07.11.2024

Nature of work:- Roads Works/ Box cell works / Building Work

Number of works: 2 Nos Box cell works / 01 No Road Work/ 01 No Building Work

Amount put to Tender:- Rs. 114.28 Lakh to 284.47 Lakh

Class of Contractor:- "B" Class & "A" Class

Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal:- Dt.20.11.2024 at 10:00 AM

Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal:- Dt.05.12.2024 up to 05:00 PM

Date of opening of bid :- Dt.06.12.2024 at 11:00 AM

Name & address of the Office:- Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore

inviting bid:-

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

OIPR-34026/11/0004/2425 Chief Construction Engineer Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore

Na Manipur ek hai, na Manipur safe hai: Mallikarjun Kharge

Hitting out, the Congress president accused the BJP of 'divisive politics', saying 'BJP deliberately wants Manipur to burn, for it serves its hateful divisive politics'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday slammed the BJP-led NDA governments for "simmering violence" in Manipur, saying that "neither Manipur is united nor it is safe under BJP's double engine governments."

Hitting out at the Bharatiya Janata Party, Kharge accused the BJP of "divisive politics", saying "BJP deliberately wants Manipur to burn, for it serves its hateful divisive politics."

Taking it to a social media post on X, Kharge wrote, "@narendramodi ji, Under your double engine governments, "Na Manipur ek hai, na Manipur Safe hai" Since May 2023, it is undergoing unimaginable pain, division and simmering violence, which has destroyed the future of its people. We are saying it with utmost responsibility that it looks that the BJP deliberately wants



Manipur to burn, for it serves its hateful divisive politics."

Attacking further, Kharge said that both governments have "failed in the beautiful border state" and people of the Manipur will "never forgive or forget" them for their situation.

The tweet added, "At least 17 people have lost their lives since November 7. New districts are being

added to the list of strife-torn regions and the fire is spilling over to bordering NE states. You have failed Manipur -- a beautiful border state. Even if you visit Manipur in future, people of the state will never forgive or forget that you left them to fend for themselves, and never set foot in their state to heal their miseries and find a solution."

Meanwhile, Manipur police officials have arrested 23 individuals who were part of the mob involved in the alleged "ransacking and arson of the houses," said Manipur Police on Sunday.

These individuals were arrested from Imphal East, Imphal West, and Bishnupur districts of the state. Additionally, the police officials have recovered one .32 pistol, seven rounds of S&W, and eight mobile phones from their possession, the police said. Amid the escalation in the state, a total curfew has been imposed in Imphal until further orders. Following this, the government immediately suspended Internet and mobile data services for two days. Following this incident, heavy security forces including the Army and Assam Rifles were deployed in Imphal. In a post on X, Manipur Police wrote, "On 16.11.2024, irate mobs have targeted various houses and properties of public repre-

sentatives including Ministers and MLAs of the State in Imphal. Police have resorted to firing tear gas shells etc. to disperse the mob. Security forces including Army and Assam Rifles have been deployed in Imphal to strengthen the security in the town area. Flag marches have been conducted. 08 (eight) persons have been injured in the process of mob dispersal."

In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi described the events as "deeply disturbing".

"The recent string of violent clashes and continuing bloodshed in Manipur is deeply disturbing. After more than a year of division and suffering, every Indian hoped that the Central and state governments would have made every effort at reconciliation and found a solution," he said. "I urge the PM once again to visit Manipur and work towards restoring peace and healing in the region," Gandhi added.

No one feels safe in India under BJP's 'politics of bias', claims Priyanka Gandhi

AGENCIES
GADCHIROLI-NAGPUR, 17 NOVEMBER

AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi alleged that under the Bharatiya Janata Party rule, "no women, farmers, youth or workers are feeling safe" and it's only the businessman friends of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who are secure.

Addressing a massive rally in the Maoist-affected Gadchiroli district and later holding a huge road show in Nagpur, she targeted the BJP regime for indulging in 'politics of discrimination' on the question of developmental works in the country.

"India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru set up many big educational institutions, factories, ports, dams, and hospitals across all states considering the overall interests of the country. The Congress governments in the past never practised favouritism in progress and development, like the BJP government's policies of discrimination in



the past 10 years," said Priyanka Gandhi.

She cited how the BJP has always been unfair against Maharashtra by diverting several mega-projects to Gujarat or other states.

As a result, unemployment has shot up hugely. 2.50 lakh government posts remain vacant with no recruitments, jobs are being filled on a contract basis leading to frustration among the youngsters, and maximum suicides among youth are happening in Maharashtra, said Priyanka Gandhi.

She reiterated how the agriculturists are in deep

distress without proper remuneration prices for their produce, which is driving many farmers to end their lives in despair, particularly in the Vidarbha region.

Besides, she referred to the growing costs of cultivation with the imposition of GST on agricultural inputs that has further added to the woes of the tillers in the country.

"The Congress had enacted the PESA Act to safeguard the rights of Adivasis, but today they are at the receiving end under the BJP... Some 400,000 tribals had applied for plots of land of which half were rejected... All over India, the applications of 22 lakh tribals were denied," said Priyanka Gandhi.

Referring to the manner in which the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra was 'stolen' (in June 2022), she called upon the electorate to exercise their votes very carefully for a government that works for the people and not some industrialists.

Minister's praise of PM Modi sparks controversy in Chhattisgarh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, 17 NOVEMBER

Chhattisgarh's Tribal Welfare Minister, Ramvihar Netam, has ignited a political storm by declaring Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "divine incarnation" and the "God of the tribal community."

Speaking at a program in Raipur to mark Tribal Pride Day, Netam praised Modi as an unparalleled leader who has transformed the lives of tribal communities across India.

"No leader ever listened to our problems before," Netam stated.

"Blessed is the land that gave birth to an avatar like Narendra Modi. He is deeply concerned about the tribal community and has launched several schemes for our upliftment. The 'Dharti Aaba Tribal Village Upliftment Campaign,'



initiated by the Prime Minister, will ensure the holistic development of 6,500 villages and their residents in Chhattisgarh."

Netam's remarks have provoked fierce backlash from the Congress party, which accused him of sycophancy and disrespecting tribal traditions.

"By equating Modi to a God instead of honoring Budhadev, our traditional deity, Ramvihar Netam has insulted tribal beliefs. The BJP has no right to place its leaders above

our gods and faith," a Congress spokesperson retorted.

The comments are being viewed as part of a broader strategy to consolidate BJP influence in tribal-dominated regions. Under Modi's leadership, the BJP has championed initiatives aimed at improving education, healthcare, and infrastructure for tribal communities. However, critics argue that the party is leveraging religious symbolism to secure electoral gains.

For the Congress, the controversy presents an opportunity to position itself as the guardian of tribal heritage. Analysts predict the issue could escalate into a key electoral battleground in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, where tribal votes often determine outcomes.

Observers note that Netam's controversial statement reflects a calculated risk by the BJP.

By portraying Modi as a savior-like figure, the party seeks to reinforce its commitment to marginalized communities.

However, such rhetoric may alienate traditional tribal voters who perceive the deification of political leaders as a challenge to their cultural identity.

The BJP faces the challenge of navigating this delicate terrain in the electoral battle. For the Congress, the task lies in countering the BJP's narrative without appearing dismissive of development schemes that have benefited many tribal communities.

The debate over Ramvihar Netam's remarks has brought tribal concerns and political strategies to the forefront. While the BJP highlights its developmental initiatives, critics question the blending of religious symbolism with governance.

FBI-wanted Vikash Yadav seeks court exemption, cites grave security threat to his life

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

Vikash Yadav, accused of attempting to murder Khalistani terrorist Gurbat Singh Pannun (photo) in the United States, has filed an application before a Delhi court requesting exemption from attending his case hearing.

Yadav claims that his personal details have been made public, putting his life at risk. He has asked the court to grant him relief from being present for the hearing due to the ongoing security threat.

The plea stated that false and baseless allegations have been made against the applicant (Vikas Yadav) and that his personal details--such as his address, background, and photographs--have been widely circulated globally, thereby exposing him to a serious threat to his life from malicious elements.

The plea further stated



that the applicant is being relentlessly monitored by hostile elements, who are attempting to track him at all possible locations, leaving him with no option but to remain confined for his safety.

It was also argued that the threat to the applicant's life is immediate, grave, and imminent and that his physical presence in court could provide an opportunity for these elements to harm him.

Given these circumstances, the plea emphasized that even appearing via video conference would be highly unsafe, as the applicant's location could potentially be traced using electronic technology, thereby reinforcing the request for exemption. Noting the submissions, the Delhi court granted the applicant exemption from attending the hearing on Saturday and directed him to appear on 3 February.

DRDO carries out successful flight-trial of India's first long-range hypersonic missile: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-trial of India's first long-range hypersonic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha late on Saturday. This hypersonic missile is designed to carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 kms for the Armed Forces. The missile was tracked by various range systems, deployed in multiple domains. The flight data obtained from down range ship stations confirmed the successful terminal maneuvers and impact with high degree of accuracy, the Ministry of Defence said on Sunday. This missile has been indigenously developed by the laboratories of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile complex, Hyderabad along with various other DRDO laboratories and Industry Partners. The flight-trial was carried out in the presence of senior scientists of DRDO and officers of the Armed Forces. SNS

Engineers in MP suspended for disrespect to Scindia's statue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 17 NOVEMBER

Four engineers, two from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and two from a private construction company, have been suspended with immediate effect for allegedly removing the statue of former Congress Union minister late Madhavrao Scindia in an objectionable manner from a road construction project in Katni district of Madhya Pradesh.

A video of the statue being shifted with the help of an earthmoving machine with a noose tied around the structure's neck surfaced on social media, and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav issued strict directives on Saturday to take stringent

action against those responsible.

MP BJP Chief V D Sharma and others had also expressed strong objection to the removal of the bust of Madhavrao Scindia, father of union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia who had joined the ruling BJP after quitting from the Congress in 2020. According to NHAI Katni Project Director Anand Prasad, two NHAI engineers including team leader Rajesh Kumar Nema and assistant bridge engineer Deepak Soni along with the construction company's engineers Manoj Verma and Ashish Singh Parihar have been suspended in connection with the incident.

Prasad said that show-cause notices have also been served to some other NHAI employees.



Scindia's statue has been present at the Chakra junction in Katni for the past several years. It was to be shifted during the broadening of the Katni bypass, on national highway number 30, from two-lane to four-lane. However, the controversy erupted after the bust was removed in an objectionable manner. A video of the statue being shifted with the help of an earthmoving machine with a noose tied around the structure's neck surfaced on social media.

NHRC successfully holds six-day programme on human rights for eight countries from Global South

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) successfully concluded its six-day Executive Capacity Building Programme on Human Rights for over 30 participants of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of eight countries of Global South.

The participants were from the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Jordan. The programme aimed at promoting dialogue, sharing experiences, best practices and building capacity to protect and promote human rights across the world and

particularly in the Global South. This initiative is part of NHRC India's broader strategy to strengthen collaboration with global partners, reinforcing the principles of justice, equality, and human dignity. In addition to the inaugural and valedictory sessions, the participants were exposed to the various aspects of human rights, human welfare and related best practices in the 19 sessions conducted by the eminent experts on diverse topics, including democracy, socio-economic and cultural rights, digital security, and international human rights frameworks. The participants also exchanged best practices, reinforcing the global south's

commitment to safeguarding human rights, fostering inclusivity, and achieving sustainable development. They were also taken for field visits to have an understanding of Indian art and culture.

The programme began with the inaugural session addressed by the NHRC, India Acting Chairperson, Vijaya Bharathi Sayani recalled common ideas, cultural ethos and aspirations of the Global South, particularly the Asian communities valuing basic dignity and equality of all humans. NHRC, India Secretary General Bharat Lal in the opening remarks highlighted various civilisations which originated in Asia.

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGE 4

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
ESI HOSPITAL ASANSOL
ASANSOL-713905
e-Tender Notice
e-tender (under memo no. EH/ASL/1465 Dt. 08.11.24) is being invited for selection of agency for supply of disposable kits & chemicals for Wards & OPDs of ESI Hospital Asansol. Details of Terms & conditions will be available in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in Bid submission will start from 1 p.m. on 26.11.24 and will close at 1 p.m. on 17.12.24. Sd/- SUPERINTENDENT, ESI HOSPITAL ASANSOL ICA-T20585(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-N.I.T No-WB/WH/EE/KIDIVISION/e-NIT-15(e)/2024-25 under Kaldip Irrigation Division, Kaldip, Online e-tender has been invited by the undersigned for 5 (five) nos. of work. Amount put to tender ranging from Rs. 4.88 Lakh to Rs. 5.58 lakh. Last date of submission of online bid 25.11.2024 up to 12:00 Hrs. All necessary details may be obtained from West Bengal Government e-tender portal www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, KID. ICA-T20603(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division, Nirman Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kol-91 on behalf of the Governor of the West Bengal asked for percentage rates for the work against **NIQ NO.: UDMA/EE/CMD/e-NIQ-02/2024-25**. Detail may be seen at W.B. Tender Portal & Departmental website: www.wbtenderservices.gov.in Last date of bid submission is 02.12.2024 up to 14:00 Hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Central Mechanical Division, ICA-T20594(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: 83/KMDA/W&S/SC/Prog of 2024-25
e-Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Programme Circle, W&S Sector, KMDA, Block-C, 2nd floor, Umayan Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible, experienced and resourceful contractors, for the work, **Name of the Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Civil work including Survey, Investigation, Planning with detail design, drawing, construction, erection & commissioning of 84 MLD capacity Fixed type RC Raw water Intake Jetty with Gangway, Jetty Mounted Pump house, Sub-Station Building, construction of Boundary wall for substation, Construction of Paver block approach road, river bank protection work etc at Kadar Ghaton Hooghly (tidal) river at Ward No-05, for existing Water Treatment plant near by Balar Math of Bally Municipality on Turnkey basis under AMRUT 2.0.** Rate to be Quoted, Rs.10,00,000/-, 18 Months, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 23.12.2024 at 14:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-752) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T20604(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: 16/SEC/Prog/SD&SWM/ KMDA OE 2024-2025
Online two parts tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Programme Circle, SD&SWM Sector, KMDA, Umayan Bhawan, 5th Floor, Block-A, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful, bonafied and experienced agencies, for the work, **Sl. No. Name of work, Estimated Cost, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, (1)** Construction of proposed covered surface drain from Bhadravard Station Bazar to Ghunghur Khal (Both side of the road) under ward No-21 within Bhadravard Municipality, Rs.1,08,57,301/-, Rs.2,17,146/-, 04 months, (2) Construction of storm water drains at Sarat Bose Road, Govt. Colony, Kalyan nagar Road, Kulin para math, Adarsh Pally and PN Mukherjee road at ward no. 07, 11, 12, 20, 21 and 22 under Kharabha Municipality, Rs.2,19,55,423.65, Rs.4,39,108.47, 06 months, Last date & time of online Bid submission: 11.12.2024 upto 18:55 hours., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-752) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T20603(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Gangasagar Bakshali Development Authority Gangasagar, Sagar, PIN-743606
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Niet No. EO_GBDA_92_2024-25, Dated: 12.11.2024 (Inos Civil Work) & EO_GBDA_93_2024-25, Dated: 13.11.2024 (Thos Miscellaneous Work) published on 13.11.2024. Bid submission start date (On line) 18.11.2024 at 10:00 hrs. Closing date of online bid for e-tender: 02.12.2024 at 10:00 hrs. Detailed information available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.gsbdaonline.in and www.s2spg.gov.in and in the office of the GBDA. Sd/- EO, GBDA. ICA-T20593(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
RE e-TENDER NOTICE
Re-E-NIT No. 10/MEDICINE/BUDGET/ GWLD/2024-25 (2nd Call)
An e-tender is being invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Gorumara Wildlife Division, Jalpaiguri for Supply of Medicine for Departmental Captive Elephants and Elephant Calfs at Gorumara Wildlife Division, Jalpaiguri on as and when required basis for the Financial Year 2024-25. Details of which may be had from this office during the office hours or may be seen on Website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Name of Work: "Supply of Medicine for Departmental Captive Elephants and Elephant Calfs" at Gorumara Wildlife Division, Jalpaiguri. As and when required basis for the Financial Year 2024-25. Last Date of Bid Submission : 25.11.2024 upto 17:00 hours. Sd/- Dwijaa Pratim Sen, IFD, Divisional Forest Officer, Gorumara Wildlife Division, Jalpaiguri. ICA-T20601(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
City Centre, P.O. Debbhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721657
Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 8/HDA/EC/2024-25(2nd call)
Online (E-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "CONSTRUCTION OF CAR SHADE WITHIN THE PREMISES OF HDA ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING." Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 8.73,824/- (including GST and Labour Welfare Cess). Document downloading date: 19/11/24 to 29/11/24 up to 3:30 p.m. Starting date of bid submission: 29/11/24 at 10:00 a.m. Last date of online bid submission: 29/11/24 up to 4:00 p.m. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA : www.hda.gov.in e-Tender can be submitted through : www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA-T20576(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
City Centre, P.O. Debbhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721657
Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 16/HDA/EC/2024-2025
Online (E-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "REPAIRING OF HDA ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING ALONG WITH PAINTING OF GRILL OF PERIPHERY GARDEN." Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 11,75,810/- (Including GST and Labour Welfare Cess). Document downloading date: 19/11/24 to 04/12/24 up to 3:30 p.m. Starting date of bid submission: 27/11/24 at 10:00 a.m. Last date of online bid submission: 04/12/24 up to 4:00 p.m. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA : www.hda.gov.in e-Tender can be submitted through : www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA-T20577(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Following E - tenders have been invited by the concerned TIA under Directorate of Fisheries, WB:

Establishment/ District	NIT No.	Bid Submission End Date	Name of Work/Scheme
Assistant Director of Fisheries, Purba Bardhaman	WBDOF/ADFI/BN/NIT_07 (2 nd Call)/24-25	27.11.2024	Supply of good quality Singhi seed & Lime in Purba Bardhaman district
Assistant Director of Fisheries, Hooghly	WBDOF/ADFI/BN/NIT_04 (2 nd Call)/24-25 WBDOF/ADFI/BN/NIT_05 (2 nd Call)/24-25	04.12.2024	Supply of good quality MAC Fingerlings & Lime in Purba Bardhaman district Supply of good quality MAC Fingerlings & Lime in Purba Bardhaman district
Assistant Director of Fisheries, Hooghly	WBDOF/ADFI/HGLY/NIT_1127 Call/24-25		Setting up pens in Beeli/Bares in Hooghly district

Bid Submission Start date: 19.11.2024. Other details may also be seen at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Director of Fisheries, West Bengal ICA-T20579(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: 83/KMDA/W&S/SC/Prog of 2024-25
e-Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Programme Circle, W&S Sector, KMDA, Block-C, 2nd floor, Umayan Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible, experienced and resourceful contractors, for the work, **Name of the Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Civil work including Survey, Investigation, Planning with detail design, drawing, construction, erection & commissioning of 84 MLD capacity Fixed type RC Raw water Intake Jetty with Gangway, Jetty Mounted Pump house, Sub-Station Building, construction of Boundary wall for substation, Construction of Paver block approach road, river bank protection work etc at Kadar Ghaton Hooghly (tidal) river at Ward No-05, for existing Water Treatment plant near by Balar Math of Bally Municipality on Turnkey basis under AMRUT 2.0.** Rate to be Quoted, Rs.10,00,000/-, 18 Months, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 23.12.2024 at 14:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-752) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T20604(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: 16/SEC/Prog/SD&SWM/ KMDA OE 2024-2025
Online two parts tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Programme Circle, SD&SWM Sector, KMDA, Umayan Bhawan, 5th Floor, Block-A, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful, bonafied and experienced agencies, for the work, **Sl. No. Name of work, Estimated Cost, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, (1)** Construction of proposed covered surface drain from Bhadravard Station Bazar to Ghunghur Khal (Both side of the road) under ward No-21 within Bhadravard Municipality, Rs.1,08,57,301/-, Rs.2,17,146/-, 04 months, (2) Construction of storm water drains at Sarat Bose Road, Govt. Colony, Kalyan nagar Road, Kulin para math, Adarsh Pally and PN Mukherjee road at ward no. 07, 11, 12, 20, 21 and 22 under Kharabha Municipality, Rs.2,19,55,423.65, Rs.4,39,108.47, 06 months, Last date & time of online Bid submission: 11.12.2024 upto 18:55 hours., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-752) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T20603(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Following E - tenders have been invited by the concerned TIA under Directorate of Fisheries, WB:

Establishment/District	NIT No.	Name of Work/Scheme
WBDOF/ADFI/JAL/NIT_01 (2 nd Call)/24-25		Supply of Carp fingerlings, lime etc.
WBDOF/ADFI/JAL/NIT_02 (2 nd Call)/24-25		Supply of Carp fingerlings, Net, Hundi, etc.
WBDOF/ADFI/JAL/NIT_03 (2 nd Call)/24-25		Supply of Singhi seed & lime
WBDOF/ADFI/JAL/NIT_04 (2 nd Call)/24-25		Supply of Desi Magur seed & lime
WBDOF/ADFI/JAL/NIT_06 (2 nd Call)/24-25		Supply of Carp Fingerlings & lime
WBDOF/ADFI/JAL/NIT_07 (2 nd Call)/24-25		Supply of Carp Fingerlings & lime
WBDOF/ADFI/JAL/NIT_08 (2 nd Call)/24-25		Supply of Singhi seed & lime

Bid Submission Start date: 19.11.2024, Bid Submission End date: 29.11.2024. Other details may also be seen at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Director of Fisheries, West Bengal ICA-T20582(4)/2024

Pursuing Justice

India’s decision to seek the extradition of alleged Khalistani separatist Arshdeep Singh Gill, also known as Arsh Dalla, from Canada represents a significant step in its efforts to combat transnational terrorism and organised crime. Accused of masterminding numerous criminal and terrorist activities, Dalla’s arrest in Canada presents both an opportunity and a challenge for India as it seeks justice for over 50 alleged crimes ranging from murder to terror financing. The extradition process is rarely straightforward, particularly when geopolitics and legal complexities intersect. India has faced hurdles in securing the extradition of individuals involved in criminal activities abroad, especially from countries like Canada, where diplomatic ties have been strained over the Khalistan movement. Despite this, Dalla’s arrest is an opening for India to push for stronger collaboration on international crime. While the arrest may appear as a breakthrough, securing Dalla’s extradition is far from guaranteed.

Extradition treaties require both countries to adhere to rigorous legal procedures, ensuring the suspect’s human rights are not compromised and that sufficient evidence of wrongdoing exists. Canada’s earlier reluctance to act on India’s requests for provisional arrests suggests that the road ahead could be long and fraught with legal manoeuvring. Adding to the challenge are the political undercurrents between the two nations. Canada has often been criticised for its leniency toward elements that advocate Khalistani separatism, a stance that has complicated bilateral ties. Any delay or perceived lack of commitment to extradition could further strain relations, especially as India remains resolute in its stance against secessionist threats.

Despite these challenges, the situation also presents a critical opportunity. By demonstrating transparency and providing robust evidence, India can reinforce its credibility in seeking international legal cooperation. Evidence of Dalla’s financial transactions, properties, and links to terror activities has already been shared with Canadian authorities, signaling India’s preparedness to meet the standards of international law. If Canada reciprocates by approving the extradition, it could set a precedent for addressing such cases more efficiently in the future. This would not only serve justice but also affirm both nations’ commitment to fighting global terrorism and organised crime, transcending political differences. Successfully extraditing Dalla would be a watershed moment for India. It would bring a notorious criminal to justice, dismantling part of the Khalistan Tiger Force’s operational framework and deterring others from following similar paths. Additionally, it would strengthen public confidence in India’s ability to address international threats that impact domestic security. Arsh Dalla’s extradition case is more than a legal pursuit; it is a litmus test of India’s resolve to counter terrorism and hold perpetrators accountable, no matter where they operate. Success in this endeavour could redefine how India navigates the complexities of transnational crime and enhance its global standing as a nation committed to justice and security. But, first, there is the little matter of a Canadian Prime Minister to deal with.

Sri Lanka's Reset

Sri Lanka has taken a decisive step toward reshaping its political and economic trajectory. The resounding victory of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake’s Marxist-leaning National People’s Power (NPP) coalition in this week’s general election signals a clear rejection of entrenched family dynasties and a hunger for transformative governance. With a two-thirds parliamentary majority, the NPP now faces the dual challenge of meeting the high expectations of the people while steering the country through a precarious economic recovery. This election represents a dramatic shift in Sri Lanka’s political culture. Voters from across the island, including minority Tamil regions historically sceptical of centralised power, have rallied behind Mr Dissanayake’s message of equity, poverty alleviation, and systemic reform. The election results are not just a mandate for change but a demand for tangible action to address deep-seated issues like corruption, inequality, and a high cost of living.

The sweeping rejection of political dynasties ~ most notably the Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe families ~ reflects a collective demand for clean governance and accountability. The Rajapaksa family, which dominated Sri Lanka for over a decade with multiple members holding power, saw their party reduced to just three parliamentary seats. Similarly, the coalition backed by former President Ranil Wickremesinghe managed a meagre five seats. This marks a definitive end to their dominance and an embrace of fresh leadership under Mr Dissanayake. The President’s promises to cut taxes, boost welfare spending, and support local businesses resonate with citizens still grappling with the fallout of a devastating economic crisis. However, these goals come with significant risks. The country’s economic recovery is tethered to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout programme that requires stringent fiscal discipline. Altering the terms of this agreement, as suggested by the new administration, could jeopardise future funding and stall progress toward financial stability. Balancing populist promises with the realities of fiscal management will be the government’s defining challenge.

Beyond economic policy, the new government’s inexperience in governance poses another hurdle. With many coalition members untested in legislative and executive roles, translating electoral momentum into effective policy execution will require strategic planning and capacity building. The absence of seasoned administrators could slow reforms at a time when swift and decisive action is critical. The decisive rejection of political dynasties underscores a voter desire for systemic reform. While structural changes like abolishing the executive presidency ~ often linked to abuse of power ~ are not immediate priorities, they could further align governance with democratic ideals over time. The road ahead for Sri Lanka is fraught with complexity. Economic recovery, while underway, remains fragile, and political missteps could erode the trust that voters have placed in this new government. Yet, the unprecedented mandate offers a unique opportunity to redefine the nation’s path. If Mr Dissanayake and his coalition can deliver on their promises without undermining economic stability, they could set a transformative precedent for South Asia. This election marks more than a shift in leadership ~ it is a moment of reckoning.

Indian concepts

Management curriculums in Indian B-schools are based on Western thoughts, concepts and corporate experiences. Today's students become managers of tomorrow. Thriving on Western management concepts, they come across the problems of 'Indianizing' their knowledge. Ignoring Indian sentiments and culture makes management students confused in actual work situations



Indian civilization is one of the most ancient in the world. It has a unique cultural and spiritual fragrance gifted by great seers, saints, kings, acharyas, and visionaries. Their timeless advice is enshrined in the ancient Indian scriptures. Ancient Indians knew the art and science of management and Indian scriptures are a testimony to this.

Scriptures such as the *Bhagavad Gita*, the *Upanishads*, and the *Mahabharata* speak volumes about the management excellence of Lord Krishna. King Janaka, Arjuna, Vidura, Bhishma, and the list is only indicative. They were front runners in the management of affairs of their times. Their management styles showed enough poignancy to complement and supplement the present-day management concepts.

Indian scriptures are a treasure house of philosophy and offer vital guidelines on psychology, sociology, political science, social psychology, human behaviour and modern-day management concepts. Resurfacing focus on spirituality, yoga and meditation in management has made the scriptural knowledge all the more relevant for modern-day managers. Add to it, deteriorating ethics and degrading values in society and the time is ripe for Indian managers to imbibe management concepts from these scriptures.

The Indian style of functioning is different from the Western style, and that makes it imperative for managers to provide ‘Indian uniqueness’ to management. Admittedly, Western and Japanese management styles are not irrelevant for Indian managers but these can at best serve as nutritional supplements. The ‘basic food’ should come from Indian scriptures ~ experiences, culled from Indian sentiments and sensitivities rooted in these scriptures.

Present day managers are well versed in technicalities of Western management concepts. They have modern infrastructure to support them but equally important is the ‘Knowledge of Self-Management’.

Arjuna was adamant, confused, fragmented, disjuncted and collapsed exactly when he was supposed to perform. Although he was a highly qualified warrior (his area of specialisation) and equipped with the best weapons (infrastructure in a modern context), yet he emotionally involved himself with the consequences of war (attachment with results) which did not speak well of a person of his stature.

Scriptures label an emotionally immature person who refuses to perform when the time comes as a Tamasic and indolent personality (Tamasic mentality). Arjuna felt deluded and confused because of poor self-management. A modern manager suffering from the Arjuna Syndrome would behave

like Arjuna. He has premier educational degrees and infrastructure at work to support him. Nevertheless, his inner self stays turbulent and does not let him concentrate on work. Further, he works with an eye on rewards (Rajasic work efforts, Tamasic Mentality and attachment to rewards).

Results are neither encouraging for the manager nor fruitful for the organisation. He suffers from poor physical and mental health. His work potential is grossly underutilised. He loses confidence in himself and trust in others. Interpersonal relationships at work suffer. Business imperatives of globalisation and the quickening pace of obsolescence call for a fluid, horizontal de-structured organisation which eastern thinking with its emphasis on internal resources facilitates. The root of Indian management is the Pantheism concept ~ the oneness of God and the Universe. The universe, and all in it, is interconnected. While Western management has taken notice of the Law of *Karma*, the principle of detachment, yoga and meditation from Indian scriptures, the Indian management fraternity is still wanting.

Management curriculums in Indian B-schools are based on Western thoughts, concepts and corporate experiences. Today’s students become managers of tomorrow. Thriving on Western management concepts, they come across the problems of ‘Indianizing’ their knowledge. Ignoring Indian sentiments and culture makes management students confused in actual work situations where they have to deal with employees and coming to work with Indianized work habits such as late coming, false commitments, gossiping, wasting time at the workplace, nepotism, and other questionable work ethics.

Management in action is a holistic process. Nowhere in our education, least of all in our management training, is it taught as a holistic process. We are told to be rational and to concentrate on analysis. This fragmentation of the mind into analysis or rationality and emotions creates a gap in our values. In the words of Lord Curzon, ‘Though educated in a Western curriculum, you should remain Indians, true to your own beliefs, your own traditions, and your own people.’

The need of the hour is to develop a ‘India-centric management style’. For this to happen, scriptures need to be explored for Indianized management wisdom.

To justify the relevance of Indian management, Swami Somes-

warananda, then President of Vivekananda Centre for Indian Management, Indore, along with his team conducted experiments in different public and private sector companies. Through their studies, Swami Someswarananda and team could convince that a new approach is needed in industries and organisations to come out with desirable results.

Studies and experiments were conducted with company workers both in public and private sector undertakings. And in places like Pune, Trivandrum, Delhi, Bardoda and Chennai the responses were very encouraging.

It would be prudent to share here some of their findings. It was found that at the workers’ level there was lack of self-confidence and self-respect. There was a dearth of autonomy. There were not many contributions from unions. In the public sector, to give importance to concern for workers, customer-centric issues were neglected. While the

powerful union members created stubbornness and arrogance, they could not inculcate self-respect. Equally important to point out is that autonomy was never practised as it is the leaders, not workers, who had a voice in management.

The Vedanta gospel of ‘Aham Brahmasmi’ (I am full of immense potential) played a pivotal role in their studies and experiments. Workers told the team they thought of themselves as ordinary human beings ~ a smelter, a fitter, a driver, a crane operator etc. It was equally disheartening to note that their supervisors and bosses did not want them to use their brain or heart.

When they were made to realise that each and every one of them had infinite potential, it worked miracles. The purpose was to develop in them self-respect. It is indeed unfortunate that in the present system an extraordinary human being is made ordinary.

An area of management known as Job enrichment is a debatable concept. Can I always get a job of my liking? Shall I always depend on external stimuli to get myself motivated from time to time? While Transactional Analysis has its own justifications do I always require positive strokes? If I have to depend on positive strokes, it will make me psychologically dependent. This is where *Vedanta* comes in and talks about ‘mind enrichment’. The million-dollar question is “can I make any job, whatever I do, interesting? And that is *karma yoga*.”

Another area that draws attention is the modern-day corporate

training programme. Majority of the training initiatives revolve around preparing a performance-oriented employee and manager.

The issue is that in all these Management Development Programmes the participants are considered as Managers and Executives only. The facilitator rarely understands that the participant is also a parent, a friend, a relative and above all a citizen.

If a training programme is to be unified, systematic, comprehensive and integrated, then there is a need for all these aspects to be integrated. Else it will remain one-sided. From the teachings of *Vedanta* we learn about the concept of ‘advaita’ that asks us to see the person in totality.

Emotional Intelligence of late has gained popularity. The idea is to give importance not only to the intellect but also to the emotions, values, beliefs and actions. The roots can be traced through *Vedanta* that suggests the path of *jnana*, *bhakti* and *karma*. To be successful one needs to coordinate the intellect (*jnana*), emotions (*bhakti*) and action (*karma*). Thus training programmes must involve participants in discussions (this helps them to grow intellectually and be creative). The next step is to adopt techniques of meditation to remove mental blocks. Finally, the action takes place. Thus, when all these three are integrated ~ *jnana*, *bhakti* and *karma* ~ the learning generates impactful results.

One burning issue is job hopping. Employers complain that employees are not committed to their organisations. This is because money is the sole criteria and a job is considered as a means to earn money. Unless a philosophy does not guide people, the trend will continue. *Vedanta* has an answer to this. Its teachings state that work is a means to grow. In *Karma yoga*, Lord Krishna preached that unless there is a deeper meaning to work, efforts are in vain.

Vivekananda also chronicles the same through his lectures and discourses. Indian management thus suggests an alternative to Western concepts. According to the Indian ethos, effective supervision is to supervise the growth of people. More autonomy and creative opportunities will not only make them more productive but motivated and committed.

Insights gained through concepts of Indian management go to the roots of holistic development of the tremendous human potential that lies untapped. They give us intellectual conviction that the ultimate aim of work is perfection and autonomy, and not merely monetary benefits and profits. If we can inculcate Indian values and ethos in our executives, managers and corporate captains, unselfishness will become the path to achieve the goal.

Dangerous ties

The main opposition Democratic Party of Korea held a rally in Seoul on Saturday, substantially calling for President Yoon Suk Yeol to step down. The party was going to hold a rally in Daejeon after the first one near Seoul Station on Nov. 2, calling for a special counsel probe of first lady Kim Keon Hee’s alleged illegal intervention in state affairs. It changed locations by holding its rally near a separate rally by civic groups including the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, which has over 1.2 million workers as members. “The Headquarters of the Movement for the Resignation of President Yoon Suk Yeol,” comprising 43 groups including the KCTU, held their first rally to launch the movement and also to commemorate Jeon Tae-il, the sewing worker and labor activist who died protesting inhumane working conditions in Korea, near the gate of Deoksugung on Saturday afternoon.

The party, alongside four other opposition parties, rallied near Sungnyemun, not far from the palace, in the evening. The Democratic Party mentioned the impeachment of Yoon indirectly, while the other parties did so directly. The party argues that its protest to demand a special counsel probe is different from one by civic groups to demand Yoon’s resignation or impeachment, but that assertion seems close to wordplay. The Democratic Party plans to hold its third rally on Nov. 16, possibly near the site of a rally by the movement headquarters around the same time. It is likely that their rallies will eventually

The Korea Herald

combine. On Nov. 6, a court sentenced a former senior KCTU staff member who headed the organizing and industrial action to 15 years in prison on charges of spying for North Korea, and two other former high-ranking officials of its affiliated unions to seven and five years behind bars, respectively, on the same charges. Organizing and industrial action are key KCTU activities.

The court ruled that they had contacted North Korean spies abroad, received directions from them, organized anti-government struggles and reported to Pyongyang. They received directions on 89 occasions and even signed an assurance of loyalty to North Korea.

The KCTU made no apology, however, before rallying for Yoon’s resignation. Some claim the organization, one of the country’s two major umbrella unions, could be a pro-North Korean group. It must prove that it acts for workers’ rights.

Its current leader is a former member of the Gyeonggi Dongbu (Eastern Gyeonggi) Union, a network of progressive activists belonging to the National Liberation faction that emerged from the 1980s student and democratization movement. National Liberation argues for cooperation with North Korea moving towards unification, through anti-US imperialism including the withdrawal of US forces from South Korea.

Lee Suk-ki, a former lawmaker of the Unified Progressive Party, was a central figure of the Gyeonggi Dongbu Union, too. The Constitutional Court disbanded the Unified Progressive Party in December 2014 for inciting sedition and violating the National Security Act. Lee lost his seat as a lawmaker and was sentenced to prison.

Former members and supporters of the disbanded party reportedly formed the Progressive Party in 2017, which won three National Assembly seats in the last general election on April 10. Two of its candidates became lawmakers thanks to the Democratic Party’s nomination of them as proportional representation candidates of its satellite party.

One candidate was elected in a local constituency also thanks to the Democratic Party unifying its candidacy with the Progressive Party in the electorate. Later, the satellite party expelled the two lawmakers back to their original Progressive Party. Some on the right have claimed that the Democratic Party was used by a “pro-North Korean political force” trying to enter the Assembly.

The rallies on Saturday took place six days ahead of the court’s first-trial ruling on Lee’s charges of allegedly violating election law. He and his party may want the rallies to put political pressure on the court.

SIR, Apropos your editorial ‘Out you go’ (13 November), the issue of illegal immigrants is currently trending across the globe, be it Britain, EU countries, the US or India.

Whether we agree or not, it is going to remain a key global issue for the next decade ~ like climate, the economy and war.

The issue cannot be resolved through force alone, but unchecked illegal immigration is directly linked to law and order of a nation.

Yours, etc., Nabarun Dey, Kolkata, 14 November.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Lanka poll

SIR, This refers to the report, “Party of Sri Lanka’s new Marxist-leaning president wins two-third majority in parliament” (16 November). People of Sri Lanka have emphatically empowered leftist President Anura Kumara Dissanayake to go ahead with his pro-poor and anti-corruption reforms. The strong mandate comes with great expectations: Dissanayake’s prime task would be to spearhead a robust recovery from the 2022 economic crisis that had brought the island nation to its knees. Regarded as pro-China, Dissanayake

would be well advised not to put all his eggs in the Beijing basket. He needs to build strong ties with India, a friendly neighbour which has come to Lanka’s rescue time and again. His tough stance against Indian fishermen illegally fishing in Sri Lankan waters may not be music to New Delhi’s ears, but his assurance to Tamils that their land occupied by the government would be returned seems to have struck a chord with the minority community. It is hoped that Dissanayake will do a deft tightrope walk to safeguard his country’s strategic and economic interests.

Yours, etc., S S Paul, Nadia, 16 November.

IN DENIAL

SIR, This government works in denial. When terrorist attacks are increasing by the day in J&K, we have senior ministers talking about peace and how terrorist activity has reduced. They do not seem to realise that statistics are unimportant and it is the surge of terrorist activity that needs to be tackled. The same applies to railway accidents. Day in, day out derailments take place we have an ex-Member -Traffic of the Railway Board telling your readers how accidents have reduced.

The same with Manipur. It is as if it is the Black Hole of India about which no one is bothered. For more than 16 months, the State has been in a situation akin to anarchy with no meaningful initiatives to bring the warring tribal groups to the negotiating table. Time therefore that the Central government took a reality check and dealt with problems on the ground rather than spin stories about peace and normalcy across the country.

Yours, etc., S Kamat, Mysore, 15 November.

Can AI help decolonise knowledge production?

SUBRATA CHAKRABORTY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a critical technology that has applications in myriad domains like microeconomics, biotech, and Internet-of-things (IoT). It is not just a buzzword but one of the huge breakthroughs of the modern era that aims to alter the way we interact with everyday objects.

This generative AI accessibility means that, for the first time ever, anyone in an organisation can use advanced technology to innovate their workflows and this unlocks entirely new possibilities at an individual or organisational level. Every aspect of intelligence and every structure of the learning process can be described very precisely in a way that teaches a machine how to simulate it, at which point Artificial Intelligence (AI) was established as a new field of study and research and generated extraordinary expectations.

AI is the ability of a machine to imitate human functions such as reasoning, learning, planning and creativity. AI systems are able to adapt their behaviour to some extent by analysing the effects of previous actions and operating autonomously. Some AI technologies have been around for over 50 years, but increased computing power, the availability of enormous amounts of data, and new algorithms have led to major advances in AI in recent years.

Artificial intelligence is considered a central element of the digital transformation of society. But, artificial intelligence also represents an opportunity for our societies to become more socially and environmentally fair and sustainable through regulatory systems of public scrutiny and control. The key question raised here is: "will AI be of help to create an equal society?"

Higher education and knowledge production globally continue to be highly unequal, with the Euro-American epistemic hegemony and domination rooted in colonialism and white supremacy being presented as the real and 'universal' knowledge. At the



same time, 'other' worldviews, largely from the Global South, continue to be side-lined and presented as something of lesser value and relevance.

Researchers at the University of Copenhagen have found that ChatGPT, currently one of the most popular generative AI platforms, "is heavily biased when it comes to cultural values". It promotes American norms and values and often presents them as 'universal' when asked to provide responses about concepts

and other countries and cultures. This way, the researchers argue, ChatGPT acts as a "cultural imperialist tool that the United States, through its companies, uses to promote its values". If that be so, AI will only perpetuate the division, not prevent it.

As the journalist and New York University academic Professor Meredith Broussard points out, 'better data' is not the solution as long as the world remains riddled with systemic racism,

sexism, ableism, patriarchy and other bigotries and social ills. Without systemic and structural societal change in the real world, would cleaning up the data that is fed into the AI platforms solve the problems?

A recent UNESCO paper on AI and education highlights that "education is – and should remain – a deeply human act, rooted in social interaction". Every other aspect of intelligence and every structure of the learning process can be described very pre-

cisely in a way that teaches a machine how to simulate it.

The question that arises is what makes knowledge production different? We can forget about human intelligence and critical thinking if we rely on AI to give us summaries of texts and materials. The purpose of education cannot be learning to write prompts and then reading summaries given to us by chatbots.

(The writer is former Dean, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow.)

IT CAME TO MIND | MANISH NANDY

When people choose wrong

In 1947 the British were finally driven out of India after 200 years of rapacious colonial rule: steady pilferage of raw materials, wrecking of local industry, neglect of education and healthcare, indifference to economic growth. I wasn't yet ten but I was astounded to hear some people say, "We were better off under the British rule." Some Indians, whatever the havoc they saw around them, craved for the little island of security they imagined themselves to be in under the majestic rule of the British empire.

Forty years later, I saw Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos flee from the Philippines after 20 years of misrule – 14 years as dictator – with rampant corruption, torture and extrajudicial killing, when people finally rose in fury. Then I was aghast to hear some Filipinos say, "We were better off under Marcos." These were the poor and middle-class people the Marcoses had most robbed and oppressed, but they still imagined themselves somehow secured under their thieving autocracy. They admired Ferdinand's gilded Malacañang Palace and adored, possibly envied, Imelda's ornate 6,000 pairs of shoes.

Less dramatically but more poignantly and recently, I hear some Peruanos say, "Peru was better off under Fujimori." Fujimori ruled Peru only for a decade and in that time he stopped the runaway inflation and stabilized the economy, attracting international business and drawing IMF support. Also, he crushed the Sendero Luminoso and Tupac Amanu terrorist movements which had killed 12,000 people, including hundreds of

officials, and ruled over a quarter of the country's territory. But these achievements came at a terrible price. Fujimori abrogated the judicial system, assumed autocratic powers flouting the constitution, used corruption as a common political device and killed hundreds with death squads. Some people remember only the relative security, economic stability and a more orderly life.

In Nepal, royalty has been abolished and I hear some Nepalis say, "We were better under the king." Some politicians even espouse a return of royal rule. Let alone the huge waste and pathetic misrule of several kings, people seem to forget the utter recidivism of an undemocratic heritage system which brings no relief to ordinary people.

I mention these countries where I was and felt a personal sense of outrage: how could people be so insensible as to express a preference for the clearly unscrupulous and evil? I felt deeply upset that, on some petty consideration, some people should be partial to wrongdoing. How could they make such an abhorrent choice?

They could and they would. People, in different countries and at different times, make such hateful choices. They choose, on petty, trivial, most mundane grounds, a regime of hate, acrimony and violence, thinking it will give them some little advantage. It does not matter if a colleague or two, a few neighbors, some marginal community, some odd religious group or some fringe political activists are detained, arrested or, God forbid, even killed. That is a price to be paid for the progress of the country. One is never

sure when a few dozen activists, or even a few hundred, are shot down, if they were real miscreants or the authorities overacted a bit to prevent greater mischief, and surely the authorities, trying hard to maintain order, must be given some leeway.

This is the central meaning when you hear it said, during an election time, that what really matters at the end is 'the economy, stupid.' The thing that voters most care about is how well their bread is buttered. To be sure, humans live by bread, but one would have thought that by now many of us are well-off enough to care about a few other things. We might care about our political system, given that it determines the quality of how we live, relate to one another, choose who take big decisions for us; we might care about our work, our earnings, our holidays, our security; we might care for our society, how we educate, entertain, socialize, build our mutual relations, organize for purposes we value. How come then, that when it comes to the crunch, the most that we can argue about is the economy? That is what matters most and decides an election. In other words, what matters most is

our preoccupation with our bread; everything else – even if they eventually determine not just our bread but our very life – comes much later.

It is not just the poor countries that are falling prey to populist nationalism and jingoism. Germany, which has suffered grievously in the past, is seeing the upsurge of virulent Alternative to Democracy gaining 13 per cent support; Austria, with a similar history has the militant Freedom Party with 26 per cent support. Switzerland, Denmark and Belgium, always the most advanced democratic countries, all have toxic nationalistic groups that command more than 20 per cent of votes. These resurgent groups are harping typically on identity, power and abhorrence of alien groups.

Countries don't live by bread alone, nor by identity politics. But that is the false gospel that is being increasingly drummed into people. In the election politics of the US, the dominant themes have been the economy and immigration, and an ex-President exploited the themes with hyperbole and mendacity. Truth and clarity are the principal victims. No surprise, some people's choice is what is the very worst for them. As Justice Learned Hand said in a famous speech, in the last days of WWII, when liberty dies in the hearts of men, no law or constitution can save it.

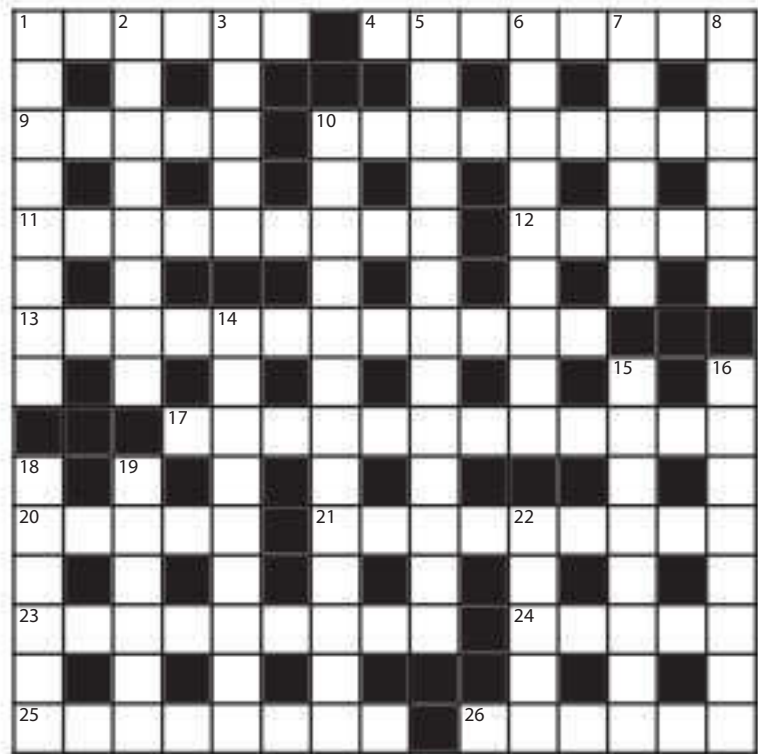
(The writer is a US-based international development advisor and had worked with the World Bank. He can be reached at mnandy@gmail.com)



Illustration by : Debabrata Chakrabarty

CROSSWORD

NO-292964



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

ACROSS

- Who's cursed by oddly going to the Left? (6)
- Posts support this angry poet for the most part (8)
- Racked up units presumably around storage facility (5)
- Reproduction of giant mice is not simple (9)
- Characters pressing retired fool over fabled liar (9)

DOWN

- Misrepresent the investments of gauche lord (5)
- Perseverance and deftness on the hockey pitch? (12)
- Loyalty of priest and skilled worker joining craft (12)
- Dangly bit of gold captivating sweetheart on return (5)
- Chars in bone plugged by operation (9)

ACROSS

- Incas keep wild doves (9)
- Exposure of tape with concealed bug (5)
- Regularity of pastries perhaps getting salt (8)
- Some derive no use from a vessel (6)

DOWN

- 22 worked aboard boat up in city (8)
- Feeling at home with leader away recruiting (6,2)

ACROSS

- Note found in old copper device attached to bottle (5)
- They can mitigate the problems of 'prominent' fibbers? (13)
- Charlie not upset after lies PM fabricated (9)
- Secure former Earl whose horse has bolted (6)
- 60s rebel nutcase may have gone off this (6)
- Flamboyant sort of hit in box set 11 remastered (13)

DOWN

- Raised a fine sailor to feed king's animal (5,4)
- Talk fondly about a type of 'booze train' (4-4)
- Pies thrown prior to poetry events (8)
- 11 was one place to cover part of Javid's remit (6)
- Help with introductions to an unusual party broadcast (2,4)
- Picked up sterilised tool (5)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

WITH a death-rate of only 114, London shows an example of what can be achieved by modern urban sanitation. Thanks to this work, the greatest city in the world, with no hygienic advantage of site, is also one of the healthiest if not the healthiest of all. A review of its vital statistics shows that the improvement has been progressive, and the effect is illustrated graphically by the statement that during the last eighty years the average lifetime of Londoners has been extended by 19.2 years for men and by 20.8 years for women. Calcutta cannot expect to boast of such results as those in London; nevertheless this city has its lessons to teach as well learn in sanitary progress. It has still less hygienic advantage of site than the British metropolis; yet it is one of the healthiest cities in India; and for this thanks must be given to its health department and sanitary administration.

NEWS ITEMS

COLOMBO TEA SALES

STRONG AND ACTIVE DEMAND

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JUST over 1,500,000 pounds were offered at yesterday's tea sale. There was a good selection and the quality as a whole showed some improvement. There was a strong and active demand for all tea and bidding was more general. Leaf teas for price were in strong demand and must be quoted 2 to 3 cents up on last values, whilst medium balance leaf Pekoes were also wanted at rates generally above those last ruling. Flavoursy Pekoes, especially those where quality showed improvement, were also a strong feature, and here again prices realized showed an advance over last rates. Medium and sticky Orange Pekoes were the only grades which showed any signs of weakness, these descriptions being irregular and mostly rather easier but better sorts were well competed for at generally dearer rates.

Common Broken, as in the case of leaf, were well competed for at about 2 to 3 cents over last rates whilst medium and better sorts were in strong demand at prices often 3 to 4 cents over last rates.

Dusts and Fannings were again dearer.

BELGIAN TRAITOR

NURSE CAVELL'S BETRAYER SENTENCED

A COURT-MARTIAL, sitting at Brussels, has passed sentence of death on Henri Descornez, a Belgian ex-soldier and traitor, one of the principals of the band of spies who caused the arrest of Edith Cavell.

Descornez, who is thirty-one years of age, says that Daily Express Brussels' correspondent, was once a private in the 1st Regiment of Chasseurs a Pied, but he deserted. He is stated to have been in the service of the German military police in 1915 at a modest salary of £20 a month.

His speciality was playing the part of decoy among his fellow countrymen, and for this work the Germans sent him to many of the prison camps. Hundreds of young Belgians who were trying to escape from the camps and join the Belgian Army were arrested owing to Descornez's efforts, trying to escape from the camps and join the Belgian Army were arrested owing to Descornez's efforts.

Sentence of death was passed on him in his absence. He has been a fugitive from Belgium since the armistice, and is believed to be at present biding in Holland.

U. P. FLOOD RELIEF

NEARLY every district was represented at a largely attended public meeting at Mayo Hall, Allahabad, this evening to establish a U. P. Flood Relief Fund. Sir Grimwood Mears presided. A message from H. E. Sir William Marris was read wishing the meeting every success. An influential general committee and an executive committee, with Sir Grimwood Mears as president, was appointed.

At the close of the meeting, Sir Grimwood Mears announced subscriptions amounting to nearly Rs. 52,000, the principal contributions being: Seva Samiti Rs. 20,000; H. E. the Viceroy Rs. 1,000; H. E. the Governor Rs. 1,000; Nawab Sir M. Mazamullah Khan Rs. 2,000; Raja of Manda Rs. 1,200; Raja of Dyla, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Raja of Bara, Mr. Jagmal and Raja Lala Beharilal Rs. 1,000 each; and Raja of Bansi Rs. 1,500.

70 MILES AN HOUR

SPEED OF NEW BRITISH AIRSHIP

THE new British airship which Messrs. Vickers have contracted to construct will contain a large lounge, 30 two-berth cabins and a smoking-room. It will be equipped with seven engines, and have a cruising speed of 70 miles per hour.



Nadda accuses Hemant Soren govt of 'fraud, exploitation, loot'

Nadda thanked the people for celebrating Jharkhand Diwas and Birsa Munda's birth anniversary

AGENCIES
BOKARO, 17 NOVEMBER

BJP National President JP Nadda on Sunday accused Chief Minister Hemant Soren-led JMM party of 'fraud, exploitation,' and 'looting' the tribal state of Jharkhand in its five years in power.

Addressing a public rally in Bokaro's Gomia here, Union Minister Nadda said, "The Hemant Soren government has played a huge fraud with you people. His government of 5 years made Jharkhand poorer and poorer."

"No attention was paid to employment, the state was looted with both hands and 'Parivarwad', and fake politics was given importance. Hemant Soren's government divided the state with the help of appeasement," said Nadda.

The BJP chief addressed the public rally in favour of NDA in Gomia. The AJSU has fielded Lambodar Mahto against JMM's Joginder in this seat.

Speaking to the large gathering, JP Nadda said the "jan sailaab" he witnessed signals that the people of Jharkhand have made up their minds to uproot and oust the JMM-Congress-RJD government on November 20.

He added that the first phase of voting on November 13 had already sent a clear message that the people are set to elect a government led by the BJP, AJSU, and the NDA.

"The 'jansailaab' (wave of people) I am seeing is telling me that the people of Jharkhand have decided that on November 20 you will uproot the government of JMM, Congress and RJD. Even in the first phase of



voting on the 13th, the people of Jharkhand had given the same message," said Nadda.

JP Nadda thanked the people for celebrating Jharkhand Diwas and Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary on November 15 and highlighted that Atal Bihari Vajpayee had played a key role in the creation of Jharkhand as a state.

Reflecting on this contribution, Nadda stated with pride that the BJP-NDA had a significant role in establishing Jharkhand.

He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for declaring November 15 as Adivasi Gaurav Diwas, a day to be celebrated nationwide each year in honour of the Indigenous community.

"I also want to thank you for celebrating Jharkhand Diwas and Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary

on November 15. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had contributed to establishing Jharkhand as a state. Today, remembering his great soul, I can say with pride that BJP-NDA has a huge contribution to creating Jharkhand. In the same way, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to celebrate November 15 as Tribal Pride Day every year across the country," said Nadda.

Nadda emphasized that the Adivasi Gaurav Diwas, celebrated on the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda, highlights the BJP government's commitment to uplifting OBCs and tribal communities.

He accused the Congress of neglecting these groups and said that it is now the NDA government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that is focused on working for their welfare and empowerment.

Kerala Governor defends Centre's stance on Wayanad landslide relief funding

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 17 NOVEMBER



Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Sunday defended the central government's position on the delay in releasing relief for the victims of the Wayanad landslides, stating that assistance would be provided once the state submits proper accounts to the Centre.

Speaking to media persons in Kochi, Governor Khan said that the state's argument regarding a lack of funds was invalid and emphasised that the financial assistance would be provided if the state submits proper accounts to the Centre. He slammed the state government for its unwillingness to utilise the funds it currently holds.

The Governor expressed confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurances on Wayanad's rehabilitation, stating that he trusted the Prime Minister's commitment more than anyone else. The Governor's comments come

amid criticism from the state government over the Centre's stance on the relief fund. The ruling CPI-M-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF opposition in Kerala have called for a hartal in Wayanad district on Tuesday to protest the Centre's refusal to declare the Wayanad landslides a national disaster and the denial of financial assistance to those affected. Earlier this week, the central government informed Kerala that there is no provision to declare any calamity a 'national disaster'. This clarification came from Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in response to a request from Prof KV Thomas, Kerala's Special Officer in Delhi, who had written to the Prime Minister

seeking the national disaster declaration.

In his reply, the Union Minister explained that the current SDRF and NDRF norms do not allow for a calamity to be declared a national disaster. Rai emphasised that the primary responsibility for managing disaster-related matters lies with the state government. He also pointed out that flash floods are already listed as one of the 12 notified disasters under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) guidelines, which place the onus of financial support on the state.

The Union government, he noted, has already allocated Rs 388 crore to Kerala for SDRF operations in the current financial year. Of this, Rs 291 crore has been provided by the Union government, with the first instalment of Rs 145 crore disbursed on August 31. Additionally, the state's SDRF fund will have a balance of Rs 394 crore by April 1, 2024, providing Kerala with sufficient resources to manage the ongoing disaster response.

Congress allying with communal forces fearing poll defeat: Kerala BJP chief



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 17 NOVEMBER

Kerala BJP President K Surendran alleged on Sunday that Congress, along with the UDF, is allying with terrorists fearing poll defeat.

Addressing a press conference in Palakkad, Surendran

In a scathing attack on Congress, Surendran said the grand old party is aligning with communal forces as they face the prospects of electoral defeat. Alleging that Congress offices are filled with PFI leaders, he claimed both the party's candidate and Opposition leader are closely associated with them. "Congress offices are filled with PFI leaders, and the UDF continues to employ communal tactics similar to those seen in the last elections," he added.

He further accused the Congress party of facilitating the spread of the Waqf Board's influence and described Satheesan's actions as anti-national. Surendran criticised VD Satheesan for maintaining silence about his meeting with leaders of the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI).

Chargesheet filed against filmmaker Ranjith in sexual harassment case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 17.11.2024



The Kerala Police on Saturday filed a chargesheet against filmmaker and former chairperson of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy Ranjith B in a case filed against him alleging molestation of a Bengali actress in 2009.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sexual harassment cases in the aftermath of the release of Hema Committee report, filed the chargesheet at the Ernakulam Judicial First Class Magistrate Court. The police had registered the case against Ranjith on August 26 after Bengali actor Sreelekha Mitra filed a police complaint against him for allegedly sexually harassing her in the year 2009.

In her complaint, sent via email to the Kochi Com-

missioner of Police, Sreelekha said she had come to the city for discussions related to one of Ranjith's films, called 'Paleri Manikyam: Oru Pathirakolap-athakathinte Katha', and Ranjith allegedly made sexual advances at his apartment in Kaloor.

"During the course of discussion, he clutched my hand and later on attempted to spread his hand to other parts of my body with sexual intention. Realising that his

intentions were not the discussion regarding the film and with sexual intent, I had to escape from the flat and return to the hotel where I was staying. My bitter experience was shared on the next day to a script writer Sri Joshy Joseph. As I was not given the traveling ticket for my return journey, I was compelled to seek the help of Sri Joshy Joseph," she said.

However, Ranjith claimed

that the allegations were fabricated.

Ranjith has been charged under Section 354 (assaulting or using criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty) and Section 509 (acts, words, or gestures that are intended to insult a woman's modesty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The complainant came out against the director after the release of the Justice Hema Committee report on issues faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. The report rocked the Kerala film industry over revelations of harassment by several actors.

Following the allegation, Ranjith resigned as chairman of the Kerala Chalachitra Academy, a Kerala government initiative meant to promote Malayalam cinema

Actress Kasthuri Shankar sent to judicial custody till 29 November

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 17 NOVEMBER

Actress Kasthuri who was arrested by Chennai Police special team on Saturday for allegedly passing derogatory comments against the Telugu-speaking community has been sent for judicial custody till November 29.

Actress Kasthuri Shankar was brought to Chintadripet Police station and she was inquired by officials for more than a hour. Later Kasthuri was produced before 5th Metropolitan Magistrate Court Justice Regupathy. The Court ordered judicial custody for Kasthuri till November 29.

On her way to the court, Kasthuri was heard raising slogans of "justice prevail".

Parliamentary standing committee on defence reviews Indian Coast Guard's role in coastal security

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 17 NOVEMBER

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence was held at Chennai on Saturday to review the working of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in ensuring coastal security along India's vast maritime boundaries, an official release said.

The delegation of Members of Parliament (MPs) was led by MP Shri Radha Mohan Singh, who chaired the meeting. Senior officials from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and ICG also attended the meeting.

The ICG was represented by Director General S Paramesh, PTM, TM, Director General Indian Coast Guard, who provided a comprehensive overview of the ICG's opera-



tional capabilities, strategic initiatives, and preparedness to address the nation's coastal security challenges.

According to the release, the discussion focused on ICG's ongoing efforts to safeguard India's maritime interests, improve coordination with various stakeholders, and enhance response mechanisms for ensuring maritime safety and security.

During the review, DG S Paramesh briefed the Committee on the various facets of ICG operations, including its extensive surveillance systems, advanced vessel fleet, and specialized response units. The ICG's role in preventing maritime security threats,

such as illegal fishing, smuggling, and human trafficking, was also highlighted.

The Committee members expressed their satisfaction with the Indian Coast Guard's recent achievements, acknowledging the force's significant progress in strengthening coastal security infrastructure, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and implementing cutting-edge technologies. They commended the ICG's proactive role in safeguarding India's 11,098 km coastline and ensuring the security of vital maritime trade routes.

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence was held in Chennai yesterday to review the working of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in ensuring coastal security along India's vast maritime boundaries.

Security forces continue search operation in Chhattisgarh's Bastar for third consecutive day

AGENCIES
BASTAR, 17 NOVEMBER

Security forces continued their joint search operation in the jungles of Abujhmad at Kanker in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region for the third consecutive day on Sunday, a day after five Naxals were killed in an encounter in the area.

The joint search operation involves personnel of district reserve guards (DRG), special task force (STF), Bastar Fighters and Border Security Force (BSF), officials said.

Two jawans were also injured in the gunfight that broke out between security forces and naxals on Saturday.

A large cache of weapons was also recovered during



the exchange of fire between security forces and Naxals in the Abujhmadh jungle on the Kanker-Narayanpur border in Chhattisgarh.

According to Chhattisgarh Police, security forces initiated a search operation on Friday night.

Inspector General (IG)

of the Bastar Range, Sundarraj P had said, "An exchange of fire took place between the security forces and the Naxalites many times. After conducting the search operation of the area, the dead bodies of five Naxalites including two women were recovered. Weapons were also recovered."

"Two jawans were also injured in the operations and have been admitted to the hospital. Their condition is stable," he added.

Previously, on November 9, the bodies of three Naxals, including a platoon commander with a bounty of Rs 8 lakh, were recovered following an encounter in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, a senior police official said.

Holy Devmali set to emerge as a hot tourism destination in Rajasthan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
AJMER, 17 NOVEMBER

Devmali – an 1100-year-old village in Rajasthan's newly carved out Beawar district that preserves spiritual faith, life chores, culture, and customs in the absolute medieval rural ambience – will soon emerge as a hot tourist destination.

The Rajasthan government has resolved to evolve this winner of the Best Tourism Village of India Award 2024 village as a popular destination for domestic and international tourists, Deputy Chief Diya Kumari said on Saturday.

The dusty but unique village in the Masuda subdivision, about 60 km from here, follows its centuries-old lifestyle, customs, and even commitments made to the village deity Bhagwan Devnarain, the folk-lore divine figure (& an incarnation of lord Vishnu).

According to folklore, Lord Devnarain visited this place



nestled in Aravalli hill spanning around 3000 bigha, about 1100 years ago, in the Vikram Samvat 999, and sought a place to reside in.

Locals there faithfully dedicated the entire 3000 bighas of land to the divine and made a cow-dung-made home with a thatched roof. Since then, they have been residing in their homes on lord's land without their ownership.

Happy with the service and faithful gestures of locals,

metal rods, and frames. Even today they reside in mud-made thatched-roofed homes. There is no concrete structure in the entire village except the state government offices and the temple of lord Devnarain on the hilltop.

Moreover, no one in the village eats non-vegetarian food or consumes alcohol. Also, there is a complete ban on the burning of kerosene and neem wood.

Villagers also conveyed that none of the village homes puts locks on their doors. There has not been any case of theft or robbery for the last many decades.

All these characteristics of the Devmali and its denizens that give a clear reflection on spiritual faith and firm resolve for the environment, cultural discipline, and social tranquility have obviously attracted the Centre which has launched the best tourism village competition since 2023 to promote tourism to the Soul of India (India's

villages) and this Devmali has been declared winner in the Community based Tourism category for the current year.

Devmali is among 36 villages of the country that have been chosen as winners in eight categories from amongst 991 entries received this year for the competition from 30 states.

The award was announced in about a couple of months by the government in New Delhi and will be presented to the winners on November 27 later this month.

Consequently, the Rajasthan government has also acknowledged the historic spiritual and environmental significance of Devmali and resolved to make efforts to protect its legacy and evolve it appropriately as a hot tourist destination by strengthening infrastructure facilities like connectivity, accessibility, and spiritual and environmental characteristics.

Indian govt launches major operation to track down 'Lord of Drugs' Haji Salim

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER



In a significant move, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) of India launched a massive operation under 'Operation Sagar Manthan' to dismantle the large-scale drug cartel activities of wanted smuggler Haji Salim, also known as "Lord of Drugs."

According to officials, the operation was launched on the directions of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to track down Haji Salim aka Haji Baloch and his trafficking syndicate spread worldwide. As part of this operation, authorities have seized nearly 4,000 kilograms of illicit drugs linked directly to Salim's cartel, with several Pakistani nationals arrested in connection with the haul.

The criminal network of Haji Salim is suspected to be responsible for a massive drug pipeline spanning mul-

tiple countries, from Pakistan to India and beyond, officials said.

Speaking to ANI, Deputy Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau, Gyaneshwar Singh, said, "Haji Salim is one of the biggest drug traffickers in the world, who supplies large shipments of heroin, methamphetamine, and other illegal narcotics through a complex network that spans across Asia, Africa, and the West. He has a very big network. He has been on our radar for a long time but in this case, I would not like to comment on Haji Salim's

name or anyone else's name because the investigation is still at a very initial stage."

Salim is allegedly the leader of a massive smuggling syndicate responsible for trafficking large quantities of narcotics across several countries, including India, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Multiple international law enforcement agencies including those in the United States, Malaysia, Iran, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, New Zealand, and Afghanistan are on the lookout for him.

"He is one of the most wanted drug kingpins in the Indian Ocean region. His operations are vast, and the scale of his trafficking syndicate is unparalleled," he said.

"Salim's network is linked to narco-terrorism activities that destabilize the region. His drugs are not only a menace to society but also fund terror operations across borders," added Singh.



epaper.thestatesman.com

Israeli overnight airstrikes kills twelve in Gaza Strip

Israeli police arrested 3 suspects after flares were fired at PM Netanyahu's private residence

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEL AVIV, 17 NOVEMBER

Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip overnight killed 12 people, Palestinian medical officials said Sunday. Israeli police meanwhile arrested three suspects after flares were fired at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's private residence in the coastal city of Caesarea.

In Lebanon, Israeli warplanes pounded the southern suburbs of Beirut after the military warned people to evacuate from at least seven buildings. The Hezbollah militant group has a strong presence in the area, known as the Dahiye, and the strikes came as Lebanese officials are considering a United States-brokered cease-fire proposal.

Netanyahu and his family were not at the residence when two flares were fired at it overnight, and there were no injuries, authorities said. A drone launched by Hezbollah struck the residence last month, also when Netanyahu and his family were away.

The police did not provide details about the suspects behind the flares, but officials pointed to domestic political critics of Netanyahu. Israel's largely ceremonial president, Isaac Herzog, condemned the incident and warned against "an escalation of the violence in the public sphere."

Netanyahu has faced months of mass protests over his handling of the hostage crisis unleashed by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel, which ignited the ongoing war in Gaza.

Critics blame Netanyahu



for the security and intelligence failures that allowed the attack to happen and for not reaching a deal with Hamas to release scores of hostages still held inside Gaza. Israelis rallied again in Tel Aviv on Saturday night to demand a cease-fire deal to return them.

Justice Minister Yariv Lapid said in a post on X that he "strongly condemns" the firing of flares at Netanyahu's home while blasting Levin's proposal.

"Levin should go home with rest of this irresponsible government," Lapid wrote. "We will not let him turn Israel into an undemocratic state."

refusal, and attempts to harm the Prime Minister," he said in a statement.

Supporters said the judiciary changes aim to strengthen democracy by circumscribing the authority of unelected judges and turning over more powers to elected officials. Opponents see the overhaul as a power grab by Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption charges, and an assault on a key watchdog.

Opposition Leader Yair Lapid said in a post on X that he "strongly condemns" the firing of flares at Netanyahu's home while blasting Levin's proposal.

"Levin should go home with rest of this irresponsible government," Lapid wrote. "We will not let him turn Israel into an undemocratic state."

Trump names fossil fuel executive Chris Wright as energy secretary

AGENCIES
PALM BEACH, 17 NOVEMBER

President-elect Donald Trump has selected Chris Wright, a campaign donor and fossil fuel executive, to serve as energy secretary in his upcoming, second administration.

CEO of Denver-based Liberty Energy, Wright is a vocal advocate of oil and gas development, including fracking, a key pillar of Trump's quest to achieve U.S. "energy dominance" in the global market.

Wright has been one of the industry's loudest voices against efforts to fight climate change, and could give fossil fuels a boost, including quick action to end a year-long pause on natural gas export approvals by the Biden administration.

Frequently criticizing what he calls a "top-down" approach to climate by liberal and left-wing groups, Wright has argued that the climate



movement around the world is "collapsing under its own weight." He has never served in government, but has written that more fossil fuel production is needed around the globe to lift people out of poverty.

Consideration of Wright to head the administration's energy department won support from influential conservatives, including oil and gas tycoon Harold Hamm.

Hamm, executive chairman of Oklahoma-based Continental Resources, a major shale oil company, is a longtime Trump sup-

porter and adviser who played a key role on energy issues in Trump's first term. Hamm helped organize an event at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in April where Trump reportedly asked industry leaders and lobbyists to donate \$1 billion to Trump's campaign, with the expectation that Trump would curtail environmental regulations if reelected.

Mike Sommers, president of the American Petroleum Institute, the oil and gas industry's top lobbying group, said Wright's experience in the energy sector "gives him an important perspective that will inform his leadership" of the Energy Department.

"We look forward to working with him once confirmed to bolster American geopolitical strength by lifting DOE's pause on LNG export permits and ensuring the open access of American energy for our allies around the world," Sommers said.

Russia launches one of the fiercest missile and drone attacks at Ukraine's infrastructure

AGENCIES
KYIV, 17 NOVEMBER

Russia on Sunday launched a massive drone and missile attack on Ukraine, described by officials as the largest over the past months, targeting energy infrastructure and killing civilians.

The attack came as fears are mounting about Moscow's intentions to devastate Ukraine's power generation capacity ahead of the cold winter.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia had launched a total of 120 missiles and 90 drones in a large-scale attack across Ukraine. Various types of drones were deployed, he said, including Iranian-made Shaheds as well as cruise, ballistic and aircraft-launched ballistic missiles.

Ukrainian defenses shot down 140 air targets, Zelenskyy said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.

"The enemy's target was our energy infrastructure throughout Ukraine. Unfortunately, there is damage to objects from hits and falling debris. In Mykolaiv, as a result of a drone attack, two people were killed and six others were injured, including two children," Zelenskyy said.

Two others were killed in the Odesa region, where the attack damaged energy infrastructure and disrupted power and water supplies, said local Gov. Oleh Kiper.

Russia grinds deeper into Ukraine after 1,000 days of gruelling war

AGENCIES
KYIV, 17 NOVEMBER

When Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine in February 2022, the conventional wisdom was that the capital, Kyiv, would soon fall and the rest of the country wouldn't last long against a much larger enemy.

Instead, it was that narrative that quickly collapsed. The Ukrainian army proved it could slow the advance of Russia's forces and, if not drive them out completely, then - with enough support from the West - at least forestall defeat.

But nearly three years later, the outlook is again grim. Russia is expending huge amounts of weaponry



and human life to make small-but-steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls. Ukraine, meanwhile, is struggling to minimize losses, maintain morale and convince allies that, with more military aid, it can turn the tide.

As this brutal war of attrition grinds toward its 1,000th day, neither side seems eager to negotiate. President-elect Donald Trump has said he

could quickly end the war, though it is unclear how or in whose favor he might tip the scales.

This backdrop appears to be driving Russia's strategy in eastern Ukraine, according to Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Trump could try to force an end to the war by halting the supply of weapons to Ukraine, he said.

"If Trump cuts aid to Ukraine and a cease-fire leads to a frozen conflict, Russia wants to secure as much territory as it can now," O'Brien said.

After the war's first year, Russia and Ukraine essentially came to a standstill on the frontlines as the war rolled

into its third year. Then in February 2024, the town of Avdiivka fell to the Russians. With Ukraine low on ammunition, relentless Russian airstrikes created a major breach in Ukraine's defenses in the Donetsk region. After fending off Moscow's offensive in the eastern Kharkiv region, Ukraine launched a surprise incursion into Russia's Kursk region giving Kyiv leverage in potential cease-fire negotiations as it still holds onto land in the region today.

For Ukraine, the key to any cease-fire would be guarantees from the West that it won't allow Russia to reinvade in the future. Otherwise, O'Brien said, "a cease-fire is a recipe for constant instability in Europe."

Counterintelligence expert Kash Patel, close to Trump, under consideration to head FBI

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 17 NOVEMBER

Counterintelligence expert Kash Patel, who is close to US President-Elect Donald Trump, is reportedly under consideration for appointment to head the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after having been passed over for the leadership of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

If he gets the job, he will likely be the highest-ranking Indian American in the administration even though it is not a Cabinet post and no names from the community have emerged as of Saturday for the remaining Cabinet-level jobs.



Media reports say that several Trump loyalists are pushing the appointment of Patel, who has called for "drastic measures" to reshape the FBI.

Patel had close ties with Trump who considered him one of his policy specialists, and they both share the view that Trump had won the 2020 election but was unlawfully deprived of the presidency and that there should be retri-

tribution for those they consider responsible.

During his campaign, Trump endorsed Patel's proposals to reshape government in his book, "Government of Gangsters", a title that reflects both their views that a cabal of "Deep State" operatives was running the country behind the scenes.

Patel had served as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism (CT) at the National Security Council (NSC), before becoming the chief of staff to the then Acting Secretary of Defence Christopher Miller, his final job in the first Trump administration.

The 'super year' of elections has been super bad for incumbents as voters punish them in droves

AGENCIES
BANGKOK, 17 NOVEMBER

Whether on the left or the right, regardless of how long they've been in power, sitting governments around the world have been drubbed this year by disgruntled voters in what has been called the "super year" for elections.

Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election was just the latest in a long line of losses for incumbent parties in 2024, with people in some 70 countries accounting for about half the world's population going to the polls.

Issues driving voter discontent have varied widely, though there has been almost universal malaise since the

COVID-19 pandemic as people and businesses struggle to get back on their feet while facing stubbornly high prices, cash-strapped governments and a surge in migration.

"There's an overall sense of frustration with political elites, viewing them as out of touch, that cuts across ideological lines," said Richard Wike, director of global attitudes research at the Pew Research Center.

He noted that a Pew poll of 24 countries found that the appeal of democracy itself was slipping as voters reported increasing economic distress and a sense that no political faction truly represents them.

"Lots of factors are driving this," Wike said, "but certainly

feelings about the economy and inflation are a big factor."

Since the pandemic hit in 2020, incumbents have been removed from office in 40 of 54 elections in Western democracies, said Steven Levitsky, a political scientist at Harvard University, revealing "a huge incumbent disadvantage."

In Britain, the right-of-center Conservatives suffered their worst result since 1832 in July's election, which returned the center-left Labour Party to power after 14 years.

But just across the English Channel, the far right rocked the governing parties of France and Germany, the European Union's biggest and most powerful members,



in June elections for the parliament of the 27-nation bloc.

The results pushed French President Emmanuel Macron to call a parliamentary election in hope of stemming a far-right surge at home. The anti-immigration National Rally party won the first round, but alliances and

tactical voting knocked it down to third place in the second round, producing a fragile government atop a divided legislature.

In Asia, a group of South Korean liberal opposition parties, led by the Democratic Party, defeated the ruling conservative People Power Party in April's parliamentary

elections.

India's Narendra Modi, meanwhile, had been widely expected to easily sweep to a third straight term in June but instead voters turned away from his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in droves, costing it its majority in parliament, though it was able to remain in power with the help of allies.

Likewise, Japanese voters in October punished the Liberal Democratic Party, which has governed the country nearly without interruption since 1955.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba will stay in power, but the greater-than-expected loss ended the LDP's one-sided rule, giving the opposition a chance to achieve policy changes long

opposed by the conservatives.

"If you were to ask me to explain Japan in a vacuum, that's not too difficult," said Paul Nadeau, an adjunct assistant professor at Temple University's Japan campus in Tokyo.

"Voters were punishing an incumbent party for a corruption scandal, and this gave them a chance to express a lot more frustrations that they already had," Globally, however, it's harder to draw conclusions.

"This is pretty consistent across different situations, different countries, different elections - incumbents are getting a crack on the shins," he said. "And I don't have any good big picture explanations for why that is."

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

ACROSS

1 Defect (4)

3 Fed up (5)

7 Countryside right of way (8)

8 Light shade of red (4)

9 Terminology (12)

11 Bill of fare (4)

12 Support (4)

16 Dairy product (7,5)

18 Group of countries (4)

19 Type of tea (4,4)

21 System of beliefs (5)

22 Enormous (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Miss,

3 Thyme (Mist-im),

7 Silo,

8 Overkill,

9 Speechless,

12 Walnut,

13 Mural,

15 Magistrate,

18 Millpond,

20 Poor,

21 Stock,

22 Test.

DOWN

1 Frill (7)

2 Skill (3)

3 Look at (6)

4 Of good standing (9)

5 Restaurant customer (5)

6 Animal life (5)

10 Facial hair (9)

13 Vie (7)

14 Traditional story (6)

15 Frightening (informal) (5)

17 Syringe (5)

20 Wildebeest (3)

do,

11 Fanatics,

14 Sleeps,

16 Igloo,

17 Moat,

19 Oak.

Common-

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker

SARGE CAN DISH IT OUT BUT HE CAN'T TAKE IT

ARE YOU KIDDING?

11-9

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN WHAT HE TAKES FROM THE SALAD BAR?

11-9

RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson

YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A BIG CHANGE IN ME STARTING TODAY, CHIEF

NO MORE GOOFS OR DUMB MISTAKES FOR ME!

FINE, TANGLEFOOT

11-9

NOW CAN YOU PADDLE A LITTLE FASTER?

11-9

DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski

I'VE GOT THE CRAFT BOX. WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE?

BA BA BA.

11-9

AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER. FULL-SIZED.

11-9

WELL, THAT'S USUALLY THE KIND OF THING THE GOVERNMENT DOES.

11-9

THEY HAVE THE FUNDS TO BUY THE MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF POPCORN STICKS THAT WOULD BE NEEDED.

11-9

NEED TO KNOW

Ambulance

FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286

Happy Calcuttans 24400160

City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623

People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444

24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery

BOC India Ltd. 9831277777

Blood Banks

Ashek Laboratory 24720333

Central Blood Bank 23510619

Life Care 2284-6940

Peoples Blood Bank 2455-5164/ 5557

BK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39

Police/Fire

Laibazar (Police Control Room) 22143230

S.P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005

S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311

Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933

Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285

Civic Services

Koikata Municipal Corporation: 2386-1000

Water: 2543-1602

Calcutta Telephones

Changed Number Announcement 1951,1952,1953

Taxi Refusal

SMS 575756: Complaint and registration

Police Toll Free No. 1073

Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718

CESC Fault Reporting

1912 and 4403-1912

Trains

Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual), Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537

Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

SCRABBLE®

BRAND

G

R

A

M

S

Instructions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each letter, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All letters' worth are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary/Merriam-Webster and Quiv. Official Scrabble Words/Chambers. Judd's solution tomorrow. 10-25-12

PAR SCORE 110-120

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

RACK 1: 10

RACK 2: 12

RACK 3: 11

RACK 4: 8

EXISTS TOTAL: 111

PAR SCORE 70-80

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

RACK 1: 10

RACK 2: 12

RACK 3: 11

RACK 4: 8

EXISTS TOTAL: 111

PAR SCORE 70-80

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9

3

7

2

8

2

1

4

6

2

9

7

1

4

6

5

7

9

4

1

5

9

1

Difficulty Level ★★

Answer to previous puzzle

Sudoku is a number placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

epaper.thestatesman.com

APEC summit: China's Xi Jinping in spotlight as Trump whiplash looms

President Xi Jinping urged APEC members to ‘tear down the walls impeding the flow of trade,’ and criticised tariffs, which Trump threatens to levy on Chinese imports, as ‘going back in history’

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LIMA, 17 NOVEMBER

After two days of meetings in Lima that rarely ventured beyond platitudes in discussing the strategies of the region’s major economies, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum wrapped up on Saturday with a spirit of detente that many fear the summit may not see again for four years.

The 21 leaders from economies bordering the Pacific, including President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping, had descended on Peru for the annual gathering at a time when America’s President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to withdraw the United States from its leadership of a global free trade agenda.

Few could help noting that Biden’s late entrance on Saturday for the traditional APEC family photo lent itself to political metaphor, as the rest of the leaders prepared



to pose onstage before looking around to find Biden missing.

They tittered for five awkward minutes before a seemingly dazed Biden emerged and took his place in the far back corner, standing between Thailand’s 38-year-old Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra and Vietnam President Luong Cuong. Biden briefly reached for Shinawatra’s hand to steady himself.

Chinese President Xi scored the best spot in the

house, front and center beside the host, Peruvian President Dina Boluarte.

Xi had draped himself in the banner of globalization this week, inaugurating a massive \$1.3 billion megaport in Peru that promises to become South America’s biggest shipping hub and using his speeches to reject protectionism.

In Xi’s summit address, delivered by one of his ministers, the Chinese leader urged APEC members to ‘tear

down the walls impeding the flow of trade,’ and criticized tariffs—which Trump threatens to levy on Chinese imports—as “going back in history.”

For the annual photo-op, leaders all wore bark-hued wool scarves from Peru—in the APEC tradition of posing in some garb representative of the host country. While conference organizers typically position leaders in alphabetical order for the family photo, arrangements have varied over the years.

Reporters shouted questions as Biden left the stage Friday, asking how he felt about this being his last APEC summit—and one of his last major global events as president.

Biden had hoped that APEC—along with the Group of 20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, where he heads Sunday—would have capped his decades-long political career with a flurry of productive diplomacy and swaggering proclamations of America’s

force on the world stage.

But with his party’s stinging defeat in the U.S. election and the future of the U.S.-China rivalry uncertain, there was little he could accomplish in Lima.

Biden sought to cement alliances that could be upended by a Trump administration. He expressed concern to the leaders of South Korea and Japan about what he called “dangerous and destabilizing cooperation” between North Korea and Russia.

After nearly four years of record stability in the Japan-U.S. alliance—a partnership crucial for regional security—Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba is now struggling to arrange a high-stakes meeting with Trump.

He told reporters in Lima on Saturday that his hoped-for meeting with Trump on his way home from next week’s G-20 summit in Brazil would not happen—explaining that Trump’s team had invoked U.S. legal restrictions to refuse his requests.

Latest typhoon lashes the Philippines displacing massive numbers of people

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANILA, 17 NOVEMBER

A powerful typhoon wrecked houses, caused towering tidal surges and forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee to emergency shelters as it cut across the northern Philippines on Sunday in the sixth major storm to hit the country in less than a month.

Typhoon Man-yi slammed into the eastern island province of Catanduanes on Saturday night with sustained winds of up to 195 kilometers (125 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 240 kph (149 mph). The country’s weather agency warned of a “potentially catastrophic and life-threatening situation” in provinces along its path.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the typhoon, which was forecast to blow northwestward on Sunday across northern Luzon, the archipelago’s most populous region. The capital region of metropolitan Manila would likely be spared from



a direct hit but was placed, along with outlying regions, under storm alerts and warned of dangerous coastal storm surges.

“The rain was minimal, but the wind was very strong and had this eerie howling sound,” Roberto Monterola, a disaster-mitigation officer in Catanduanes, told The Associated Press by telephone. “Along a main boulevard here, the tidal surges went up to more than 7 meters (23 feet) near the seaside houses. It looked really scary.”

The entire province of Catanduanes had no power after the typhoon knocked down trees and electricity posts, and disaster-response

teams were checking how many more houses were damaged in addition to those impacted by previous storms, he said.

“We need tin roofs and other construction materials, aside from food. Villagers tell us here that they still haven’t gotten up from the past storm and were pinned down again by this typhoon,” Monterola said. Nearly half of the island province’s 80,000 people were sheltering in evacuation centers.

Catanduanes officials were so concerned as the typhoon approached that they threatened vulnerable villagers with arrest if they did not follow orders to evacuate to safer grounds. More than 750,000 people took refuge in emergency shelters, including churches and a shopping mall, due to Man-yi and two previous storms mostly in the northern Philippines, Assistant Secretary Cesar Idio of the Office of Civil Defense and other provincial officials said.

Iranian Defence Minister visits Syria to enhance security cooperation



AGENCIES
DAMASCUS, 17 NOVEMBER

Iran’s Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh arrived in Syria to strengthen defence and security ties between the

Nasirzadeh told reporters upon his arrival, Xinhua news agency reported.

“We came to Damascus based on an invitation from the Syrian Defence Minister, and we will have meetings with political and military officials to discuss several common issues between the two countries, especially in the field of defence and security, aiming to expand cooperation and exchange expertise between the two sides,” he was quoted as saying by Al-Watan.

Nasirzadeh praised Syria’s experience in combating terrorism and its role in the regional “axis of resistance,” an anti-Israel bloc, which also includes Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and militant groups in Iraq and Syria, among others.

two countries, according to Syria’s Al-Watan online newspaper.

“Everyone knows the important position of the Syrian Arab Republic in Iranian foreign policy,”

Senegal votes in election that will decide if president can carry out the reforms he promised

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DAKAR, 17 NOVEMBER

Polls opened in Senegal on Sunday for a parliamentary election that is set to determine if the country’s newly elected president can carry out ambitious reforms.

More than 7 million registered voters in the West African country are choosing 165 lawmakers in the national assembly, where the party of President Bassirou Diomaye Faye currently does not hold a majority.

Faye, who was elected in March on an anti-establishment platform, says that has blocked him from executing the reforms he pledged during his campaign, including fighting corruption, reviewing fishing permits for foreign companies and securing a bigger

share from the country’s natural resources for the population.

In September, he dissolved the opposition-led parliament, paving the way for a snap legislative election. His party is facing the Takkou Wallu opposition platform led by former President Macky Sall, alongside 39 other registered parties and coalitions.

Polls will close at 6 p.m. (1800 GMT). The first provisional results are expected to be known by Monday morning, but the final count will only be published later during the week.

Faye’s political party, PASTEF, needs at least 83 seats in order to gain a majority in the assembly. Analysts say it has a high chance of securing that, given its popularity and Faye’s margin of victory in



the March presidential election.

Faye, 44, was elected with 54% in the first round, becoming Africa’s youngest elected leader, less than two weeks after he was released from prison. His rise has reflected widespread frustration among Senegal’s youth with the country’s direction—a common sentiment across Africa, which has the world’s youngest population and a number of leaders accused of clinging

to power for decades.

Over 60% of Senegalese are under 25 and 90% work in informal jobs. Senegal has been hit by skyrocketing inflation in recent years, making it difficult for them to get by.

The country is also a major source of irregular migration to Europe, with thousands leaving every year on rickety, artisanal fishing boats in search of economic opportunities.

The campaign for the legislative election was marked by sporadic clashes between supporters of different parties. The headquarters of an opposition party were set on fire in the capital, Dakar, and clashes have erupted between supporters in central Senegal in recent weeks, the interior ministry said Monday.

On Tuesday, Ousmane

Sonko, the country’s prime minister who helped catapult Faye to victory, denounced attacks against supporters of PASTEF in Dakar and other cities.

“May each patriot they have attacked and injured be proportionally avenged. We will exercise our legitimate right to respond,” he wrote on X, before back-peddalling and asking his supporters to remain peaceful in a speech later that day.

Last month, Sonko’s vehicle was attacked with stones as clashes broke out between his supporters and unidentified attackers while he was campaigning in Koungueul, in the center of the country. The leader of an allied party, former minister Malick Gackou, had his arm broken in the incident, according to local media.

Reports of violence against minorities ‘completely exaggerated’, says Yunus; to seek Hasina’s extradition

THE DAILY STAR/ANN
DHAKA, 17 NOVEMBER

Bangladesh’s interim leader, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said today that reports on violence against religious minorities in the country were “completely exaggerated”.

In a speech to the nation on his first 100 days in office, Prof. Yunus said: “When we took charge, Bangladesh was a completely defenseless country. At this time, there were attempts to spread unwarranted fear among religious minorities. In some cases, they became victims of violence. But the reports surrounding this was completely exaggerated. The little violence that occurred had political

causes. But these events were given a religious cover to destabilise Bangladesh once again. With your cooperation, we have firmly handled this situation.” “We are investigating every instance of violence against them since we took charge. Not only the Hindu community, but we have made every effort to ensure that no one in the country becomes a victim of violence, and we will continue to make these efforts,” he added.

Hesaid: “Two months after we took charge, Durga Puja was celebrated in nearly 32,000 puja mandaps across the country. On the occasion of Durga Puja, an executive order declared an additional holiday, which enhanced the festive



atmosphere. We took extensive security measures for Durga Puja, which allowed the Hindu community to celebrate their festival without any hindrance.”

Prof. Yunus said that approximately 1,500 students, workers, and citizens lost their

lives during the July uprising, with 19,931 others injured.

The chief adviser said: “Our government has been meticulously collecting information on each death. Arrangements for treatment have been made at 13 hospitals in Dhaka and various specialised

medical facilities.”

“Every day, new names are being added to the list of martyrs – victims of the autocratic regime’s wrath. We are committed to ensuring justice for each killing,” Prof. Yunus stated. The efforts to hold those responsible for the July-August killings accountable are progressing steadily, he added and announced that his government has plans to demand the extradition of deposed Sheikh Hasina from India. He added said each martyr’s family will get taka 30 lakh from the government, reiterating that his government will rehabilitate families of all mass-uprising martyrs and bear the full expenses of the treatment of all the injured.

Boeing issues layoff notices to 400-plus workers as it begins drastic cuts

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEATTLE, 17 NOVEMBER

Boeing has delivered layoff notices to more than 400 members of its professional aerospace labor union, part of thousands of cuts planned as the company struggles to recover from financial and regulatory trouble as well as an eight-week strike by its machinists’ union.

The pink slips went out last week to members of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace, or SPEEA, The Seattle Times reported. The workers will remain on the payroll through mid-January.

Boeing announced in October that it planned to



cut 10% of its workforce, about 17,000 jobs, in the coming months. CEO Kelly Ortberg told employees the company must “reset its workforce levels to align with our financial reality.”

The Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace, or SPEEA, union said the cuts had affected 438 members. The union’s local chapter has 17,000 Boeing employees who are largely

based in Washington, with some in Oregon, California and Utah.

Of those 438 workers, 218 are members of SPEEA’s professional unit, which includes engineers and scientists. The rest are members of the technical unit, which includes analysts, planners, technicians and skilled tradespeople.

Eligible employees will receive career transition services and subsidized health care benefits for up to three months. Workers will also receive severance, typically about one week of pay for every year of service.

Boeing’s unionized Machinists began returning to work earlier this month following the strike.

US health officials report first case of new form of mpox in a traveller

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 17 NOVEMBER

Health officials said Saturday they have confirmed the first U.S. case of a new form of mpox that was first seen in eastern Congo.

The person had traveled to eastern Africa and was treated in Northern California upon return, according to the California Department of Public Health. Symptoms are improving and the risk to the public is low.

The individual was isolating at home and health workers are reaching out to close contacts as a precaution, the state health department said.

Mpox is a rare disease caused by infection with a virus that’s in the same family as the one that causes small-



pox. It is endemic in parts of Africa, where people have been infected through bites from rodents or small animals. Milder symptoms can include fever, chills and body aches. In more serious cases, people can develop lesions on the face, hands, chest and genitals.

Earlier this year, scientists reported the emergence of a new form of mpox in Africa that was spread through close contact including through sex. It was widely transmitted in eastern and central Africa.

But in cases that were identified in travelers outside of the continent, spread has been very limited, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than 3,100 confirmed cases have been reported just since late September, according to the World Health Organization. The vast majority of them have been in three African countries—Burundi, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Since then, cases of travelers with the new mpox form have been reported in Germany, India, Kenya, Sweden, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and the United Kingdom.

Health officials earlier this month said the situation in Congo appears to be stabilizing.

COP-29: Amid allegations of human rights violations, uncertainty prevails on climate fund

SNEHISIS SUR
BAKU, 17 NOVEMBER

It is a very common feature that environmentalists protest outside the world environment summit every year. While heads of states and governments along with official agencies working on environment, discuss to formulate policies on environmental issues in the UN climate conference know as COP, the protesters outside criticise and oppose their decisions, highlighting how detrimental they are in terms of ensuring environment protection.

The present UN climate conference being held at Azerbaijan capital Baku, is also no exception. But, the allegation being made by the civil society representatives, on the sidelines



of the COP-29 summit, against their local government, is that of human rights violation.

Such protests have already got the attention of the international media. The human rights activists have alleged that their country has detained almost 300 persons on the eve of this COP conference.

The ‘Union of Political Pris-

oners of Azerbaijan’ alleged that those who have been arrested include environmentalists, journalists, human rights activists and political opponents of the government in power in Azerbaijan.

The Amnesty International representative in Azerbaijan, Natalia Nosdov, told the international media that freedom

of speech to speak against the government is curtailed and the democratic sphere in Azerbaijan is shrinking.

Giving reactions on behalf of the Azerbaijan government, the president’s special envoy, Elchin Amirbayov denied all such allegations of anticipatory arrests and said that the government does not control the right of participation of the non-state actors in the COP.

On the other hand, the target for climate adaptation fund had been decided in the COP in Glasgow in 2021, which agreed that the amount allotted for the same in 2019 should be doubled within 2025.

However, at a moment when the time frame to reach the target is only a year away, the present COP in Baku portrays a situation where it is estimated

that only one sixth of the targeted amount has so far been collected. Stating this, the head of the adaptation fund, Micco Ellikainen, said that the target year may have to be pushed back by a further five years.

However, apart from the adaptation fund, the new common quantitative goal (NCQG) to compensate and prevent loss and damage will also be affected. This COP-29 at Baku has been earmarked as finance COP and an amount of one trillion USA dollar has been estimated from different quarters to fund NCQG may also not get the support of the parties (governments) attending COP. This no doubt raises apprehensions of the effective success of COP-29 at Baku, even after one week of deliberations has gone by.



'Indian economy capable of handling global shocks'

Today, the growth of the Indian economy presents a picture of stability & strength: RBI Governor

AGENCIES
KOCHI, 17 NOVEMBER

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that the Indian economy is strong enough to handle any adverse fallout from global events.

"Today, the growth of the Indian economy presents a picture of stability and strength," Das said while addressing an event at the launch of the Kochi International Foundation here.

The country's external sector is also strong and the current account deficit (CAD) has remained within manageable limits as it presently stands at 1.1 per cent of GDP. Earlier, in 2010 and 2011, it was in the range of six to seven per cent, he added.

The central bank chief



also pointed out that India has one of the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world at about \$675 billion.

He further stated that the country's inflation was expected to be moderate despite periodic humps.

The central bank chief also pointed out that India has one of the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world at about \$675 billion

India's inflation rose to 6.2 per cent in October from 5.5 per cent in September because of food inflation, he said.

Referring to inflation as an elephant in the room, Das remarked: "Now the elephant has gone out of the room for a walk, then it will go back to the forest."

He also pointed out that when the Ukraine war started, inflation went up but the RBI followed the right monetary policy, unlike some other

countries, and succeeded in keeping the price spiral in check.

"What we did not do in India is also important. RBI did not print notes because if we start printing notes the problems we are trying to resolve will expand and go beyond handling. In many countries the inflation was deep-rooted but ours is moderating," he added.

"We kept our interest rate 4 per cent, therefore making our recovery much easier," he pointed out.

Das also highlighted how the RBI is bringing about a transformational change in credit delivery, especially to small entrepreneurs and farmers, through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) launched recently.



in September.

Within the debt fund, liquid funds led the inflows with Rs 83,863 crore, accounting for 53% of the total, followed by overnight funds and money market funds with Rs 25,784 crore and Rs 25,303 crore, respectively.

The ultra-short duration segment, less than 12 months, is experiencing good inflows compared to the medium- to longer-term segments. The segment has seen an inflow of Rs 7,054 crore.

Further, the AMFI data said the investors favoured funds with shorter maturity profiles for temporary placements, with low-duration funds, corporate bond funds,

and short-duration funds attracting inflows of Rs 5,600 crore, Rs 4,644 crore, and Rs 1,362 crore, respectively.

After four consecutive months, banking and PSU funds have seen huge inflows to Rs 936 crore.

In October, gilt funds experienced an inflow of Rs 1,375 crore, while long-duration bonds saw Rs 1,117 crore. Inflows into these funds are expected to rise further once the rate-easing cycle begins.

In recent months, anticipation of a rate cut has fuelled interest in active duration strategies, with these funds positioned to benefit from potential interest rate declines.

Global pharma sector stares at lack of talent, specific skills: Report

NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

Lack of specific skills and talents has been found to be the biggest obstacle for pharmaceutical companies in their digital transformation journey, according to a new report.

Large and medium-sized companies see a lack of specific skills and talents as more of a concern than smaller ones, according to a report by GlobalData.

The rapid pace of technological advancement has outstripped the ability of traditional training programs to keep up, creating a significant skills gap. Without the necessary expertise, companies may struggle to integrate new systems, leading to stalled initiatives.

"Shortage of talents that have specific digital skills continues to be a pressing issue for pharmaceutical companies that first experienced digital skills scarcity shortly after the arrival of COVID-19," said Urte Jakimavičiute, Senior Director of Market Research and Strategic Intelligence at GlobalData. Despite the growing demand for tech-savvy specialists, there is a limited supply of individuals possessing necessary expertise, and there is no quick solution for this, Jakimavičiute added.

Larger corporations may have a wider scale of operations or a higher number of systems to digitalise, which requires more human resources to complete the process. AGENCIES

Foreign investors pull out ₹22,420 crore from Indian market in Nov

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

So far in November, the foreign investors have pulled out Rs 22,420 crore from the Indian equity market. This is owing to high domestic stock valuations, increasing allocations to China, and the rising US dollar as well as Treasury yields.

With this sell-off, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have recorded a total outflow of Rs 15,827 crore in 2024 so far.

Notably, the withdrawals are concentrated in the secondary market, with FPIs offloading Rs 32,351 crore through exchanges this month, while still investing selectively in the primary



market to the tune of Rs 9,931 crore.

October also has proven to be a challenging month for the Indian stock market. The sell-off by FPIs in the Indian stock market raised

concerns among investors. According to NSDL, as of October 22, 2024, equities saw outflows amounting to Rs 72,136 crore.

Earlier in September 2024, foreign investors made

a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore.

Before this, FPIs withdrew Rs 61,973 crore from equities in March 2020.

On the other hand, FPIs invested Rs 42 crore in the debt general limit and Rs 362 crore in the debt voluntary retention route (VRR) in November so far.

So far this year, FPIs invested Rs 1.06 lakh crore in the debt market.

The FPI selling since October are majorly driven by high valuations in India, concerns regarding the earnings downgrade and the Trump trade.

Rising US bond yields are further pressuring emerging markets like India.

India clocks 12 pc rise in deal volume in Jan-Oct, China sees 23 per cent decline

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

India saw 11.9 per cent increase in deal volume (year-on-year) in the January-October period, bucking the overall trend in the Asia-Pacific region, a new report has said.

On the other hand, China experienced YoY decline in deal volume by 22.9 per cent during the period, according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

A total of 11,808 deals (mergers and acquisitions, private equity and venture financing deals) were announced in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region during January to October 2024, which was a year-on-year (YoY)

decline of 4.8 per cent, compared to the 12,406 deals announced during the same period in 2023.

An analysis revealed that during January-October, the number of private equity and venture financing deals declined by 16.3 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. Meanwhile, the M&A deals volume experienced a marginal YoY improvement during the review period.

According to Aurojyoti Bose, lead analyst at GlobalData, the decline in deal activity in APAC was in line with the global trend wherein all the regions experienced a fall in deal volume. However, the APAC region showcased relatively better

performance and experienced only single-digit decline whereas most of the other regions experienced double-digit declines, Bose mentioned.

"This could be attributed to the improvement in deal activity experienced in some of the APAC countries, like India," the report said, adding that this has helped in minimising the impact of decline experienced in other countries within the region.

Meanwhile, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Indonesia experienced YoY decline in deal volume by 17.6 per cent, 14.4 per cent, 13.9 per cent and 33 per cent, respectively, during the review period.

Films business lack lustre as box office collection in 2024 declines by 7 per cent

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

A recent report has highlighted that the cumulative box office collection in 2024, from January to October, declined by 7 per cent to about Rs 8,951 crore compared with the same period last year.

A report titled 'The India Box Office Report: October 2024' released by Ormax Media said the strong opening performances of *Singham Again* and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* in November, along with the upcoming release of *Pushpa 2: The Rule* in December, could help the industry surpass the 2023 box office collections or at least come close to matching them.

The top three movies in October 2024 were Tamil



and Telugu films, followed by a Hollywood movie, *Venom: The Last Dance*. *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*, starring Rajkumar Rao, secured the fifth position.

In October, Tamil films came to the rescue of lacklustre box office collections as Sivakarthikeyan-led *Amaran* and *Vettaiyan* saved the day for the industry as films released in October grossed

Rs 994 crore in the domestic box office, the report said.

Tamil cinema was the highest contributor, with almost 50 per cent of the month's collections coming from Tamil films, including

their dubbed versions.

Amaran became the highest-grossing movie in October 2024, with a gross domestic box office collection of Rs 269 crore across all language versions, and also entered the list of the top 10 releases for this year. *Vettaiyan* grossed Rs 173 crore in October.

The report said for the January-October period in 2024, Hindi-language films accounted for 34 per cent of gross domestic box office collections, down from 41 per cent in the same period last year. This year saw cinema exhibitors introduce several initiatives to boost audience footfall, such as re-releasing movies and offering attractive prices on food and beverages, it highlighted.

Goods traffic doubles on the new railway freight corridors

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

The volume of goods movement on the new dedicated freight corridors (DFCs) of Indian Railways has doubled in the current financial year compared to 2023-24 marking a quantum leap in the country's logistics landscape.

According to data compiled by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL), the net tonne kilometres (NTKMs) - a measure of freight volume - surged to 62,282 million between April and October 2024, increasing by a robust 292.4 million NTKMs per day from 32,164 million NTKMs or 151 million

NTKMs per day during the same period in 2023.

The operationalisation of an additional 522 kilometres of the DFC network in 2023-24, has been a key driver of this growth.

A senior DFCCIL official said that another 20 per cent jump in freight traffic was expected after the remaining 102 km stretch on the western DFC is completed by the end of 2025.

The traffic earnings for 2024-25 are also expected to shoot past previous records by a huge margin, he added.

The official said that there's a steady shift of freight traffic from the traditional railway routes to DFC.

₹27,000 crore Assam semiconductor plant to be game-changer in India's chip ecosystem

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

The development of a semiconductor unit in Morigaon, Assam, spearheaded by Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd (TSAT) with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore is headed for completion in mid-2025, will be a game-changer for India's semiconductor ecosystem, the Ministry of Electronics & IT said on Sunday.

The Morigaon facility is expected to produce up to 48 million semiconductor chips per day, employing advanced packaging technologies like flip chip and Integrated System in Package (ISIP).

Designed to cater to essential sectors such as automotive, electric vehicles, telecommunications, and consumer electronics, the project is set to become one of the country's premier manufacturing sites. It aligns with the nation's broader goal of establishing a self-sufficient semiconductor ecosystem.

The Morigaon unit goes beyond technological development, it brings significant socio-economic benefits by



generating 15,000 direct and 11,000-13,000 indirect jobs, contributing to regional economic growth in Assam and nearby areas.

As a high-capacity production site, the facility's daily output will serve both domestic and international markets, positioning India as a competitive force in the global semiconductor supply chain, the statement said.

Industry estimates place the Indian semiconductor market at approximately \$38 billion in 2023, with projections indicating growth to \$109 billion by 2030. To support this rapid expansion and reduce reliance on imports, the Indian government has implemented several

initiatives aimed at promoting domestic semiconductor manufacturing.

The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) aims to build a sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem that will position India as a leader in electronics manufacturing and design.

Guided by international semiconductor experts, ISM coordinates efforts across government ministries, industry, and academic institutions to ensure efficient deployment of resources and support.

Launched in 2021 with a financial outlay of Rs 76,000 crore, the Semicon India program is structured to promote the domestic semiconductor industry through incentives

and strategic partnerships. This initiative supports various sectors of the semiconductor industry, extending beyond just fabrication facilities (fabs) to include packaging, display wires, Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing (OSATs), sensors, and other critical components, creating a comprehensive ecosystem.

Under the program, four schemes have been introduced namely the Modified Scheme for setting up Semiconductor Fabs in India, the Modified Scheme for setting up Display Fabs in India, the Modified Scheme for setting up Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/Sensors Fab/Discrete Semiconductors Fab and Semiconductor ATP/OSAT facilities in India, and Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.

The Morigaon semiconductor facility is part of a wider network of government-backed projects aimed at bolstering India's semiconductor production capabilities.

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of multiple semiconductor units across the nation, including new facilities by Tata

Electronics in Dholera, Gujarat, and CG Power in Sanand, Gujarat.

Additionally, Kaynes Semiconductor Pvt Ltd was approved to set up a unit in Sanand as well. This expansion signifies India's commitment to reducing reliance on semiconductor imports and fortifying its position in the global semiconductor value chain.

The government has also focused on modernizing the Semi-Conductor Laboratory in Mohali and implementing the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPACES) and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large-Scale Electronics. These efforts ensure support for every segment of semiconductor production, fostering an ecosystem that encompasses chip design, fabrication, testing, and assembly.

As the demand for semiconductors surges worldwide, India's burgeoning semiconductor infrastructure is set to drive innovation, create jobs, and secure the country's position as a significant player in the global digital economy, the statement added.

Price of tomato declining: Centre

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 17 NOVEMBER

The Centre on Sunday claimed that the retail prices of tomatoes are on the decline with the fall in mandi prices.

The all-India average retail prices as on 14th November 2024 was Rs.52.35 per kg, which is 22.4% lower than Rs.67.50 per kg on 14th October 2024. During the same period, the modal prices at Azadpur mandi declined by almost 50%, from Rs.5,883 per quintal to Rs.2,969 per quintal with the increase in tomato arrivals. Similar declines in mandi prices are reported from benchmark markets such as Pimpalgaon, Madanapalle and Kolar.

The total annual production of tomatoes, as per the third advance estimate of the Department of Agriculture, is 213.20 lakh tonnes in 2023-24; a 4% increase over 204.25 lakh tonnes in 2022-23. Even though tomatoes are produced throughout the year, there is seasonality in the producing areas and the quantum of production.

Adverse weather conditions and slight logistics disruptions have a significant impact on prices due to the high susceptibility of tomato



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crops and the high perishability of the fruit. The surge in tomato prices during October 2024 was on account of excessive and prolonged rains in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

The general seasonality in tomato production across various regions of India showed that October and November are the main sowing periods in major producing states. Continuous availability of tomatoes in the market, however, is ensured because of the short duration for cultivation of

the crop and multiple picking of the fruits.

Even though the arrivals have subsided at major tomato centres in Madanapalle and Kolar, prices have come down on account of seasonal arrivals from pockets in states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat that have been filling the gaps in supply across the nation. As of date, the weather has also been favourable for the crop and also for maintaining a good flow across the supply chain from the fields to the consumers.



CNFF-24: A meaningful initiative to encourage responsible film making

NAVA THAKURIA

It was a film festival with differences that underlined various intriguing contents covering the loneliness in older people, human affection, youth aspiration, environmental protection, and the buoyant flavour of patriotism. A unique visual feast of film buffs came alive with the 8th Chalachitram National Film Festival—2024, held at the prehistoric city of Guwahati in the far eastern part of India. Organised by Chalachitram, a film society under the mentorship of Bharatiya Chitra Sadhna and Vishwa Samvad Kendra Assam, keeping an eye on fostering nationalism through film works and paying homage to thousands of years of Indian civilization, culture, and heritage, the two-day festival showcased 50 documentary and short feature films in both the competition and only screening categories. The curtain came down for the annual film fest on 27 October at the Jyoti Chitran premises after honouring Jaswandha as the best movie in the rest of India category and A Sylvan Saga in the north-eastern club.

Directed by Shoneel Yallattikar and produced by Noopur Lidbide, Nishad Kulkarni and Shoneel, Jaswandha revolves around the story of an aged couple living in an urbanised location with melancholy but hoping for some refreshing experience with the arrival of the monsoon. Brilliantly cast by veteran actors Neena Kulkarni and Mohan Joshi, the short feature impressed both the audience and jury members. On the other hand, A Sylvan Saga narrates the struggling tale of a baby single-horn rhinoceros, which was rescued from a tea garden near Kaziranga National Park and raised for translocation to Manas National Park for her future productive life. Produced and directed by Jyoti Prasad Das, the docu-feature inherently narrates the success story for the protection of rhinos and other wildlife in Assam. An artist and filmmaker by profession, JP Das also received the best director's award.

The best screenplay award went to Abhijit Nayak for Wrong Number, which



is directed by Bijit Borgohain. The discerning short film narrates the story of a widower who was tempted to explore an unknown child telephone caller but ended up returning to his solitary life again with a new realisation. The best cinematography awards jointly went to Angsuman Barua and Pradip Ch Sharma for Aadi Shakti Maa Kamakhya (directed by PC Sarma; the documentary throws light on the history and legends of Shaktipeeth Kamakhya atop Nilachal hills overlooking the majestic Brahmaputra river) and Chida Bora and Sarpil Nandan Deka for Teens Of 1942 (directed by Samiran Deka; the documentary reveres the supreme sacrifice of known and unknown martyrs of India's freedom movement against the British colonial rule).

Bhaskar Jyoti Bhuyan was awarded for the best editing in Birubala: The

Fearless Crusader, which is directed by Dhiraj Kashyap. The short film portrays the relentless struggles initiated by social activist Birubala Rabha to erase the social stigma relating to witch hunting in Assam. The jury's special mention went to Devajani Halder, who directed A Letter To My Home, which deals with homelessness, mental health, and persisting socio-cultural hegemony in the society with persuasions for necessary reforms.

The awardees (selected by the five-member jury comprising Dr Pavitra Shrivastava, Dr Santosh Pathare, Sanskar Desai, Jadumani Dutta, and Oinam Gautam) were honoured with cash prizes, trophies and certificates during the closing ceremony. Assam's evergreen cinepersonality, Mridula Barua, lit the sacred lamp in front of Bharat Mata's portrait, where the chief guest, Atul Gangowar, made a clarion call to the filmmakers to propagate the message of unity through their film works. He argued that the movies should not split (but unite) and the film endeavour should not end up in earning money alone. Tashi Wangshu MJ directed The Butcher, which conveys the message of ensuring compassionate treatment to all creatures on the planet by the human beings, and it was screened as the closing film.

Initially launched as the Guwahati Film Festival in 2017 and renamed in 2019 with the central theme 'Our Heritage Our Pride,' the distinctive festivity encompasses various issues like social awareness, family systems, women, the environment, land and people, tourism, arts, handicrafts and textiles, manuscripts and manuscript paintings, painting and woodcarving,



music and musicians, cultural festivals, sports, monuments and heritage sites, social reformers and pioneers, culture and values, tea and oil industries, etc. Dedicated for the committed moviegoers, the event attracted a large number of young and aspiring filmmakers, who enjoyed the entries and also brainstormed on the film crafts inside the campus, which was established in fond memory of the legendary Assamese cultural personality Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwala.

The Last Generation, directed by Prabal Khaund and produced by Gopal Jalan and Dhrubojyoti Kakati, was screened as the inaugural film of CNFF-24, which portrays the women of the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh wearing the Yappin Hullo and Tipe. Once a mandatory tradition for Apatani women, women now fade with the change of time as the modern world started reacting absurdly to those ladies with unusual noses, reflecting the painful practice and also pertaining to their cultural heritage. The north-eastern competition category also included Prayojan (directed by Krishna Das), The Butcher (by Tashi Wangshu MJ), Journey With A Dance Form (by Pranjal Pratim Chetia), Heaven On The Earth (by Prasanta Kalita), Rising Sunbirds (by Sudeshna Gupta), The Caretaker (by Biswajit Das), and Missing Cuisine (by Pranjal Pratim Chetia). Being Bald (where director Krishna Das presents a bold lady, who faced a turmoil with physical ailments subsequently losing most of her hairs due to medicinal side effects, but soon came out with a new look that of a bald woman), Tuhin Kanya Bora directed Bichitra (documenting a real life photographer, who covered the historic Assam agitation in Koliabar locality and remains mostly unrecognised like many other professional colleagues),

Destination (narrating the saga of a daughter belonging to a successful businessman-doctor couple, director Dipak Kumar Roy painted a picture of melancholy for the girl who deserted her home after failing in the crucial examination), Garishali (by Ashomi Sarma) and Ekaki (by Rupam Jyoti Malakar) were screened in the non-competition category.

The competition category from outside the region also added My National Flag (by Sweta Kumar Dash), Shashwatam (by Monakh N Kanirkar), Nimbu Mirchi (by Atul Subhashrao Camble), Tiny World (by Shashidhar Kote), Sundarban (by Arindam Konar and Shyam Sundar Paul), Bhookh (by Saaikat Bagbaan), Yes Sir (by Mohit Singhal), Multi (by Mrunal Mestri), The Waiting (by Lalit Kr Jha and Sumit Kohli), Minus (by Aritra Das), Uma (by Abanti Sinha), The Village Of Masks (by Ritabrita Mitra), Promise (by Ravikant Narayan), Rainbow Classroom (by Madhurja Alankaar), Bin Boy (by Baudhdhayan Mukherji), and The Last Talk (by Ashish Thakur).

The non-competition category comprised the following: Gods of Clay—Matir Thakur (by Amit Bhattacharjee), Reserve Women Right (by Bijoy Kumar Dogra), Rah Me Unse (by Harsh Panchalwar), Sagavaram (by Dinesh Balasri), Dennis And His Kambala Buffaloes (by Praveenk Shetty and Nitesh Anchan), Little Explorer (by Sapru VV), Air Pollution (by Umesh Y Gaurav), Black Hole (by Pradyumna), I Am Not Down (by Jyoti Madnani), Khera—The Lakshmi of Chilika (by Sudeshna Gupta), Windmere Ki Ramleela (by Siddharth Rawal), Status (by Madhan R Karthick), Proof Of The Soul (by Gulshan Singh) and Manvi (by Indrani Ghosh).

The festival was inaugurated by Cotton University vice-chancellor Ramesh Ch Deka in the presence of

national award-winning Assamese singer Tarali Sarma, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's northeastern media coordinator Sunil Mohanty, and a host of other dignitaries. Professor Deka, in his speech, emphasised representing various characters in a movie with the right perspectives. Releasing the booklet, published on the occasion and edited by Meenakshi Deka, popular music composer Ms Sarma lauded the organisers of the film fest for their mission to pay homage to thousands of years of Indian civilisation, culture, and heritage. Addressing the smart gathering, Dr Mohanty pointed out that the cinema must not be a mere device of entertainment, but the film works should be a catalyst for social changes for the benefit of everyone in the society. He opined that any creative work should not evade the family values, human potential, social harmony, civic senses, or a dignified way of resenting women and the environment encompassing Mother Earth.

On behalf of the organising committee, Kishor Shivam, along with Pramod Kalita, Utpal Datta, Bhagwat Pritam, Indrani Laskar, Amarjyoti Deka, Babita Sarma, Riju Dutta, Hiten Thakuria, Buddha Bharat, etc., expressed gratitude to the audience for a remarkable response to the initiative. It's hoped that the exercise would encourage the budding filmmakers to promote more film works as a powerful tool for the social empowerment of those underprivileged and create a sense of patriotism rather than exploiting them as a source of glossy entertainment. The powerful medium should also make the audience aware of the rich cultural heritage of Bharat and the pride out of the great nation's legacy that evolved after thousands of years.

The writer is a Guwahati-based special representative of The Statesman

Sanamahi, the supreme God of Meiteis and other indigenous tribes

YENGKHOH RONALD

The story of Sanamahi in Meitei lore parallels the themes of creation seen in scientific theories, such as the Big Bang (Thille Pokaiba), that describe the origin of the universe. Sanamahi is revered as the divine force behind all creation, responsible for bringing every living creature into existence. Sanamahi's role as the creator and sustainer of life embodies a profound reverence for the interconnectedness of all beings and the natural world. In the indigenous belief system of Sanamahism, central to the Meitei people of Manipur, Sanamahi is indeed regarded as the focal point (Asuppa) of the universe's creation. In Sanamahism, the focal point of the universe, Sanamahi, is not only the central source of creation but also embodies light in its purest and most divine form, known as 'Yel-houmei.'

The concept of a small unknown creation in liquid form, when there was no cloud or air, reflects the primordial state of the universe in Sanamahism. This idea is linked to the very beginning of creation when the universe was still in its earliest, unformed state before the introduction of elements like air, water, or even light. This unknown creation can be seen as a representation of the chaotic, formless potential from which all things would eventually emerge, guided by the will of Sanamahi. He embodies the ultimate source of life, energy, and order, and is seen as both the creator and sustainer of the

cosmos. Sanamahi is believed to have emerged from the divine essence, the eternal, formless, and infinite being who existed before time and space. This act of creation signifies that Sanamahi is not only a god but the essence through which the universe itself is formed. The concept of a central focal point is essential to the structure and direction of the universe.

Sanamahi, as the primordial and supreme God, is believed to provide this central point, giving direction, balance, and order to existence. Without this focal point, the universe would lack structure, coherence, and purpose. The process of creation begins from a central, divine focal point, Sanamahi. From this point, the energy that forms the universe starts to coalesce, pulling together and gathering matter, life, and spirit. This gathering is imagined as a powerful, resonant act, where the energy of creation doesn't just flow outward silently but instead emerges with a sound (ung), a cosmic resonance or vibration. This sound is often symbolic in mythologies around the world, representing the force, intention, and rhythm behind creation. The sound of creation, as envisioned in Sanamahism, is likened to the subtle, resonant hum we experience when we cover our ears with our hands.

Sanamahi is often referred to as the "Asuppa Laie Ningthou", a title that highlights his supreme and central role in the creation and maintenance of the universe. Sanamahi holds the supreme authority to shape not only the core of the universe but also its direction and corners (Maikei and

Sungtai), essentially defining its structure, balance, and movement. Thille Ungleire is believed to be the centre or focal point of the entire universe. Sanamahism describes the creation of the universe as emerging from a primordial state of formlessness, where the universe began from a single divine point, Thille Ungleire. The scripts in Sanamahism hold the divine truth about the creation of the universe. These ancient texts not only tell the story of the origin of the universe but also emphasise that Sanamahi's will shaped both the material and spiritual aspects of creation. These texts describe the formation of space, the emergence of light, the creation of elements, and the coming together of life—all from the divine Center of Thille Ungleire.

Atingkok Guru Sidaba and Sidabi are considered the first creators of Sanamahism. The first god created everything; Sanamahi himself is the ultimate creator who formed Atingkok Guru Sidaba and Sidabi. This makes Sanamahi a god who exists beyond the very first beings and the divine origin of the cosmos. Sanamahi, after the creation of the universe and the world, created these two divine beings, Atingkok Guru Sidaba and Sidabi. This signifies that Sanamahi is the supreme God, existing before even the first creators. His role in creation is portrayed as pre-existent, meaning he was there from the beginning and beyond all creation. After creating the universe, Sanamahi instructs

Atingkok Guru Sidaba and Sidabi to become his devotees, revealing his divine presence in a pot and avatar as their son. The pot symbolises the vessel of Sanamahi's essence, and his instruction for them to come and pray indicates that divine connection and devotion are central to understanding and accessing the higher realms of existence. The higher will of Sanamahi underscores the belief that Sanamahi is the greatest and most powerful God in the universe.

Atingkok Guru Sidaba and Sidabi, the first creators, instructed Sanamahi and Pakhangba to take seven rounds around the world to prove their worthiness to become the king of the world, or Kanglei (Dry Land). The seven rounds are symbolic of a journey of completion, power, and divine maturation. Sanamahi, as the supreme God, follows the command and completes the journey of seven rounds. Pakhangba's inability to complete the seven rounds leads to the intervention of his mother, who tells him to take the round of your father instead. This

suggests that Pakhangba's role is different from that of Sanamahi. When Sanamahi returns after completing the seven rounds and finds Pakhangba already seated, he becomes angry. Sanamahi is the supreme God, and the idea of another taking the throne or a different path in the creation might have shaken his sense of order. In response to this perceived injustice, Sanamahi begins to destroy the world. This act symbolises his power over creation, and the divine disturbance he causes can be interpreted as a reaction to the imbalance he feels. It is said that the world was once a single piece, but after this destruction, it became diverse and fragmented, representing the diversity of existence that we see today. This transformation may reflect how divine conflict or imbalance can cause cosmic changes, shifting unity into multiplicity. The mother's explanation brings balance and harmony back to the cosmic order. Pakhangba is granted kingship over the world/Kanglei, signifying his role as the ruler of Kanglei, the earth, or the physical realm. Sanamahi is assigned kingship over households, meaning that his divine presence is intimately connected to every living being and every family. This portrays the idea that while Pakhangba governs the larger world, Sanamahi governs the smaller, personal realms—the

individual homes, hearts, and souls of beings in the world. Sanamahism is a spiritual belief system and philosophy that is based on a deep connection to the land, the divine, and ancestral traditions. The idea is that Sanamahism can be followed by anyone, with no boundaries, speaking to the universal aspects of its teachings and the openness of its spiritual worldview and respect to nature. Sanamahism is a belief system that teaches profound truths about the creation of the universe, the nature of the divine, the purpose of life, and symbiotic relations of all living beings in the cosmos. Sanamahi, as the Supreme God, is the ultimate creator and protector of all life and existence. Followers of Sanamahism are taught to embrace these truths and live in harmony with the divine order, which brings blessings and spiritual fulfilment.

The writer is an independent contributor





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IF INDIA ARE TO WIN BGT SERIES, IT HAS TO BE...

Ahead of the prestigious Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) against Australia, former cricketer Michael Clarke said that talisman India batter Virat Kohli has to be the leading run-scorer and help his side win the series. Virat has endured an indifferent run across all formats over the last few months, with the 36-year-old managing just one half-century and averaging only 21.33 across five Test matches against Bangladesh and New Zealand since the start of the year. Since 2020, Virat has faced an elongated lean patch in the whites, scoring 1,838 runs from 34 Tests at an average of 31.68, comprising just two centuries and nine fifties.

THUMBNAILS

Rory McIlroy seals double victory at DP World Tour finale: Rory McIlroy finished the season in style by winning the 2024 DP World Tour Championship



onship which saw him clinch the coveted Race to Dubai championship for the sixth time. After a third-place finish at last week's Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, only South Africa's Thriston Lawrence could deny McIlroy from claiming his sixth Race to Dubai Rankings of his career. "It means a lot. I've been through a lot this year, professionally, personally and it feels like a fitting end to 2024. I've persevered a lot this year, had close calls and couldn't get it done. So to be able to get over the line, I'm really pleased with the way I finished and thankfully I hung on on a tough day and got it done.

Hitaashee takes third title of the season, wins 14th leg of WPCT: Hitaashee Bakshi did not face any problems on the way to picking her third title of the season as she won the 14th leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour by four shots. The 20-year-old Hitaashee joined Vidhatri Urs as the only other player to win three titles this year. Hitaashee, who had cards of 67-70-71, totalled eight-under 208 at the Vooty Golf Club.

Women's Asian Champions Trophy: India beat Japan 3-0

Deepika powers the ball over the keeper and into the goal, making it 3-0 in India's favour

AGENCIES
RAJGIR, 17 NOVEMBER

The Indian women's hockey team defeated Japan 3-0 in their last group stage match of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 here at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium on Sunday. The defending champions have finished on top of the table without dropping a single point and confirmed their rematch with Japan, who finished fourth on the table, in the semi-final on November 19.

Japan showcased exemplary defence in the first half of the game but second half goals from Navneet Kaur (37') and Deepika (47', 48') sealed India's victory.

India began the game with a slow, patient buildup, pushing Japan back. They dominated possession in Japan's half but struggled to create significant chances until Deepika drew a foul in the circle, earning a penalty corner with six minutes left in the first quarter. Despite her powerful low flick, Japanese keeper Yu Kudo made a strong save. As the quarter came to a close, India showed a sense of urgency; Manisha and Neha combined to secure another penalty corner, but



they failed to capitalise, and the first quarter ended goal-less.

Japan started the second quarter with more ball control, probing India's shooting circle but unable to find a way through their defense. Both teams traded circle

entries, but no clear goalscoring opportunities emerged until India earned a penalty corner five minutes before the halftime whistle.

The Japanese defense, however, scrambled to make several close-range saves. As the half drew to a close, Japan

took the initiative and pushed India back into their shooting circle, but the Indian defence held firm, keeping the scoreline at 0-0.

India began the third quarter on the front foot. Lalrem-siami drove through the center and passed to Salima

Tete, who quickly relayed it to Deepika. However, her tame shot was easily cleared away. Despite India's dominance, Japan remained unfazed until Navneet Kaur took matters into her own hands with eight minutes left in the quarter. She picked up the ball at the top of the shooting circle and unleashed a reverse shot while dashing towards the left corner, catching Japanese keeper Yu Kudo off guard and breaking the deadlock.

Japan then stepped out of their defensive setup in search of an equaliser, making the game more end-to-end. However, neither team managed to create a clear goalscoring chance, and India ended the third quarter leading 1-0. The last quarter kicked off with a penalty corner for India. On the third retake, Deepika unleashed a powerful low flick towards the right post, doubling India's lead. India pressed their advantage and earned another penalty corner in the very next minute. This time, Deepika powered in the ball over the keeper and into the goal, making it 3-0 in India's favour. From there, India took complete control of the match, ensuring they ended the group stage with yet another victory.

Odisha wins 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2024

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 17 NOVEMBER

The Hockey Association of Odisha on Saturday emerged victorious over Hockey Haryana to claim the 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship title at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai.

Meanwhile, in the clash for Third Place, Uttar Pradesh Hockey defeated Manipur Hockey, rounding off an intense final day of competition.

In a thrilling final, the Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Hockey Haryana, 5-1. Rajat Akash Tirkey (11') seized an early opportunity to give Hockey Association of Odisha the lead, scoring from close range after a clever move from Sudeep Chirmako inside the box.

Pratap Lakra (39) then doubled the lead in the third quarter, converting a Penalty Stroke.

In the fourth quarter, Shilanan Lakra (48', 57', 60') scored three goals in the span of 12 minutes to ensure victory for the Hockey Association of Odisha. Meanwhile, Joginder Singh (55') scored a consolatory goal for Hockey Haryana in the final minutes of the game.

In the clash for Third place, Uttar Pradesh Hockey defeated Manipur Hockey, 2-1. Uttar Pradesh Hockey's Captain, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (6') broke the deadlock in the first



quarter. A precise long ball from Rajkumar Pal found Iktidar Ishrat who squared it to Lalit Kumar Upadhyay for a quick tap in.

Deep in the third quarter, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh (43') found the equaliser for Manipur Hockey as a result of a Penalty Corner. In the final quarter, Uttar Pradesh Hockey, reclaimed the lead when Rajkumar Pal (54') burst through the right flank with silky stickwork and found the back of the net to secure the victory for Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier in the semifinal, Hockey Haryana and the Hockey Association of Odisha secured victories in their respective matches in the tournament. With these wins on Friday, both teams booked their places in the Final. Meanwhile, the losing teams, Uttar Pradesh Hockey and Manipur Hockey, took part in third place.

Sinner dispatches Ruud to reach ATP Finals title match



AGENCIES
TURIN, 17 NOVEMBER

Jannik Sinner moved to within one win of capping his standout season in style when he dispatched Casper Ruud 6-1, 6-2 to reach the title match at the ATP Finals for the second consecutive year.

With the 69th win of his historic season, the 23-year-old became the youngest player since 20-year-old Lleyton Hewitt in 2002 to reach multiple title matches at the prestigious year-end event.

Standing between Sinner and an eighth tour-level title in 2024 is American Taylor Fritz. Sinner, who has won 25 of his past 26 matches, beat

With the 69th win of his historic season, the 23-year-old became the youngest player since 20-year-old Lleyton Hewitt in 2002 to reach multiple title matches at the prestigious year-end event

Fritz in straight sets in the round-robin stage and is trying to become an undefeated champion at the event. The top seed is also the first player to reach the final without dropping a set since record seven-time champ Novak Djokovic in 2018, ATP reports.

A year ago, Sinner beat

Djokovic in the round-robin stage but lost to the Serbian in the final in Turin. Since then, he was won majors at the Australian Open and US Open and become the first Italian in history to rise to No. 1 in the PIF ATP Rankings.

Sinner will hope to close out his iconic individual season on Sunday against Fritz in the title match before he ends the year at the Davis Cup Finals in Malaga next week.

Ruud was competing in the semi-finals for the third time in Turin, having lost in the final to Djokovic in 2022. The 25-year-old ends the season at No. 6 in the PIF ATP Rankings, highlighted by his maiden ATP 500 title in Barcelona.

Aaqib Javed likely to become Pak's new white-ball head coach

AGENCIES
LAHORE, 17 NOVEMBER

Former pacer Aaqib Javed is in line to become Pakistan's new white-ball head coach ahead of the Zimbabwe tour, scheduled to begin on November 24.

As per a Geo News report, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is reportedly considering him for the role in the upcoming matches against Zimbabwe and beyond. The final decision is expected to be announced soon.

This development follows Gary Kirsten's resignation as



head coach ahead of the ongoing tour of Australia, leaving a significant void in the team's coaching structure.

In Kirsten's absence, red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie

doubled in as the interim coach for the limited-overs matches in Australia.

Meanwhile, Javed, currently a member of the PCB's selection committee, has emerged as the leading candidate for the head coach role. His extensive coaching experience, which includes successful stints with domestic teams and in franchise cricket, as well as his deep understanding of Pakistan's cricketing framework, make him a strong contender for the position as the team faces a demanding international schedule.

Smith reveals plans for facing Ashwin during upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, 17 NOVEMBER

Australian batter Steve Smith opened up on his battles with Indian ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin over the years and revealed how he would face him during the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India at home.

With the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final chances of both sides at stake, both teams will be starting with the first Test at Perth from November 22 onwards. For Australia, it would be important that their most premier batter Smith is in his best form and his battles with spinner Ashwin would surely be interesting. With Ashwin and Smith both having suffered form dips as of late, the imminent clash between both becomes even more interesting.

Speaking on Sydney Morning Herald, Smith said that he and Ashwin have had great battles over the years. "When you have five matches, if someone gets on top of another player, they could have 10 innings against them.

So you are facing those mental challenges each game, and if it goes one way early, they will feel under pressure against that player. There is



nowhere to hide in five games like there are in a two-game series. Ashwin and I have had some good battles over the years," he said.

Smith has a career average of 54.2 against Ashwin, being dismissed by him eight times. During the last BGT in India, he could score only 22 runs off him and was dismissed twice.

In Australia, where Ashwin has a mediocre average of around 42 as compared to his excellent average of around 21 at home, Smith thrives against Ashwin, averaging 80.3 despite being dismissed thrice and scoring just 64 runs against him in the 2020-21 BGT series at home. During the 2017 series in India, Smith scored 132 off 215 balls against Ashwin and only gave him his wicket twice.

Reminiscing on his dismissals in the 2020-21 series,

Smith said that he would now be looking to be proactive against Ashwin and not let him settle.

"Ashwin nicked me off in the first innings in Adelaide and then got me at leg slip at the MCG on a tacky wicket. I do not like getting out to off-spin in Australia. I feel as though it should be, particularly for a right-handed batter, relatively easy to face. But he is also a very good bowler and he came in with some decent plans," said Smith.

"There were a couple of occasions where he got on top of me, then I got on top of him at the SCG when I was a bit more proactive [Smith made 131 and 81]. So that is key for me. Just be proactive against him and not let him settle and bowl the way he wants to," he added.

Tijil takes LGB Formula 4 overall title; Navaneeth seals Continental Cup at National Racing Championship finale

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
COIMBATORE, 17 NOVEMBER

Twenty-two-year-old Bengaluru boy Tijil Rao from Dark Don racing capped a brilliant run to his entire season as he sealed the drivers' championship in the LGB Formula 4 category in the 27th edition of the JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship. On a sunny Sunday at the Kari Motor Speedway, Tijil was all smiles as he had opened a massive lead even before the last round was held on the outskirts of Coimbatore. Even though seasoned racer Saran Vikram surprised one and all by winning the first and second races on Sunday, Tijil did not mind it.

He had realised there was no point in attempting anything too hard as he was assured of the overall trophy.

"This has been a brilliant season for me and I am happy with the way it went about. I wish to thank my team and also JK Tyre for putting up such a great show," said Tijil. As runner-up in the 2023 season, Tijil had gone back home and worked hard and to a plan. "The main thing was working on my fitness and it has made a huge difference. But then, I am very happy with my overall season performance, after putting in seven years in racing," added Tijil. His parents were to cheer him as well. Indeed, the surprise of the morning was seasoned professional Saran Vikram (Momentum Motorsports) as he pushed pedal to metal and stayed ahead.



For someone who has been racing for over 19 years in the domestic season, the burst of energy on Sunday was pleasing to watch. At one point of time in the first race, he was being tailed by Mehul Agarwal and Tijil Rao. But then, Tijil did not attempt to do anything too much and ease ahead. Saran timed 21:24.212 minutes. Mehul Agarwal (21: 25.349) and Tijil Rao (21:25.545) were behind him. "It feels like ages since I last won a race. I am

personally happy for myself and my father, who is also my tuner," said Saran Vikram. Speaking about the JK Tyres championship, Saran said this was a great platform and he is happy to see youngsters coming up. He also said there are more opportunities.

Saran was back at the wheels in the afternoon as he rode on the momentum again to win the last LGB Formula 4 race as well. He was streets ahead of the field as he timed 28:12.441. The difference in timing from the morning to afternoon was due to an increase in laps from 15 to 20 in the last race. In second position was Dhruv Goswami (28:15.943) and Bala Prasath (28:17.392). In the overall LGB Formula 4 standings, Tijil Rao

topped with 87 points. Second place went to Bala Prasath 45 points, while Mehul Agarwal was third with 44 points. For Saran Vikram to finish overall fourth with 43 points, courtesy two top finishes on Sunday was a treat for fans to watch. In the highly thrilling Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup presented by JK Tyre race on Sunday, Navaneeth Kumar from Pondicherry pushed as hard as he could to win the 10-lap race in 13:01.601 minutes.

He was followed by Anish Shetty (13:02.411) and Manvith Reddy (13:02.503). Navaneeth sealed the championship for the first time and was over the moon. "I think the main difference has been working on my fitness. That has made the biggest difference," he

said. Asked if he could have pushed harder, he said yes. "I am happy to win the race and the championship," said Navaneeth.

There was an interesting duel for the second and third places in the overall championship placings. Both Anish Shetty and Rohan R were tied at 36 points each. However, as Rohan had won two races in comparison to one by Anish, he was declared overall second.

Race Results:
JK LGB Formula 4: Race 2 (15 laps) Saran Vikram Mars (Momentum Motorsports): 21:24.312 Mehul Agarwal (Dark Don Racing): 21:25.349 Tijil Rao (Dark Don Racing): 21:25.545 JK LGB Formula 4: Race 3 (20 laps) Saran Vikram Mars (Momentum Motorsports): 28:12.441 Dhruv Goswami (MSPORT): 28:15.943 Bala Prasath (Dark Don Racing): 28:17.392 Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup presented by JK Tyre (Race 3): 10 laps Professionals: Navaneeth Kumar S (Pondicherry) - 13:01.601 Anish Shetty (Bengaluru) - 13:02.411 Manvith Reddy K (Bengaluru) - 13:02.503 Amateurs Yogesh P (Bengaluru) - 13:24.465 Johring Warisa (Umrangso) - 12:37.658 Johnson Saldanha (Mangalore) - 13:42.437.

