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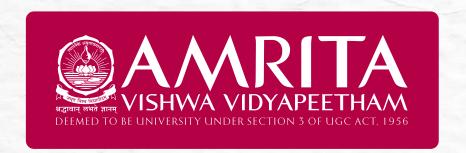
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U.P. invokes ESMA, imposes ban on protests

The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday invoked the **Essential Services Maintenance** Act (ESMA), banning strikes by government employees in all State-run offices. » Page 9

Businessman shot dead in national capital

NEW DELHI

A 52-year-old businessman was shot dead by two bike-borne men in east Delhi's Shahdara on Saturday morning, the police said. » Page 2

MAGAZINE >> 8 PAGES **CLASSIFIEDS** » PAGE 7

Special SC Bench will hear Places of Worship Act case

It will look into pleas seeking to 'reclaim' places of worship 'encroached' by Muslim 'invaders'; first hearing fixed on Dec. 12; 'grievances' against Mughal rulers not a valid ground, say Muslim groups

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

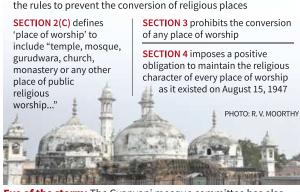
hief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has constituted a Special Bench to hear petitions challenging the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991, a statute that has protected the identity and character of religious sites as they existed on August 15, 1947.

The three-judge Bench will be headed by Chief Justice Khanna, and also include Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan. The first hearing of the case is scheduled for 3.30 p.m. on December 12.

The listing of the case before the newly formed Special Bench was shown in the causelist published

Act's ambit

The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 lays down



Eye of the storm: The Gyanvapi mosque committee has also sought to intervene in the challenge against the 1991 Act.

by the court on Saturday.

The case involves a slew of petitions challenging the legality of the 1991 Act. The petitioners, including advocate Ashwini Kumar

Upadhyay, blame the 1991 law for barring Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs from approaching courts to "re-claim" their places of worship which were allegedly "invaded" and "encroached" upon by "fundamentalist barbaric invaders".

Muslim organisations such as the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, however, have countered it. They say that these pleas, in the guise of public interest petitions, cannot challenge a Central law which has guarded the spirit of fraternity and secularism, virtues from the Preamble of the Constitution, as well as parts of the "Basic Structure" of the Constitution, through protection of the religious character of religious places.

CONTINUED ON

Militants 'near' Damascus; Syria denies troop retreat

Agence France-Presse BEIRUT

Islamist militants on a lightning advance through Syria said on Saturday they have begun to encircle Damascus as government forces denied they had withdrawn from areas near the capital.

"Our forces have begun the final phase of encircling the capital, Damascus," said militant commander Hassan Abdel Ghani, with the Islamistled alliance that launched the offensive.

The Defence Ministry flatly denied the Army had fled its positions. "There is no truth to news claiming our armed forces, present in all areas of the Damascus countryside, withdrawn," it said.

Earlier, a war monitor and Abdel Ghani said rebels were within 20 km of Damascus as government



Gaining ground: Rebel fighters on a motorcycle in Homs, after Syrian rebels pressed their advance on Saturday. REUTERS

forces fell back in the face of the offensive gathering even more momentum.

The Syria Observatory for Human Rights said government forces had ceded more key ground, losing all of southern Daraa province and evacuating posts in Ouneitra, near Israel-annexed Golan Heights.

CONTINUED ON

India advises citizens to avoid travelling to Syria

NEW DELHI

As Islamist-led rebels continue to make advances in Svria. India has advised its citizens to avoid travelling to the Arab nation and urged those staying there to exercise "utmost precaution" and restrict their movements. » PAGE 10

'Healthy India, Happy India' campaign begins



The Hindu Bureau VELLORE

"Healthy India, Happy India", a joint initiative of The Hindu and Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, to build awareness on preventive healthcare, was inauguratture a series of 15 webinars on a variety of topics emphasising prevention and holistic health, to build awareness among people and start them on a journey of prioritising their health. These will be anchored by The Hindu's editorial team, with participation of experts from Naruvi Hospitals, and specialists.

The webinar series kicked off with an offline event at the hospital in Vellore, featuring experts, including pulmonary and respiratory medicine specialists, who weighed in on the twin burden of stress and sleep.

MORE REPORTS » PAGE 11

SP to quit MVA over post on Babri Masjid

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9



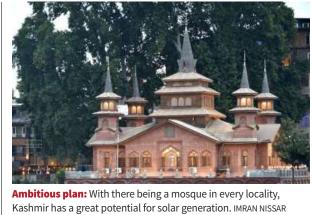
Kashmir mosques lend themselves to a solar storm

Uniquely multi-tiered, broad-sloped roofs of these places of worship in the Valley are an ideal fit for tapping the sun; J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo gives the nod to include religious places under the flagship PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Peerzada Ashiq

he uniquely multi-tiered and broad-sloped roofs of mosques in Kashmir are set to be part of an ambitious project to generate renewable energy in the Valley.

J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, at a meeting held in Srinagar recently, gave the nod to include religious places, especially mosques in Kashmir, under the flagship 'PM Surya Ghar (sun house)-Muft Bijli Yojana (free electricity scheme)' to boost the generation of



renewable energy sector electricity in a region that faces long power cuts throughout the year.

Reyaz Ameen Malik, an electrical engineer who gained expertise in the

in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, feels the initiative could be a game-changer. "It has huge potential, given that there are

surfaces in every locality in the Kashmir Valley. Religious sites have no load requirement at night, can easily become self-sufficient in the summers, and supply surplus electricity to the Power Department with an on-grid system. They can generate 3 KW (kilowatt) to 5 KW of electricity," he said. Mr. Malik said Gulbarg

mosques with wide roof

colony in uptown Srinagar, which has 10 mosques in its vicinity, is apt to understand the potential. "This one colony could easily generate 50 KW of

electricity," he said. Most mosques in Kashmir are registered as domestic consumers. Several vendors are petitioning caretakers of mosques to install rooftop solar panels. However, many of them

told The Hindu that mosque caretakers were reluctant due to the low subsidy. "Mosques are not income generating units. It needs additional handholding from the government to install solar panels," Ejaz Ahmad, a caretaker in Hawal, said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Abhinav Deshpande Saturday announced its Uddhav Thackeray's aide

The Samajwadi Party on

MUMBAI

decision to quit the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), citing a controversial post by





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India's National Newspaper

Worsening law and order to prove costly for BJP in poll: Atishi

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Atishi on Saturday met the family of an 18-year-old man who was stabbed to death by his neighbours in south-east Delhi's Govindpuri on Friday night. She said the "deteriorating law and order" would prove costly for the BIP in the upcoming Assembly election.

Sudheer, who worked at a scrap shop, died of stab wounds following a fight with his neighbours - Bhikam Singh, his wife Meena, and their three sons Sanjay, 20, Rahul, 18, and a minor boy – over a common toilet not being flushed.

All five have been apprehended.

"Criminals roam fearlessly and if law and order isn't restored, Delhiites will teach them [BJP] a lesson," the CM said after visiting AIIMS, where another member of the family injured in the attack is receiving treatment.

'This is the same area where an on-duty constable was shot dead just two weeks ago. And this morning, in Shahdara, a person on a morning walk was shot at. I want to know what the Central government is doing?" she said. Delhi Police is under the control of the Union Home Ministry.

'People living in terror' The Shahdara murder also drew a sharp response from Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal. "[Union Home Minister] Amit Shah ji has ruined Delhi. He has turned Delhi into a jungle raj. People are living in terror. The people of Delhi will have to unite and raise their voice," he said in a

post on X. When reached for comments, the BJP did not offer a response.

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Businessman shot dead in Shahdara while returning home from morning walk

Bike-borne assailants repeatedly fired at victim riding pillion on scooter; friend says businessman begged for life before being killed at traffic signal; questioning his friends, family members: police

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

52-year-old businessman was shot dead by two bikeborne men in east Delhi's Shahdara on Saturday morning, the police said.

The incident took place around 8.30 a.m. when Sunil Iain, a resident of Krishna Nagar, who owned a utensils business, was returning home riding pillion on a scooter from Farsh Bazar's Yamuna Sports Complex, where he had gone for a morning walk.

The scooter was being driven by his friend Sumit, 37. Two more friends of Jain were on another two-wheeler.



Sunil Jain, the victim, owned a utensils business.

The police said the assailants, wearing helmets, came on foot and opened fire at Jain when his scooter stopped at the Vishwas Nagar traffic signal. One of them shot Jain in the stomach while the other aimed at his head and pulled the trigger.

The assailants sped away on a motorcycle after the attack, the police said. Jain was rushed to a hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam said the murderers fired six rounds at the victim, four of which hit him.

'Did not have enmity'

"His friend (Sumit) said Jain had implored the assailants not to shoot him but it all happened in a matter of a few seconds," said the officer.

Mr. Gautam said family

Delhi election: Cong.'s

members said Jain did not have enmity with anyone nor had he received any threats. "But we are investigating the case from all angles," he said, adding that the footage of the CCTV cameras in the area is being scanned to identify the assailants.

According to the police, Sumit, who befriended Jain around six months ago, had a gambling case registered against him. "We are interrogating Jain's friends and family members," Mr. Gautam added.

The victim is survived by his wife and two married children. Jain's son Rishabh assisted him in his business, the officer said.

(With inputs from PTI)



rounds of the city to seek public inputs for BJP's manifesto. PTI

BJP gets new election office, starts 'Sankalp Patra' drive

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi unit of the BJP on Saturday inaugurated its office for the upcoming Assembly election and launched a campaign to collect feedback from voters to help draft the party's manifesto.

Senior party leaders, including Delhi BIP election in-charge Baijayant Panda, flagged off 14 vans, which will traverse through the city to collect suggestions that will be used to draft the party's manifesto or 'Sankalp Patra'.

Speaking at the event, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said despite making "grand promises", the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has "failed miserably on all fronts, including controlling pollution and improving basic infrastructure".

The BJP, which has been out of power in Delhi since 1998, is going all out to unseat the ruling AAP.

Man kills mother for objecting to marriage

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man, Sawan, was arrested from west Delhi's Khyala for killing his mother, Sulochona, after she refused to let him marry a woman of his choice and threatened to

disinherit him, the police said on Saturday. "When his brother's marriage was fixed, Sawan told his mother about the girl he wanted to marry, but she scolded him. He strangled her and took away her earrings to make the crime appear like a robbery," the officer said.

month-long yatra ends The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Congress's Delhi unit completed its month-long 'Nyay Yatra' on Sunday, covering all 70 constituencies in the Capital ahead of the Assembly election due in February next year.

Held in four phases, the yatra ended at Naharpur village in Rohini. It was organised on the lines of party leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said they covered over 650 km on foot during the foot march.



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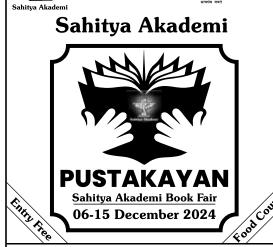
Department of Communication













Sarojini Besra (Santali) A. Sathia Saradhamani (Tamil)

Chair: Yashodhara Mishra (Odia)

6:00 p.m. : Ghazal Sandhya Readings: Hareram Sameep Kamlesh Bhat Kamal Savita Chaddha, Vigyan Vrat

Chair: Gyanprakash Vivek





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No.: EIC/BBMP/PR/1923/2024-25 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR RAISING FUNDS

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE INTENDS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ITS TWIN TUNNEL PROJECT

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed financial institutions and banks for raising loans to finance a large-scale underground infrastructure project. This project, currently referred to as "Bengaluru Twin Tunnel Project", is an underground vehicular tunnel which aims to enhance mobility, reduce congestion, and foster sustainable growth in Bengaluru.

(1) All Financial Institutions (including Multi-lateral Development Banks, Bilateral Development Banks, Indian Development Financing Institutions. Scheduled Public and private commercial Banks) are eligible to participate. Financial institutions should be registered with RBI or relevant authority and have minimum 5 years lending experience.

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BBMP shall have the right to prepay the loan amount

either in full or in part at any time, without any pre-payment

drawn completely before 31st December 2027. The Quotation bid shall be submitted as a sealed cover physically to the Office of the Special Commissioner (Finance), BBMP with in the stipulated deadline bearing the identification "Financial Bid for funding requirements of the Underground Vehicular Road 3-lane Twin Tunnels with Tunnel Boring Machine for the North-South Corridor of Bengaluru starting from Hebbal Esteem Mall Junction to Silk Board KSRP Junction in the State of Karnataka on BOT (Toll) Mode". Address: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, N.R. Square, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560002.

Following is the calendar of events for the process: (1) Notice inviting tender for raising funds: 7.12.2024. (2) Submission of query and enquiry: 9.12.2024 to 11.12.2024. (3) Purchase of DPR of the tunnel project @ INR 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) demand draft payable to Chief Commissioner BBMP: 9.12.2024 to 12.12.2024. (4) Pre bid meeting in the Office of Special Commissioner (Finance): 16.12.2024. (5) Last Date for submission of bid sealed cover: 19.12.2024 upto 4:00 p.m. (6) Opening

You may kindly contact the following officials for any further information / clarification: Dhananjaya K.K. (+91-9845208023) or Shilpa (+91-9986553232)

> **Engineer-in-Chief** Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

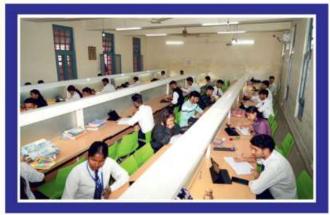
Sunday, December 8, 2024 THE HINDU



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M K

States



Mahadev case: ED attaches fresh assets worth ₹388 crore

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has attached fresh assets worth about ₹388 crore in its ongoing money laundering investigation into the Mahadev online betting case in which various high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh are alleged to have been involved. These include movable assets investment made by Mauritius-based company Tano Investment Opportunities Fund related to Dubai-based "hawala operator" Hari Shankar Tibrewal through FPI and FDI – and properties in Chhattisgarh, Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh in the name of promoters of multiple betting apps and websites, panel operators and associates of the promoters, the federal agency said in a statement. PTI

Uttarakhand to levy green cess on vehicles entering State

The Uttarakhand government will soon impose a green cess on out-of-State vehicles, an official said on Saturday. The amount ranges from ≥ 20 to ₹80 and will apply to commercial and private vehicles alike, he said. Two-wheelers, electric and CNG vehicles, those registered in Uttarakhand and those engaged in essential services like ambulances and fire brigades, will be exempted, he said. The tendering process for implementing the cess levying system has been initiated, Joint Commissioner (Transport) Sanat Kumar Singh said. "Our target is to operationalise the system by December-end," he said.

Court grants bail to suspended Jharkhand IAS officer

A special PMLA court here on Saturday granted bail to suspended Jharkhand cadre IAS officer Pooja Singhal in a money laundering case. She was given bail on the condition of furnishing two bonds of ₹ 2 lakh each and depositing her passport. Ms. Singhal's lawyer said that she was granted bail after the court heard her bail petition for two days. She has been in custody since May 11, 2022, after raids were conducted at properties linked to her in connection with the money laundering case. The case relates to alleged corruption in implementing MGNREGA. The ED has accused Ms. Singhal, a former State Mines Department Secretary, of money laundering. The agency also seized over ₹36 crore in cash linked to alleged illegal mining in two money laundering cases. PTI

It's clear Centre does not want to talk, we'll resume 'Dilli Chalo': farmer leader

Punjab farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher says 101 farmers will march to Delhi on Sunday noon; we waited for a day to hear from the govt. about our demands but received no response, he adds

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

day after suspending their 'Dilli Cha-lo' march, farm leaders at the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana on Saturday said a group of 101 farmers will start a peaceful foot march towards the national capital on Sunday afternoon. The farmers have gathered near Ambala, where prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Surkasha Sanhita have been imposed.

The protesters had attempted to march to Delhi on Friday but called off the stir after some of them got injured from the tear gas shells used by the Haryana police to disperse them. Farmer union leaders decided to pause their agitation on Saturday to hear what the Centre had to say regarding their demands,



(Left) An aerial view of the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana; Kisan Mazdoor Morcha coordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher addressing the media on Saturday. ANI/PTI

Pandher.

which include a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops and also a farm loan

Addressing the media at the Shambhu border on Saturday, Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) coordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher said, "We are yet to receive any message from the Centre regarding talks. The BJP-led Central government is in no mood to hold talks "

"Had talks started, a so-

lution could have been found. For us, the ruling party (at the Centre) and the Opposition are the same – they all just engage in politics," added Mr.

The farmers had earlier attempted to march into the national capital on February 13 and February 21, but they were stopped by security forces at Shambhu and Khanauri on Punjab-Haryana borders. They are also demanding a debt waiver, pension for farmers and farm labourers, and a ban on power tariff hikes.

The reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and compensation to the families of farmers who died during the 2020-21 agitation are also part of their demands.

Regarding the police action on Friday, the KMM leader said 16 farmers had suffered injuries, and one had lost hearing due to the tear gas shells fired by the Haryana police.

Oppn. must ensure all poll promises are met: Pawar

Press Trust of India KOLHAPUR

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Saturday said the Opposition should not lose heart over its rout but go back to the people who do not seem to be enthused by the massive victory of the BJP-led Mahayuti in the Maharashtra elections.

The Opposition's priority would be to ensure that all the election promises made by the ruling alliance, including increasing the financial assistance to women under the Ladki Bahin scheme from ₹1,500 to ₹2,100 are implemented at the earliest, he said.

"It is true that we have been defeated. We should not fret over it, but go back to the people, as no enthusiasm is visible among the people about the election results. There is a lot of resentment," the senior politician said at a press conference here.

The ruling BJP-NCP-Shiv Sena alliance won 230 of the 288 seats in the November 20 elections. The Opposition's strength in the Assembly is low but many



young Opposition MLAs will show their mettle after a couple of sessions, Mr. Pawar said.

To a question on Samajwadi Party State chief Abu Asim Azmi announcing that his party was pulling out of the Opposition's Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance after the Shiv Sena (UBT) hailed, in a newspaper advertisement, those who demolished the Babri Masjid, Mr. Pawar sought to play down the development.

The Central leadership of the Akhilesh Yadav-led party was of the view that Opposition unity is necessary, he said. Opposition parties cannot demand that a Leader of Opposition be appointed as they do not have the required numbers, Mr. Pawar added.

CAG report points to 'irregularity' in | Four Myanmar fishers rescued off handling COVID-19 funds in Odisha

Satyasundar Barik BHUBANESWAR

In an explosive report, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India alleged that a chunk of funds earmarked to deal with CO-VID-19 pandemic was siphoned off during Naveen Patnik's tenure.

The CAG's report on 'Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services in the State', which was tabled on Saturday, claimed that exto dedicated COVID hospitals (DCHs) without verifying their claims.

reimburse-Dietary ments did not tally with the number of doctors and paramedical staff. Besides, the hospitals submitted forged bills to buy personal protective equipment The apex audit agency

said ₹144.88 crore were paid to eight different hospitals without proper scrutiny. "The bills submitted by the eight DCHs, out of the 18, had not been properly scrutinised by the authorised Medical Officers (AMOs) for ensuring that the claims incurred towards the treatment of COder and as per the guidelines," the report

More than half the payment was made to SUM Hospital. "The DCH (SUM Hospital) had submitted an abstract of the bills to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) without verification and countersignature by the AMOs. The BMC had approved the claims for payment without verifying the actual number of patients admitted, type of beds availed by the patients, and patientwise claims," the CAG said.

The CAG stated that despite the PPE kits being supplied free of cost to the DCHs, by Odisha State ed (OSMCL), the DCHs had not deducted the cost of the PPE kits from their bills, which were submitted to the Collectors or municipal authorities.

T.N. coast after three weeks at sea

The Hindu Bureau NAGAPATTINAM

Four Myanmar fishermen, who were stranded at sea for nearly three weeks, were rescued by the Indian Coast Guard and brought to the Nagapattinam port in Tamil Nadu on Friday morning.

The fishermen, who only speak Burmese, had set out on a bamboo raft from Bogale, Myanmar, on November 7, 2024. Severe weather conditions, including rough seas and the aftermath of the recent floods in Myanmar, had caused their anchor to break, pushing their raft over 1,000 nautical miles into the Indian waters.



The fishermen on their bamboo raft being rescued by the Coast Guard off the Tamil Nadu coast. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The fishermen – identified as Kyi Lucin, 58, Aung Sanage, 23, Win Zaw, 48, and Than Soe, 43 – were found drifting on a 10-footlong and 12-foot-wide bamboo raft without a motor.

Local fishermen from Akkaraipettai, Nagapatti-

nam, noticed the raft while returning from a fishing trip and approached it.

Weak, starving

The Myanmar fishermen were found weak and starving, so they provided them with food and alerted the Coast Guard. Responding swiftly, the Coast Guard dispatched a rescue vessel and brought the fishermen and their raft to Nagapattinam.

The rescued individuals are now in the custody of the Nagapattinam Marine Police. After their rescue with the help of locals familiar with Burmese, the Marine Police confirmed the fishermen's identities and learned that they had lost their way.

Sermon surveillance on the rise as Chhattisgarh Waqf Board to vet mosque prayer content

SPOTLIGHT

Shubhomoy Sikdar

It is a Friday, November 29, and almost time for the weekly afternoon prayer or Jumma ki namaz. Haji Lal Mohammad, an elderly man in a white kurta-pyjama, stands outside one of the many shops lining the busy road outside Raipur's Ashraful Auliya Masjid, Chhattisgarh's biggest mosque. Around him in Moudhapara, a predominantly Muslim locality in the heart of the State capital, people are making their way to the mosque in a last-minute rush. Moudhapara's residents are mostly descendants of migrants from Uttar Pradesh.

Mohammad has paused to join a conversation about taqreer (the preprayer sermon) and a recent order by the State Waqf Board around it. "Have you heard anything controversial in the past half an hour in this taqreer?" he says, emotion in his voice. "Our mosques, at least in Chhattisgarh, are not centres of politics that such an order was necessary," says Mohammad.

The order he refers to was issued on November

18 by the State Waqf Board. It directs all mosques across the State to submit the content of their Friday sermons to be vetted by the board to prevent political comments. The order, addressing mutawallis (caretakers) and mosque committee officials, stipulates that imams can take up any religious subject in their Friday sermons. For any other topic to be included, "it will be necessary to take permission from the Chhattisgarh State Waqf Board".

Waqf rules

Salim Raj, the chairperson of the State Waqf Board, is firm. He has an over threedecade-long association with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - which currently runs the government at the Centre and in the State - and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological parent that expounds the Hindutva cause.

Chhattisgarh is the first State to have issued such an order, which comes against the backdrop of a debate raging around the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced by the Union government in the Lok Sabha on August 8. The Bill proposes that the

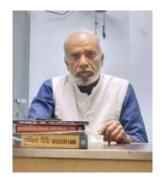


The Ashraful Auliya Masjid in Raipur, Chhattisgarh; (top) Ismail Gafoor, the caretaker of the mosque. SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards include non-Muslim members, among other features. Waqf is property donated by Muslims for religious or charitable causes such as establishing mosques, hospitals, or educational institutions. Raj says he has

come across over 20 videos of speeches at mosques with references to "zalim sarkar (tyrannical government)" in the past five to six months in Chhattisgarh, nudging him to take such action.

The latest order has faced criticism from the



Opposition Congress and Asaduddin Owaisi, president of the All India Majlise-Ittehadul Muslimeen, who in a post on X termed it an infringement on religious freedom under Article 25 of the Constitution.

Raj disagrees. "This is not the case. We have kept maulanas and imams away from it. We have only included the mutawallis as we have authority over them," he says. However, only maulanas or imams are entitled to deliver religious sermons, with mutawallis following up with announcements related to the management or upkeep of mosques. Raj says in the videos, he found mutawallis delivering these speeches.

Setting a narrative

November 29 was the first Friday that speeches were vetted. Till the previous

day, nearly 150 mosque committees had sent the proposed content of their speeches to the board; none of them was found to be "insensitive". Ashraful Auliya Masjid, however, was not one of those.

After the Friday prayers, Ismail Gafoor, 68, who has been the *mutawalli* of the mosque since July 2023, remains defiant. "We do not need permission to carry out our regular activities. I have not seen the order, but learnt about it through the press and I feel it is not binding," he says.

Others, too, feel that Raj has overstepped his brief. Salam Rizvi, who was at the helm of the State Waqf Board from 2019 to 2020, says while the law does not allow issuing such an order, the board can issue guidelines from time to time. He adds that these guidelines are not binding on mosque management committees.

"There is no religious sanction to give any inflammatory speech or deal with any subject beyond the Koran or Hadith (teachings from the Prophet's life). The community itself doesn't like it. There were no prevailing circumstances for issuing such an or-

der," says Rizvi.

In response to Owaisi's comment on X, Pankaj Jha, media adviser to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, backs the decision, while distancing the government from it, saying that the members of the State Waqf Board were appointed by the previous Congress government.

Sushil Anand Shukla, Congress spokesperson, and Amit Jogi, president of the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J), point out that the order should not be seen in isolation and is the "latest chapter in the wider narrative of the BJP and the RSS targeting Muslims".

A widening gap

The order came days after violence broke out in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal amid a survey at the Shahi Jama Masjid to ascertain if it was built over a temple. Around the same time, the claim of a temple under the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, Rajasthan, came up, with a local court giving time to the Sufi shrine management to respond.

"There is definitely a common national thread, be it the Waqf issue or the issue of 'ghuspaithiyas (intruders)' that the BJP raised during our rule (until 2023). If infiltration is happening, what has the State government done to check it and is it not the Centre's failure?" Shukla says. Politically, Muslims exert influence over a handful of urban seats in the State Assembly. One of them is Raipur South that recently had a bypoll, which the BJP won.

Jogi alleges that the BJP whips up sentiments in these areas. He cites the examples of the 2021 Kawardha communal violence when two communities had a dispute over where to hoist saffron and green flags; and the 2023 Bemetara incident when a clash between two teenagers escalated.

In the Assembly election that followed, the father of the Hindu youth killed in the Saja constituency of Bemetara contested as a BJP candidate and won. The election also saw Mohammad Akbar, the lone Muslim MLA and Minister in the previous regime, losing from Kawardha. "Muslims face alienation and they do not see anyone raising their voices for them," says a source in the Congress.

LINK TO FULL STORY » https://bit.ly/41t7thD

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Rajasthan Samwad



Late-night fun drive turns fatal for five Telangana youth

A late-night ride ended in tragedy when a car carrying six young men plunged into Jalalpur Cheruvu in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, leaving five dead on Saturday. According to police, the mishap happened when the driver failed to notice a sharp left curve on the road, mistakenly assuming it continued straight. The driver lost control and the car plunged into water. One of the six occupants, Medaboina Manikanta, managed to escape by breaking a window.

Footfall surges at Sabarimala as 17 lakh pilgrims visit shrine

On the back of a heavy rush of pilgrims from neighbouring States, the pilgrim footfall at Sabarimala has recorded a sharp surge with a corresponding growth in revenue collections. According to estimates, over 17 lakh devotees have visited the shrine this season. On Friday, 89,840 pilgrims were recorded, with 17,425 making their way through the spot-booking system. The Erumely and Vandiperiyar Sathram routes are also witnessing increased activity.

Congress relies on regional parties for survival: Nadda

BJP chief J.P. Nadda criticised the Congress party, alleging it to have become reliant on regional parties for its survival. "The BJP, on the other hand, governs independently in 13 States and through alliances in six more," he said. Addressing a meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday, he pointed out the 'failures' of the one-year Congress government. He said that Telangana's development would be possible only under BJP rule and urged the public to support the party.

Kerala panel defers release of Hema report's redacted parts

Complaint from a person against release of the portions prevented it from taking the final call; RTI activists accuse State of censoring essential parts, alleging that officials removed 130 paras

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



A complaint from an individual against releasing the redacted portions of the report precluded the SIC from taking a final call on the matter. Several RTI activists had moved the SIC accusing the Kerala go-



Members of cinema and serial artists workers union demanding the implementation of the Justice Hema Committee report. FILE PHOTO

vernment of showing 'overzealousness' in censoring parts of the report to allegedly protect "highprofile wrongdoers".

They said the panel had asked the government to blue-pencil 29 paragraphs regarding the identities of victims and alleged violators, citing privacy issues and future legal implications. However, the activists alleged that the government overstepped the SIC's directive and arbitrarily expurgated 130 paragraphs without assigning any reason. The SIC had also rebuked the officers for overstepping their brief.

The report's "belated" publication sparked off a controversial reckoning of the 'misogyny' in the movie industry. It prompted many persons, including aspiring actors, junior artistes, and performers from other States, to relate their "traumatic experiences" on conventional and social media.

The government had constituted a SIT to initiate prosecution based on the statements of those who deposed before the Hema committee.



R. Balki delivering the Satyajit Ray Memorial Lecture at the Kolkata International Film Festival on Friday. DEBASISH BHADURI

Box office blockbusters are biggest threat to cinema, says R. Balki

Moyurie Som KOLKATA

Advertising honcho and director of films like Cheeni Kum and Paa, R. Balki expressed his concern about the death of cinema while delivering the Satyajit Ray Memorial Lecture at the 30th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) late on Friday.

Mr. Balki said the biggest threat to the existence of good cinema are mega blockbusters that rake up hundreds of crores at the box office because, according to him, most of these films are not up to the mark.

"The audience has already come into the theatrebecause of the marketing hype. Then they go out having watched a film, but they don't go out with more love for cinema," he

'Cinema is struggling'

"Cinema is struggling to figure out how to live, and hence our dreams of making good films are also in danger," Mr. Balki said.

"I think [Satyajit] Ray was lucky that he'd never have to think of this. At Ray's time, cinema was not endangered like it is now,"

He also cited an example of the Malayalam film industry, expressing concern that its storytelling innovation would be stifled since "it got a taste of ₹600 crore at the box office".

Mr. Balki highlighted that the addiction to social media content like Instagram reels was another threat to the cinematic form and the sustenance of a film-watching culture. "There's a surplus of content, but not a surplus of good content," he added.

He also underlined how artificial intelligence (AI) is set to take over the film industry and make the role of creative personnel nearly obsolete. "Soon they won't need us to make films any more. Most of the things we are doing in films can easily be done by AI." Mr. Balki added that "soon we will soon have categories of films – man-made and AI-made".

Shivakumar warns leaders against speaking on 'power-sharing formula'

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday has said that no Congress leader should talk about any power-sharing agreement or formula involving him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as he has clarified that there was no such thing.

He appears to have issued an oblique warning to his party leaders after Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa on



D.K. Shivakumar

Friday said it was true that there was a power-sharing agreement between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister.

Mr. Shivakumar had told a private news chan-

nel recently that there was a pact between him and Mr. Siddaramaiah before the party came to power in 2023. However, Mr. Siddaramaiah later said there was no such agreement, and that he would abide by the party's high command's decision.

Mr. Shivakumar on Saturday said, "No one needs to talk about any agreement. We are both working with some political understanding. I have never spoken about any formula. All that I told the channel was ed with some responsibility and I am entrusted with some." He further said, "I have already said that whatever the Chief Minister has said is final, and the matter is now closed." Party sources said a compromise is believed to

that we have come to some

understanding. The Chief

Minister has been entrust-

have been reached based on the understanding that Mr. Shivakumar would be considered for the top post after two-and-a-half years of the government's term.

MUDA former chief moves **HC over ED** searches in land case

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Former Commissioner of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) D.B. Natesh has moved the Karnataka High Court questioning the legality of searches conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on his premises and recording his statements in connection with alleged illegalities in allotment of sites by the authority.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar, before whom Mr. Natesh's petition came up, adjourned further hearing till Monday while asking the ED to file its response to the contentions raised in the petition.

"The searches and seizure actions carried out under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) are unsustainable in law as they were conducted without any substantive, reliable data or material forming the basis for 'reasons to believe' as required under the Act," it was contended in the petition.

Section 17(1) of the Act required the ED to record such reasons in writing with specific details and credible information that led to the conclusion that pertinent documents or evidences related to money laundering would be located on the premises being searched, it was stated in the petition.

It was claimed that in the case of the petitioner, no such specific details were recorded or communicated, resulting in a fundamental lapse in procedural compliance contemplated in the law.

Key suspect in Laos 'cyber slavery' cases arrested from Kolkata

The Hindu Bureau

The Crime Branch CID (CB-CID) has arrested a key suspect in a string of Laoslinked "cyber slavery" cases.

The CB-CID arrested Shankar Sarkar, hailing from West Bengal, who was allegedly part of a racket that trafficked job aspirants to Laos and forced them into executing cyber fraud.

Shankar Sarkar was nabbed when he was about to leave for Laos from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata.



Educated youth from various States seeking jobs abroad were being recruited by illegal agencies and sent to South-East Asian countries such as Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, on tourist visas.

compounds and forced to do cyber fraud. The victims were made to contact people through fake social media IDs and lure them into investing in fake online applications.

Human trafficking

They were subjected to "cruelty and physical abuse" if they refused to comply - a form of human trafficking known as "cyber slavery".

Such cases are handled by CB-CID.

According to sources, an illegal recruitment agency had sent Mr. Sarkar to Laos in 2022 for 'scamming'

They were trapped in jobs. While in Laos, he met James an illegal recruit ment agent, who promised him commission for recruiting job aspirants from India for cyber fraud.

Following Mr. Sarkar's instructions, a person named Abdul Kadher sent nine persons from Tamil Nadu to Laos after recruiting them on the pretext of data entry jobs through Syed, an illegal recruitment agent based out of Tiruchi.

While Syed and Abdul Kadher were nabbed, Mr. Sarkar was detained at the Kolkata airport, brought to Tamil Nadu and remanded in judicial custody.

Naidu starts PTM in A.P. govt. schools, calls to revolutionise education system in State

The Hindu Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday launched a Parents-Teachers' Meeting (PTM) across 45,000 government schools in the State. The meetings saw participation of 1.2 crore parents and students.

Speaking at the event organised at the Bapatla Municipal High School, Mr. Naidu emphasised the significance of collaborative efforts by the parents, teachers, and the govern-



ment to revolutionise the education system.

Stating that such initiatives would pave the way for transformative changes in the education system, the Chief Minister said December 7 would henceforth be observed as Parents-Teachers Day.

Reiterating the importance of education in ensuring a prosperous future for the students, Mr. Naidu advised the students to excel academically and engage themselves in sports and games for holistic development.

He said every school would soon issue health and progress cards, besides updating the parents about their children's issues via mobile notifications. Speaking about cvbercrimes, Mr. Naidu advised parents to monitor their children's use of technology.

BJP, JD(S) have daggers out, but will Karnataka bypoll victories prove a shield for Congress?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sharath S. Srivatsa BENGALURU

The two-week Winter Session of the Karnataka legislature will commence in Belagavi from Monday at a time when the ruling Congress continues to face the Opposition's narrative of "development being compromised to fund the guarantee schemes" and the Waqf land issue.

Though the BJP and its ally Janata Dal (Secular) are expected to attack the government over a range of issues, the Congress is arriving in Belagavi with greater confidence, in the light of its sweep of all



three Assembly constituencies - Channapatna, Sandur and Shiggaon.

The issue of alleged irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in allotting 14 sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife is expected to feature in the discussions in the legislature prominently.

The biggest face-off expected in the session will despite the government withdrawing notices to farmers and directing the bureaucracy not to issue any fresh notice to remove encroachment of Waqf properties in the State. The BJP has been steadfast in its criticism of the government and is particularly portraying the Chief Minister to be "favouring the minority community". The ability of the saffron

be on the Waqf properties,

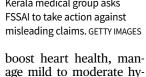
party to remain united in the House will also be watched. The internal bickering in the BJP, which is now in the open, has not only embarrassed the partv but has also exposed deep fissures, which the Congress is expected to harness to its benefit.

of nutraceuticals developed by CMFRI The Hindu Bureau

KOZHIKODE

Campaign Against Pseudo Science Using Law and Ethics (CAPSULE) Kerala, a wing of the Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishad, has filed complaints with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) against the online marketing claims and sale of three nutraceuticals products, which have been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI).

Nutraceuticals are products derived from food sources with additional health benefits besides basic nutritional value. The complaint said the pro-The product Algamin duct, Algamin Tension-Ease capsules, promises to Diabet-Ease capsules is be-



pertension, control high cholesterol and circulatory instability, and relieve anxiety and stress. The manufacturer claims it reduces blood pressure and hypertension, regulates optimal blood flow, and has no side effects.

Complaints filed against marketing pitch

that it helps to improve digestive health and weakness due to diabetes, can lower blood sugar levels, and maximises insulin utilisation in the body. Both of them are manufactured by Kochi-based Ayur Research Centre for Pioneer Pharmaceuticals Limited and marketed by GoWell International Traders Private Limited. According to the CMFRI, they contain 100% natural marine bioactive ingredients from selected seaweeds, which are commonly available in the Indian coastal waters.

ing advertised claiming

'No human trials held' GreenRex capsules, manu-

factured by Elixir Extracts Private Limited, Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam, and marketed by Emineotech Private Limited, Chavara,

alcoholic disease. The complaint pointed out, quoting official documents, that these products

Kollam, claim to treat non-

have not been subjected to human trials and there are concerns about their safety and efficacy. Also, they violate the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018, Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Consumer Protection Act, 2019, Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. CAPSULE Kerala functionaries urged the FSSAI to conduct an investigation and take action to curb misleading claims and ensure compliance with FSSAI regulations and other applicable laws.

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NRI VISWABRAHMIN girl born and brought up in Dubai, LLB & LLM from UK, working as Company Lawyer in Dubai, Caste no bar, star Bharani, 31 years, fair good-looking, weight 57 kg, height 160 cm, looking for boys UK/US educated, working in Dubai/US/UK. Pls call: 00918943432057

DOCTOR GIRL 27YRS MBBS/MD/PG ongoing/AIIMS. From highly reputed sunni muslim family chhattisgarh. All Indian sunni muslim call :9827495799

HINDU REDDY Surgeon 33Y 165cms Own Practice. Looking for Suitable Groom From Well Settled Family in Chennai CNB, PH- 89256 40111.

Hindu Agamudayar Rajakulam 28 yrs MBBS seeks suitable doctor groom, pref. Chennai or any Districts. Subsect no bar.Ct: 82208 79684 / 94447 80740

DOCTOR GIRL 31/156 MBBS MD General Medicine, seeks Doctors/ suita ble grooms 9447493034, 9497168001

NAIR GIRL, PG Doctor, 32/168, Poov am, MS, DNB, Kollam District, Private Hospital, invites alliance from Doctors Engineers / Managers / Officers in

DOCTOR BRIDE

Hindu SC. PR. 28yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, doing MD (Peds), Parents Govt. service, seeks MD / MS ongoing PG Groom, preferably Govt. Doctors.

93630 87847 80560 13678

HINDU NADAR Chennai, Only Daughter (25) Fair & Good Looking MBBS, (MD) DVL, Rich Affluent well-Educated family seeks Doctor Groom with clean habits from Hindu Nadar

HINDU, Adi Dravida, 24yrs/156cm Fair, M.B.B.S, settled in Chennai seeks Doctor Groom. Whatsup: 94442 18149

Vanniar, Affluent Family (Divorce) aged 33 years, Dr. MS (O&G) seeks same profession bridegroom, sub cas te no bar. Call : 98941 34981 9710091999 Sozhiya Vellalar 1984 Born TN Govt Officer seeks Qualified Groom preferably from Coimbatore. CT: 84891-64665

MUDALIAR 32/165 DM Cardiology Seeks, Mudaliar PG Doctorss Sub-sect No Bar Ct: 82206 77056.

NAIR GIRL, 28, fair, 170 cm, Only Daughter, M.Tech, MNC B'lore. Seeks Groom, Engineer, Doctor in India.

THRISSUR EZHAVA girl 30/ 157. M.Tech doing PHD.caste no bar

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED: Suitable grooms preferably Doctors for a Hindu Nair Girl, 26 year /160,

Thrikettah, only daughter, pursu-ing MS – Opthalmology. Ct: Suitable match for fair, wellsettled B.Tech Menon girl,

age 29 years, height working as Software Consultant and settled in Thane (West), Maharashtra The girl, who is our only child, belongs to upper middle class affluent family with good values and seeks suitable match from decent Nair/Menon boys from Mumbai or Chennai in the age group of 30 - 34 years. The boy shall be well-

educated and well-settled in his profession. Email details to

EZHAVA Girl 33, Thrikketta, M.tech IIT kumarguru59@gmail.com

Assistant Engineer(Govt.),Included in PSC Rank list for Assistant Professor,

CSI NADAR 28 yrs BE, Looking for IT Professional Groom(Chennai) with Good Family.Ct.9841242355,9321 9710091999 TELUGU/ MALAYALAM Fair 64 yrs wid-

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 34yrs, Divorced, MBBS,MS, Doctor Professional at Kanyakumari. Income50lakks. 9840784555

VELLALAR (CNB) Fair 31 MBBS, seeks

RC NADAR, 26yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite family, Seeks Suitable Groom Con-(CSE) Working in Pvt Sector Chennai, Seeks Groom Preferable from Pillai/Mudaliar Age 30-32, BE Working in IT Field, Employed in Chennai / India / Abroad. Ct Gowdhaman vorced. MBBS, MD, at Tirunelveli. In-

CHRISTIAN, RC, 30 yrs, B.E, Software Engineer at Chennai. Income 25 KAMMA NAIDU- age 27/ ht 170 cm-Sr.Data Engr-18 LPA, Simmam/magam, Raghu Kethu Dosham, seeks groom

PILLAI REMARRIAGE 30 / 5'7 V Fair

MUDALIAR 26/168, Fair, Beautiful MD, Own Hospital, Elite Family 50.Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

GOVT. DOCTOR (MD).37 yrs, 5ft 2inch. Fair. Never married.Seeks Eng/ Doc 37-40yrs. Never Married Christian Groom.India/abroad. Ct: 9940529886 / 9600573068 with the control of the control

cated and very well settled with MNC Job. Parents Contact 9790787919. Outlook. Whatsapp: 93421 04357 ADI DRAVIDAR Remarriage 37 / 164cm

✓ VADAKALAI, UTHIRAM, Simmam 26 years, M.A. English, M.Sc (Psychotherapy) B.Ed, Upper middle nai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er, Govt Employee Ct:

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl 33/ M.Tech (IIT), MNC, Project Manag er, Chennai, 1,50,000PM,Well set 160cm Krithigai, P.G, Employee in IT Chennai, seeks Groom Ct: tled family, seeks groom Abroad Business – 8925019776

MUDALIAR 29/158 beautiful. M.S. well qualified groom. Ct: 9448511720

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 30/155 / BE / Software Engineer in UK. Seeks Groom in UK. Caste No Bar. Contact:

BRAHMIN IYENGAR 25/154cm working in Wipro looking for a boy well from good family.

9941008316 CNB 26YRS BE, MBA(Uk) working in UK, well educated Background Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999/

Iyer Vadamal Bharatwajam Uthiradam

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

Hindu, Vellalar 28-years <mark>167cm Meenam, Fair, Slim</mark>, Ph.D., Lecturer,

s.9 LPA from Elite Family seeks Suitable, Qualified, ultured, Good Personality

Dr. T. V. Govindan, Professor of Surgery

GROOM WANTED 26vrs. B.Tech. Elite 98403 75075 business family in Chennai. Caste No Bar Ct: 9710093999 / 9710091999 98424 25255

BUSINESS FAMILY

HINDU MUTHURAJA GIRL 23 /160 MCA, Seeks Groom in Tamil Nadu only, preferably BE / MCA / M.Sc., (CS) / Good Job, 29-30 years age. Contact:

DOCTOR MD (Pathology) DCH 39yrs Hindu BC, Divorcee without child, rom an leading Brahmin family working in a private hospital, seeks well settled, compatible, decent & affectionate Groom CNB Ct:

Tamil/Hindu/SC/AD/28/5'4" Bride, full time PhD in Architecture with monthly emoluments of 80K in a reputed institution, seeking suitably qualified and well settled Grooms from decently educated families. Bride parents are professionals & in king from Upper Middle Class family service. Preferring Chennai based. Hindu Cast No Bar Highly Qualified Contact: 9080501633/9884393878. American Groom. Ct: 99628 37511

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriya Bride 31Years Be Working in Govt. Ser-vice Brideom Govt/ Pvt/ Bank Same Caste Preferable. Ct: 9789810972/ 9444949349. Mail id:

hindu familly's bride age 42, first marriage, degree–MSW, want from (FC, BC, MBC), working within India. CT: 9080359664.

cated/based lawyer. Seeking successful, open-minded, understanding S. Indian partner. Call/WA 9345634365.

HINDU MUDALIAR Age 29 / 171cm Fair & Charming Working in MNC, Seeks Working Boy from Mudaliar / Pillai / Soliva Vellalar Caste Ct & Charming Working in MNC,Seeks Working Boy from Mudaliar / Pillai / Soliya Vellalar Caste Ct

HINDU NADAR Chennai Divorcee of 37 RC/VELLALAR/24/BE,MS FROM affluent yrs in Government job seeks workfamily seeks affluent/elite grooms in Tamil Nadu (prefer Chennai) Mob 9443156344

CASTE NO Bar, 25yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family, Seeks Suit-able Groom Contact: 9710093999/

ow 165cm/ 65kg well settled in US, seeks well settled Widower/ Divorcee/ biz/ corporate. Mb:

NAIDU, 43/150, Uthirattathi, Ph.D, Professor, First Marriage, Sub-sec no bar, seeks suitable Groom.Ph:7358166806

HINDU, SC, 27 yrs, B.E. MBA, Business Analyst at Chennai. Income 25 lakhs. Ph. 8138900305

Doctor/ Engineer groom. Whatsapp photo & biodata to 8056325579 SOZHIYAVELLALAR PILLAI Age 30 BE

9342276143

preterably working in Bangalore. Ct-8870010434 CHRISTIAN GIRL 34 years Eng graduate working in MNC at Chennai want-

M Arch Canada seeks suitable Abroad / India Profiles Geetham

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar unmarried fair HINDU NADAR 27yrs BE 1 Lakh pm. Bride, 35/170, M.E., Software Engr. Elite business family. Seeks Suitseeks BC/FC unmarried Groom. Ct. able Groom Contact 6385293227/

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom HINDU NADAR affluent family 31/156cms, MBA, Fair & Pretty seeks well settled groom from affluent family. well settled groom CT: 94863-55500.

LOOKING FOR Elite Bridegroom for 27 yr, smart girl, (Nadar) MBA from NUS Singapore, not particular about Horoscope.Broad Minded with Modern village Willeston 1982 1465

able Profile CNB Geetham 9884858014

MUDALIAR: 25/ V.Fair. B.Tech

HINDU NADAR 32yrs/164cm, B.Tech star-Revathy workg-IT seeks IT/ other Profnl Groom 9944410712/

in Wipro looking for a boy well settled from good family.

Nov 92 B Com, MS, CPA wrking in Europe seeks lyer groom blw 35. 8903367194 / vadavaran@gmail.com

Contact: 9600879203, 0413-2278203

rand Father of the Bride

South India's Leading Business

Family seeking a groom for their daughter completed studies aborad **Born Before 1992**

Based in India megawedding2021@gmail.com Tamil Hindu Nadar 34/158, Pooradam

No Bar. Ct: 9445282905/ 9445704985 Mudaliyar 30/167cm Master Degree, Good looking American Citizen Loo-king from Upper Middle Class family

NAIDU, MCA, 48, Div. issueless seeks suitable groom ct.9445691753

NAIDU, 26,167, Fair, Slim, BE, Fam ily Textile Business, lite 50.Cl CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

RICH NAIDU, 24yrs, BE, MBA, well NAIDU: 25/ V.Fair. MBBS, MS doing

Chennai, Elite family, Seeks groom Doctor / Business - 9962530015 Hindu, Affluent Vanniyakula Kshatriya 24 yrs, 168 cms, B.Tech, ERP Consul-SC, 33yrs/152cm, PharmD, Pursuing Ph.D, Divorcee, No kids, Seeks Groom – India & abroad, Caste No bar, tant seeks affluent.qualified, employed

Vaniya Chettiar.Dentist 25/163cm, working in a renowned Clinic, seeks suitable Groom India/Abroad Contact:

BALIJA NAIDU, 50Y ,Plus 2 .Working in a private company. Unmarried. Age and caste no bar. Ph: 78710 52352 in a private company. Unmarried. Age and caste no bar. Ph: 78710 52352

ct.9700019949.

URDU MUSLIM Labbai 33yrs/150cm, B.E Software Eng. 1.5 L PM Seeks Engineer Groom. Ct.9442669961

Vaniya Chettiar, 28years, Beautiful, C.A., working in MNC in Chennai. We Prefer Hindu groom with C.A./Financial Executive, Tamil-Speaking Non-Vege-tarian from Chettiar, Mudaliyar & Pillai. Please send Horoscope & other details to WhatsApp No: 94445 87465 ✓ 29Y/5FT URDU muslim girl B. Tech, MSc(abroad) working at MNC in Bangalore from educated afflu-ent family. Looking for well edu-cated and settled boy from India/ abroad. Ph no: 9789622873 MUDALIYAR 34/151cm B.Tech Fair Looking Working in Chennai. Looking for Suitable Match Ct: 9444114972

SAIVA Pillai Girl 26/160 Ayilyam Fair BE SWE MNC B'lore 15L 9367762226 LIRUDU MUSLIM Girl 30vrs/156cm divorcee with a kid, well educated working in Chennai, seeks open minded well settled groom settled in Chennai or Abroad. Ct 6380285475 SEEKS NRI Groom, CSI/AG Tamil,

Sunni Syed girl, 25, 5'3.5", fair, convent educated, MA topper, UGC NET qualified, Civil Services aspirant. Respectable UP Family Seeking Syed NAIDU Age 54 Teacher 1st marriage Shekh groom, Civil Servant, Doctor, Coimbatore, TN Looking for a suitable Groom Caste no bar. CT: 9585555827 07523896060

BRIDES WANTED

senthilnathanb76@gmail.com, Cbe.

Vellalar, 26yrs/168cm, BBA, ACCA. Call/WA: +919489332578

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 35, 188cm, well-spoken, from cultured S. Indian family. Seeking well-educated, on partner. Call/WA vite Compatible Life Partner.

ELITE FAIR Educated Brahmin 38Y

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 28, 170 cms, Businessman

BE. Lives in Chennai. Parents are retired professionals. Family is financially well off. Looking

MUDALIYAR, 26, 165 cms, MS, Businessmar

Lives in Kuwait, Family is financially well off, Looking

for a like minded match from equivalent community

MUKKULATHOR AGAMUDAYAR, 25, 160 cms

MS, Entrepreneur Lives in Chennai. Father is a

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR, 36, 178 cms, Working Professional, PGDM. Lives in Chennai.

Parents are Working Professional, Family is

financially well off. Looking for a like minded match

Preferably Tamil Nadu, Contact: 6366448344

nessman. Family is financially well off. Looking

for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE FAIR Educated Brahmin 38Yr
Business (IND & Netherland) 40
LAKH Seeks accomplished girl. Flexibl (Age/Caste/Lang/Locatn) Ph
93848–38570 Ph
MBA own business Chathayam, Sudha
Jathagam. CNB. Cont. 98841 33204

Bride Ct 9894450475

HINDU, PILLAI, 31yrs, MBA, Senior
Business Analyst at Bangalore. Income 20lakhs Ph.8138900557

Call/WA vite Comp 9791683272.

Born needs Suitable Bride Ct 9894450475

SEEKING HINDU Tamil graduate (preferably working) Bride for 34 years old, 172cms, Engineer, working in a IT firm in Australia as a

PILLAI NV 40/168cm Uthradam Makaram BE MBA Project Manager IT Chennai 30Lakhs/ year innocent di-vorcee. seeks Tamil girl employed in IT/ Bank/ Govt 35 to 39 yrs un-**Personalized & Confidential Service for the Elites** married/ divorcee without child Caste no bar. Contact: 9283736478/ 9791128947

THEVAR, 29, Anusham BE, MBA 1.5 from the similar community. Preferably India. Contact: 6366448344 laks PM, working at Chennai seeks good looking working girl Ct:9751586640 PILLAI, 24, 178 cms, M.Sc, Entrepreneur. Lives ir

28/178/75 MS Engg UK, Accenture SC(AD) 27YRS BE, MS(UK), working Bangalore, Tamil, Roman Catholic, in UK, Well educated family Seeks

9710091999

Hindu, Affluent, Vannivakula Ksha-

triya, 28y, 178 cms, M.E (CS) Engi-neer in Airport Authority of India, seeks educated qualified bride of

REDDY 35/169cm Fair, Punarpoosam, Vegetarian/B.E./Employed/Divorcee

VANNIYA KULA Kshthiya 31, BE Civ-il, M.Plan, Business Entrepreneur Chennai, Earning 16L PA.Seeks Suit-able Bride with Well Educated &

HINDU, MARUTHUVAR, 28/168cm, Avi-

WELL SETTLED groom 48LPA 39yr, 154cm, B.E. MS, Hindu-Vettuva Goundar Chennai looking for bride

Tamil/Telugu – caste no bar, Graduate or PG Ct:9996710394

VANNIYAR, 39, BA, Divorcee, No child, Seeks suitable brides, Cast No bar Ct. 9094381898, 9841349909.

HINDU, YADAV, 25 yrs, MBA, Operati-

ons Manager at Bangalore. Income 30 lakhs. Ph. 9072777801

HINDU, PILLAI, 29 yrs, M.Tech, Application Developer at Chennai. Income 30 lakhs. Ph. 9072777804

HINDU, GOUNDER, 26 yrs, B.E., QA Engineer at Chennai. Income 12 lakhs. Ph. 8138901097

Solution Architect. Caste no bar. Kindly contact9789925584

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor

Pvt Eng.Collage, age 51, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/OBC

(40–45yrs) No Brokers Contact 9150799959

MUDALIAR 43 /164cm MCA Poosam Cher

nai seeks suitable Bride CNB Geetham 9884858014

MUDALIAR 30/185, Handsome, BE, MS, TC Engr, MNC, USA,200000.USD.PA, Elite,70Cr CNR 00/2001620

RICH MUDALIYAR 30yrs, MBBS, MD,

CNB.

same caste Ct:9944784899

Contact: 8072205041

9443588820

9710091999

8939326349

seeks educated

working bride. Ct 9597259646

9445931257

CHRISTIAN 39 years Eng graduate well settled at Chennai working MNC wanted graduate girl from de-

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee

36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170. B.E. Soft-

ware Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT-9500188067

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI

35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB.Ct: 9442993042

ABOVE MEDIUM height, graduate or above, 1 to 4 years less aged, em-ployed or not Bride needed for Vadamal, Koundinyam, Poosam, 29 years, fair, 183cm tall B.E., Sr Manager – Daimler Coimbatore

Groom. Subsect no bar. 9444580645 Uncle Chennai; 9944815994,

venkattram@gmail.com Father, Coim-

Hindu Maravar, 29, 160cm, Ayilyam,

Kadagam, Qual: M.D. (Anesthesia), Madurai. Looking for cultured homely

understanding partner preferably MBBS/MD/MS. Contact: 9094403037,

MUDALIAR KETTAL 31/168 BE Mech

Earning 9 Lacs p.a, Own House Coimbatore. CT: 9597772439, 8489272439

CNB, 34YRS, M.Arch, well Educated

Background in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9962791888/

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 30yrs

B.Tech MS(US) working in US 6lakhs pm, Elite Family 9380791999/

ELITE VISHWAKARMA Gold 26/175 FAIR, BTech, Mom Prof / Dad Jewel-ery. Equal CNB. Ct 9360571051 / 9790182084

ARYA VYSYA, CNB, teetotaller Vegit-

niruasoke@gmail.com

7094991999

literate christian family

VISHWAKARMA, 25, 160 cms, Entrepreneur, B.Com. Lives in Coimbatore. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact:

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15lakhs, 9072777822

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TRIVANDRUM BASED Nair Boy 28,

168 cm, Uthram, PhD from USA (final

HINDU NADAR boy, age 31/170 cm,

Moolam (slight shadow of Papam in Chowa), MBBS, DNB, Govt, Doctor in

ance from similarly employed or highly qualified girl with similar background.

Caste not very particular if the propo-

SMART, ACCOMPLISHED, 30, 180, UK-

educated, EU-based, outgoing pro-fessional. Seeking educated, at-tractive, compatible partner. Reli-

TAMIL HINDU Vanniar CANADIAN CITI-

LESS, Kettai, Viruchikam, Looking for professionally qualified work-ing BRIDE. Living in CANADA/US Con-

CNB, BC, Saurashtra, Age 39, 1st

Marriage, Hastam, Kanni, B.Com, MBA, Pvt. Manager, 1.27 Lakhs Pm, Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride.

CHRISTIAN, BORN Again, 28yrs,

MIB, Self Employed at Coimbatore. Income 15lakshs. 8138901281

CHRISTIAN, CSI, 29yrs, LLB, Legal

officer at Mumbai. Income 10lakhs ph.

tact: 9444728407/9444462162

ZEN 37 YRS BE, MBA, (BUSINESS ANA-LYST) Tall, Fair, Divorcee, ISSUE-9886782390/9962246305

COSMOPOLITAN

Contact: 6366448343

SC 32/170 Cm RBI Manager looking for a independent girl from a liberal

stage) +91 91460 57469, 97462 39230 fmly.Caste/ Lang. no bar. 9789973235 KARKATHAR PILLAI 36, 170cm, fair and handsome, BE (Telecom), Officer Indian Army IT Branch, 30 lacs PA, never married, son of retd

army officer looking for affable and well educated girl. Equal and sub caste no bar. 9448307862. A WELL Settled Retired Executive sal is suitable. 9447028290. Officer TN Healthy Seperated Seeks Broadminded Well Settled Genuine I adv 40-50 As Companion and Soul-

ate No Bar Cell : 9585245551

KULALAR 28/165Cms M.S. (General Surgery Final Year), Seeks Doctor Bride. Caste No Bar.

31, SURGEON, MCh(AIIMS), 180cm, Hindu, OBC, Tamil/Kannada. Ph:

HINDU, Adi Dravida, 28/160cm, Fair MD. Anesthesia settled in Chenna seeks Doctor Bride, CNB. 63697 02539

ENGINEER 34 yrs, B Tech. NIT, Govt. Engineer, 22 LPA, Divorcee, Caste No Bar, Con-

Urdu Labbai Muslim MTech boy 28/168 seeks slim fair religious non-working graduate Chennai girl

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Mar-

preferably from South, 6 feet inch, 30 yrs, B.Tech from IIT Kan

WIDOWER, WITH 4 yr Daughter, 42/ 183cm, MBA, IT Job, 80K. RC, AD, Graduate Bride (Without Child) ried, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 Coimbatore/Nearby

9444735240

8138901383

fessional at Chennai, Income 25 lakhs. SEEKING ALLIANCE for Kapu boy Ph. 8138900470
 CHRISTIAN, CSI, 25 yrs, Software
 Aged 13.Seeks

 Developer at Chennai.
 Income 25 lakhs. Ph. 8138900487
 Age 35-45 lakhs. Ph. 8138900487

CHRISTIAN, RC, 35 yrs, MS, IT Pro-

EliteMatrimony

ELITE GROOMS WANTED GAVARA NAIDU, 24, 172 cms, B.Tech_Lives in Warangal. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match

Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from the similar community from Chennai/ Coimbatore/ Bangalore. Contact: 6366448344

REDDY, 35, 162 cms, MBA, Working Professional. es in US. Parents are retired person. Family financially well off Looking for a like minded match, Contact: 6366448343

HINDU, PILLAI, 29yrs, M.tech, Soft-

G. GOWRISHANKAR / 35 / 175 cm /

HINDU MUDALIAR Groom, First Mar

46. 170cm. BE. B'lore.

riage, 46, 170cm, be, 51515 9886493369, SRD_Daksh@outlook.com

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 24yrs BE

2L/pm Working in Bangalore business family in CH 9380791999/

HINDU YADAVA 29 /179 MBBS Seeks well-qualified professional bride prefe-

9043987029

rably a Doctor Ct: 9444674978 MUDALIAR 29, M Tech, 178cm, 23 Lacs PA,Smart well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/

7200866346 NAIR BOY 38, Avittam B.Tech, M.Tcch working in USA (H1B Visa) Cast no bar. 78454 70323, 94884 57539

ware professional at Australia. Income 1crore Ph. 8138900652 MUDALIAR: 29/178CM. Handsome HINDU, BOYAR, 35yrs, B.E., Software professional at Chennai. Income B.Tech, Business, Having own Manu facturing Industry, 5lakhs PM, Elite family,

bride Affluent family 9840866993/8939012419 HINDU, GOUNDER, 26vrs. B.E. Quali-BRAHMIN IYENGAR Star Bharan 34/166cm B.Tech working in Bangalo re seeks educated, working bride from same or allied caste Call: 94980 52220 AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180

B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride. Caste No Bar. Mail: padhukrishna4@gmail.com VADAMAL SANDILYAM Uthiradam 32 168, B.Tech, WIPRO B'lore, 24LPA Seeks Graduate Bride. Ph: CNB. 29/182 B.Com. Govt. Bank Staff.

Seeks Suitable Veg. Family Bride, Parent Please whatsapp: 9787777345 9868376590 gion & community no bar. Call/WA CNB RICH or Employable Abroad, Ta-9345634365. IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSo (MCA) MNC IT Chennai 25 Lacs PA Seek unmarried Brahmin Girl mil/ Telugu bride required for Naidu groom 1981 born, Divorcee no issues Seek unm 9841071359

BDS Surgeon MBA (UK) working Bangalore, Admin Reputed Hospital. Ct: HINDU, BRAHMIN, Athreya, Bharani, 178cm, 33 Years, Employed Software Bangalore, 14 Lakhs/Annum. Good Looking. Sub-Sects No Bar. Tamil, Kannada Girl Accepted. Contact: KARKATHAR/ SAIVA Pillai, 12/12/ 1994, Revathy/ Meenam, Asst-Professor MS (General Surgeon), having Own Clinic Chennai. Well settled 9444184865; nsserc@gmail.com

TAMIL IYENGAR Vadakalai Atherya Uttaradam 27/ 152 cms BE Working

divorcees without issues 97909

IYENGAR SRIVATSA Gothram Nov 1991

sor MS (General Surgeon), naving Own Clinic Chennai. Well settled family, Looking PG Doctor Vegetari-an, Family Oriented Girl. Contact: 9841039515 MNC Bangalore as Lead Application development 14 LPA seeks Bride. Contact: 9845143090 / 9900195090 HINDU, KONGU Maruthuyar, 36vrs. BSMS, working in a reputed hospital. Seeks suitable bride, Caste 1983 UNMARRIED iyengar puratadhi 4 vadhula gothram 24 lacs pa chennai seeks any brahmin bride unmarried no bar. Ct: 7824000381

working in U.K as Team Lead for Frame store (Visual Effects Company) / parents intercaste (hindu) BE MS MNC Upper Middle Class Chenworking Ct:9840099945 VELLORE AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar Rishabam,38/165,BE, SWE,MNC/USA, 1L USD/A.Seeks working SWE bride. IYER 61YS Unmaried Electrical 30k

Seek Bel 50ys Vegetrian Decent Family No Demand Both Side Ct:9840846524 WANTED BRIDE 35 yrs Boy. Height 6'2" orn to the Inter Religious Parents living in Chennai, Working in the

JK Based Company @ Bracknell, UK

Looking for Graduate Bride

from Tamil Nadu.

51, BUSINESS wife expired one boy Aged 13.Seeks bride Widows/Orphan Age 35–45 without child. Whatsapp: 9884401199

BRIDE WANTED good-looking,

high-earning tech professional with established career

NAIDU, 27/160cm V.Fair, B.E., MBA. Seeking an educated, and family-oriented bride below 28 yrs) from a good amily background (CNB) TCS, Chennai seeks Fair, well Educated Bride from Gd Family. Ct: 99520 57740

+91 78458 10913 Hindu AD 45/171cm M.PED, M.Phil, Ph.d. Physical Dir 6LPA seeks suitable

Office Banglr, 2nd Divorcee No issue seeks suitable bride CNB 9677247227

HINDU, PILLAI, BC, 48, MBBS Dr, Divorced, Well Settled, Caste/Age no bar, Seeks Good Bride. Ct House Ct: 94444 47625 / 87786 30870 HINDU Sengunthar, Danusu/ Moolam

am, Chennai, BE (Mech), M-Des NID,Ahm) Project Design Manager 939326349 BRIDE WANTED Chettiyar 24yrs BE MBA Own Transports Elite business family Chennai. 9710093999 / 1st Marriage Remarriage.

THEMOMHINDU

NAIDU 30/182, Handsome, MBBS, MS, Own Hospital, 5000000.PM,Elite Fam-

TELUGU YADAVA, 26, Degree Bride, Seeks Suitable Yadava Groom. Ph. 9042714190

KAMMA NAIDU 42/170cm, MBA, Wel

Settled,own Business, own House with Rental income,Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Caste No Bar. Ct: 98407 97575

SUNNI MUSLIM, very Fair, Handsome Groom, MDS., FAM, 41/167cm, 1.5Lac P.M, own Clinic, Home Infra, Chennai seeks Educated, Beautiful, Poised girl Aged between 34 - 37yrs Immediate Marriage. Contact: 90422 77555

BRIDES & **GROOMS WANTED**

REDDIYAR: Brother 53 yrs Australian Citizen/ and Sister 49 yrs MBA Seeks suitable bride and groom

MARRIAGE BUREAU

Ct:8248757840

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Last Date to Apply 13th December, 2024

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GENERAL

TENDERS **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT For balance work of new factory at Valiyakalavoor & existing factory at Pathirappally Alappuzha. Last date of submission of EOI -13.12.2024, 5 pm. for

0477 2258012, 2258665 (Sd**|-**) Managing Directo The Kerala State Homoeopathic Co-Operative Pharmacy Ltd. athirappally, Alappuzha - 688521

further details visit

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VACANT

GENERAL

WANTED - Receptionist, HR, Housekeeping, Security for Nakshatree Hotels, Chennai. 9080343099 / 8778143331

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and strong financial background based in Chennai, from a well settled, affluent

Agamudayar family.

Working.Same Caste Send Detailed. Ct: 7010450846, 9444163383. Email: stonefieldconstructionchennai@gmail.com Viswakarma 30 M.Tech SWE Bangalore 40 Lac P.A seek Educated working girl with good family back ground, CNB. CT: 9444302810, 7904451259. bride from same caste. 98413 14851 Hindu ST, 43, BE MBA, AGM in HMT

NADAR RICH Affluent family into business, 23yrs, educated abroad, good looking. We prefer girl from BE IIT Mudaliar Height 188cm born ousiness family. Contact 9994106265 seeks Bride Contact: 7382620365

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 36Yrs, MBBS, PG in UK, Divorce, Elite Manager/Pvt. seeks Qualified Girl from business Family. 9710093999/ respectable Family. Ct: 98403 51301

CSE | IT | ECE | MBA | Law | Psychology |

Eligible Candidates May Apply Online https://forms.gle/85dedzjKikcij1bn8

Eligible Candidates May Apply Online https://forms.gle/mH19cEhGBNUvDKYc7

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Join FC Madras to oversee daily operations and resident welfare. Apply: manisha@fcmadras.com.

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Regional Office: Naka Chandrawadni Chauraha, Infront of Govt. Polytechnic College, Jhansi Road, Gwalior (M.P.) - 474009 Ph.: 0751-2402020, 2402021, Fax: 0751-2402022

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (E-Auction Sale 26-12-2024)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable $property/mortgaged/charged\ to\ the\ Central\ Bank\ of\ India,\ Secured\ Creditor,\ the\ Physical\ possession\ of\ which\ has\ been\ taken\ by\ the\ Authorised\ Officer$ or Central Bank of India, Gwalior M.P. will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 26.12.2024 for recovery of

amount due to the Central Bank of India DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY, RESERVE PRICE & EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT

Branch name	Name of the Borrower's	Name of Guarantor/ Mortgagor/ Property Owner	Details of	f Secured Asset(s) and Name and Address of title/Les Owner of Secured Asset(s) Who create Security inte		Date of Demand Notice/ Possession Notice	Reserve Amount	EMD	Bid Increase Amount
BANMORE (Distt. Morena)	M/S. S.P. PLASTIC INDUSTRIES Represented by its Partner's – 1-Shri Rajesh Dubey S/o Shri Ramnarayan Dubey, R/o – Anand Nagar, Near Navgrah Mandir, Bahodapur, Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior, M.P. 2-Shri Prakash Gupta S/o Shri Ramkishan Gupta, R/o – Gargaj Colony, Bahodapur, Gwalior, Distt. Gwalior, M.P.	(A) M/S, MAA RAMSHREE AGRO INFRA, ADDRESS - Jhansi Road, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior, M.P. 2. Represented by its partners— 1. Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani S/o Shri Ramrang Butani R/o – B-33, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. 110034. R/o – T-219, House No. 211/250, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, New Delhi. 2. Shri Siya sharan Gupta R/o – Mahaveer Colony, Balla ka Dera, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior, M.P. (B)-Shri Ranjan Bhutani, R/o – B-33, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. 110034. R/o – T-219, House No. 211/250, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, New Delhi. (C)-Shri Rakesh Bhutani, R/o – B-33, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, New Delhi. (C)-Shri Rakesh Bhutani R/o – B-53, Rishi Nagar, Caption Satish Marg, Rani Bagh, North- West Delhi. 110034. R/o – T-219, House No. 211/250, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, New Delhi. (D)-Mrs. Rachna Gupta W/O Shri Radheyshyam Gupta,R/o – Mahaveer Colony, Balla ka Dera, Dabra, Distt. Gwalior,M.P.	Siyasharan (2,553/3, Tehs AREA OF PRO WEST- Land c of Shri Ranjar (B) Shri Ran Halka No.50, L.E. 373047 & EAST- Gwalio Radhe Gupta, (C) 1.Shri M 2. Shri Radl Village Magro Distt-Gwalion AREA OF PRO Singh, WEST-SOUTH- 10 fe (D) 1. Mrs. F. 2. Shri Radk No.50, Part or AREA OF PRO Radheshyam Way (kaccha M/s. Maa Rai so boundarie DETAILS EAST WEST NORTH SOUTH	iverted Land & Property- (A) Shri Radheyshyam Gupta S, Gupta Village Magrora, Patwari Halka No.50, Part of Survey I il-Dabra, Distt Gwalior, M.P., (Book No.L.E.373047 & M 373 PERTY- 0.098 Hectares bounded as under- EAST- Gwalior Jha if Smt. Rachna Gupta, NORTH- Land of Shri Manoj Gupta, SO 18 hutani; Jian Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani; Village Magror Part of Survey No. 553/3, Tehsil- Dabra, DisttGwalior, M.P. (I M 373048.) AREA OF PROPERTY- 0.110 Hectares bounded as r Jhansi Road, WEST- Land of Smt. Rachna Gupta, NORTH- La SOUTH- 10 feet Way (kaccha rasta); ohan Lal Bhutani S/o Shri Ramrang Bhutani neyshyam Gupta S/o Late Shri Siyasharan Gupta ora, Patwari Halka No.50, Part of Survey No. 556/min, Tehsil-Land (Khet) Rawat, NoRTH- Land of Gajander singh — Pushpe Land (Khet) Rawat, NoRTH- Land of Gajander singh — Pushpe Let Way (kaccha rasta); ohan Lal Bhutani; S/O Shri Radheyshyam Gupta Sesh Bhutani S/o Shri Mohan Lal Bhutani; Village Magror f Survey No. 556, 553/3, Tehsil- Dabra, DisttGwalior, M.P. (B Coch Hectares bounded as under- EAST- Land of Sell gupta & others land, NORTH- Land of Pushpendra Rawat, SO grasta); All Properties (A, B, C & D) Bounded in One Plot Area t mshree Agro Infra ware house Jointly Constructed on the plot s above All Properties (A, B, C & D) Bounded in One Plot Area t mshree Agro Infra ware house Jointly Constructed on the plot s above All Properties Consolidated at present is as-BOUNDARIES AS PER PRESENT STATUS Gwalior Jhansi Road / Open Land of Mr. Shivhare Open agricultural Land Mr Pain Open agricultural Land Mr Pain	No. 553/ 048.) unsi Road, UTH- Land a, Patwari Book No. under- und of Shri Dabra, er Devendra endra singh, a, Patwari Halka book No.L.E.373047) er, WEST- Land UTH- 10 feet there stands ts. TOTAL AREA 1.308 Hct.	26.12.2023 Paper publication dated. 14-01-2024 / 09.04.2024	Rs. Seven Crore, Tweet Eight Lakhs only]	72,80,000.00 [Rs. Seventy Two Lakhs Eighty Thousand only]	[Rs. Seven Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand only]

approved service provider's (auction Platform). M/s. PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. web portal https://ebkray.in. Please contact Helpline No. 8291220220 or

Date: 07.12.2024. Place: Gwalior. M.P.:

AUTHORISED OFFICER CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA. REGIONAL OFFICE- GWALIOR. M.P

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION

https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in.

Date and Time for Activity

Online Sale/ Download Date

Last Date/Time for Submission/

Last Date and Time for Submission

of EMD (Only in case of BG)/

Date & Time for Opening of

Date & Time for Opening of

Tender Processing Fee

Cost of the Tender Document

eproc.bseb@gmail.com

HP / 3761/24-25

HP/3751/24-25

uploading of Online Bid

of Tender Documents

Pre-Bid Meeting

Samples

Technical Bid

Financial Bid

Earnest Money

will be made.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Tender Notice No. - PR 425 /2024

Tender Schedule

Date/Time: Duration

From: 09/12/2024 (11:00 Hrs.)

(https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

(Bihar School Examination Board,

Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)

to 30/12/2024 (14:00 Hrs.)

13/12/2024 at 12:30 Hrs.

30/12/2024 up to 14:00 Hrs.

(https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

30/12/2024 up to 15:00 Hrs.

(https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Date to be announced later by

₹5,900/- (Five Thousand Nine

Hundred Rupees) (Non-Refundable)

₹5.900/- (Five Thousand Nine

Hundred Rupees) (Non-Refundable)

₹1,00,000/- (One Lakh Rupees)

30/12/2024 at 15:30 Hrs

competent authority.

(Refundable)

Contact Details: Sh. Vinod Kumar Singh, Nodal Officer, Mobile

Note: Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to

accept/ cancel/ reschedule tenders without assigning any reasons.

Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit

https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in for Corrigendum/ Amendments etc., if

any, will be notified on this portal only and no separate advertisement

No.: +91 62999 23095, E-Mail ID: eproc-bseb-bih@gov.in/

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

Divisional Commercial Manager North Eastern Railway, Lucknow invites E-Auction for following work Admin Unit/Zone : Lucknow-NER-Division-Commercial/North Eastern Railway. Auction catalogue No./Lot no.: LJN-MISC-19-24 Catalogue Published on: 26.11.2024 at 17:14 Hrs. Auction Start (All Lots) 12.12.2024 at 10:00 hrs. Auction close Date/Time: 12.12.2024 a 11:40 hrs. Auction Type: Close Ended **Website Particulars where** complete details of auction can be seen by registered bidders : E-Auction Module of www.ireps.gov.in Assistant Commercial Manager

Lucknow Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train **READ**

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM COMMISSIONERATE OF PANCHAYAT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PANJABARI, GUWAHATI-37.

Email: ruralassam@yahoo.co.ir Teleobooe 0361-2333645

No. E-580918 /1/838399/2024 PRESS NOTICE / IFB

The Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam, invites tenders under a two-bid system through e-tendering on an item rate pasis from Original Manufacturers of Indelible Ink-conforming to IS Specification - IS 13209:1991. The Bidder must hold valid registration for the Supply of Indelible Ink (65200 phials of 10 ml each, conforming to IS Specification IS 13209:1991) for use in the Panchavat Election 2025, as per the specifications and details provided in the BOQ and

The last date for submission of the bid is 16/12/2024 at 12:00 Noon. Tenders must be submitted exclusively online through the porta

The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amounting to 2.68,000.00 and the Tender Processing Fee amounting to 3,000.00 are to be paid only through online mode.

Original Manufacturers of Indelible Ink may contact the undersigned during office hours for any additional information regarding the bid.

Commissioner Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam

Juripar, Panjabari, Guwahati-37 Janasanyog /C/4841/ 24/8-Dec-24

A.1.PWD-6 **GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

PRESS RELEASE N.I.T.No:-YCAD/CRF/WS-31/2024-25/414

1.The Executive Engineer, Yomcha A.P.P.W Division, invites online Item Rate e-tender in PWD-8 in Two Bid System, on behalf of the Governor of Arunacha Pradesh from all registered contractors in Class-I (Civil) Category domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of the district for competitive Bidding for the work as stated below:-

Name of Work & location:C/o Road from Liromoba to Yomcha in West Siang District (Ph-I) under CRIF.

- Cost put to tender Processing Fee **Earnest Money**

DIPR /ARN/001835-36/24

- : Rs.9,91,35,000.00 : Rs 5,000,00
- : Rs.9.91.350.00 (1% for APST) Performance Guarantee : (5% of Agreement Amount) Security Deposit : (2.5% of every bill) Time of completion : 24(Twenty four months)months Critical Date & Time

Publish Date &Time	09/12/2024,1500 Hrs
Technical Bid opening date, Time & place	27/12/2024,1130 Hrs
	Office of the Superintending
	Engineer, Aalo Civil Circle, PWD, A
Financial Bid opening date,lime & place	To be notified later on
Document Download/Sale Start Date & Time	09/12/2024,1530 Hrs
Document Download/Sale end Date & lime	21/12/2024,1600 Hrs
Clarification start date & Time .	17/12/2024,1000 Hrs
Clarification end date & Time	18/12/2024,1600 Hrs
Bid Submission start date & Time	19/12/2024,1000 Hrs
Bid Submission end date& Time	26/12/2024,1600 Hrs

- Tender Documents will be available in web site https://arunachaltenders gov.in from 1530 Hrs of 09/12/24 to till 1000 Hrs 26/12/2024. The Technical Bid shall be opened on 27/12/2024 at 1130 Hrs in the office of Superintending Engineer, Aalo, PWD Civil Circle, Aalo.
- The rejection and eligibility criteria are specifically mentioned in Special conditions, rules, Amendments of contract and General Conditions of Contract 2023.
- CPWD-6, CPWD-8, Proforma of Schedules A to F. Special condition. rules & Amendments of contract, Specification and Drawing shall be uploaded in official web site. The Standard form i.e General Conditions of Contract (GCC-2023) will not be uploaded along with tender documents but same shall form part of the agreement to be drawn and signed by both parties during award. The accepting authority reserves the right to accept / reject any or all the
- tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof

Executive Engineer Yomcha PWD Division

(West) Mumbai - 400 028 on behalf of the President of India invites open tenders online through web-site from repute contractors for the following work: Name of Work: Design, Supply, Erection Testing and Commissioning o 110kV/25kV, single phase 50Hz, AC Traction Substation complete with Double circuit 110 kV Two phase ncoming feeder arrangement, including Incomina & Outgoing feede arrangement, all equipments Foundation and Structures at Vasind with LILO arrangement and new SSF between Titwala & Khadavli in connection with 4th Line Kalyan Asangaon in Mumbai Division of Centra Railway. Approx. cost: Total Cost of work Rs. 73,48,36,277/- (Rupee: Seventy Three Crore Forty Eight Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Two Hundred & Seventy-Seven only) Earnest money Rs. 38,24,200/- (Rupees Thirty Eigh Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Only) or as guided by the wel site ireps.gov.in Completion period 24 (Twenty-Four) months including nonsoon. Cost of Tender Forms: NIL Validity of Offer: 90 (Ninety) days Website: Tender Notice & Tende locument can be accessed from Websit ireps.gov.in. Date & Time of submission: on 23.12.2024 up to 15:00 hours. Date & Time of tender opening on 23.12.2024 after 15:00 hours. Note Prospective tenderers are advised that before tendering their offers electronically, they should refer to the CRIS web site ireps gov in for tender details regarding terms & conditions,

उक्त के सन्दर्भ में स्टेशन पर क्लॉक रूम ए डिजिटल लॉकर एवं कैटरिंग के ठेके हेतु ई-ऑक्शन आमंत्रित की गई है। कैटलॉर IREPS वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किए जा चुवे स्टेशन पर कैटरिंग के ठेके हेतू ई–ऑक्शन डिजिटल लॉकरः 3 वर्ष। (2) कैटरिंग 5 वर्ष व समयः (1) Cloak Room & Digita Locker: (1) Cloak Room-JU-1 दिनांव CATERING: (1) CATG-JU-30-24 दिनांव

सम्बन्ध में जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकर्त हैं: www.ireps.gov.in

2024-AMC_HVAC Date: 06.12.2024 Sr. Divisional Electrical Enginee (TRS)/ELS/SYH, North Easter Railway for and on behalf of Presider of India invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work: S.N.-1., Nam of Work: Repair and maintenance of roof-mounted Cab AC during mino and major schedule of electric locos of SYH sheds for 02 years. Tender no.: TRS-SYH-T-202 AMC_HVAC, Approx. Cost (in Rs.) 2489376.04. Earnest Money (in Rs.) 49800/-, Cost of tender document in Rs.) - Nil, E-Tender closing date and Time: 30.12.2024 up to 14.45 Hrs ompletion Period : 24 Months E-Tender Online will be submitted up to 14.45 Hrs. on dated 30.12.202- For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of ndian Railway i.e. www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(TRS). CPRO/ EL-190 ELS/Saivedpur Bhitri er travel on roof and foot boards"

Tel. No. 01894-230566. e-mail:- hp-kan3@nic.ir

on behalf of Governor of Himachal Prades

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Telephone N. 01894-230566.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) The Superintending Engineer HPPWD 5[™] Circle Palampur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Division	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In lacs).	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money (In lacs).	Deadline for Submission of Bid	Eligible Contractor				
1.	Shahpur	Construction of Link road from Laleta to Banu Mahadev, Dhanotu Km. 0/00 to 6/185 i/c 40.00	943.12	13.12.2024 10.00 A.M.	18.87	22.12.2024 (5.00 P.M.)	'A' Class.				
		mtr. span bridge over Chambi Khad. (SH:- Formation cutting passing places, R/Walls, CD work, WBM-II, WBM-III, tarring work side drain and parapets, inculding C/o 40.00 meter span bridge) (under NABARD RIDF-XXX)									
2.	Tanda	Construction of Link road from Laleta to Banu Mahadev, Dhanotu Km. 0/00 to 6/185 i/c	817.83	13.12.2024 10.00 A.M.	16.36	22.12.2024 (5.00 P.M.)	'A' Class.				
40.00 mtr. span bridge over Chambi Khad. (SH:- Formation cutting passing places, R/Walls, CD work, WBM-II, WBM-III, tarring work side drain and parapets, inculding C/o 40.00 meter span bridge) (under NABARD RIDF-X)											
	The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. Date of Opening of										
tend	der is 23-12	2-2024 at 11.30 AM.				Superintendin	g Engineer,				
ı	5th Circle HPPWD Palampur Pin No. 176061										

PRESS NOTICE HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

HIMLOK SAMPARK.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS The Executive Engineer, Jawali Division HPPWD, Jawali -176023 on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites e-tenders from approved and eligible contractors registered with HPPWD for the following work

S. No.	Division	Name of Work	Estimated Cost(Rs)	Earnest Money (Rs)	allowed for completion	Docum	Class of contrac tor / Firms	Location office where e- tenders will be opened	Date and time of opening of Tenders		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1.	Jawali	Construction of Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Model Day	44698496/-	894000/-	Eighteen months	5000/-	Class-B & A	Jawali Division HP PWD Jawali	27/12/2024		
		Boarding Sot initiated Bay Boarding School at Thanger/Jawali in District Kangra (HP). (SH:- Construction of Building portion (Ground floor) including Water Supply & Sanitary Installation and Septic Tank).									

- Tender documents, other instructions and terms and conditions can be downloaded or viewed on line from the portal $\underline{\text{https://pmgsytendershp.gov.in}} \ \ \text{by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.}$
 - As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed.
- Key Dates:- 1. Date of online publication:- 18/12/2024 at 4.00 PM, 2. Downloading of e-tender document: From 18/12/2024 at 4.00 PM up to 26/12//2024 at 5.00 PM, 3 Date of submission of e-tendering: From 18/12/2024 at 4.00 PM up to 26/12//2024 at 5.00 PM, 4.Physically submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender: - 27/12/2024 up to 11:00 AM, 5.Date of technical bid opening, evaluation of technical bid followed by financial bid: -27/12/2024 at 11.30 AM.

Jawali Division, HP, PWD, Jawali -176023 Telephone No 01893264186; e-mail ee-jaw-hp@nic.in For on behalf of Government of H.P. HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

CENTRAL RAILWAY Various Works

Open Tender Notice No. LCF/DR/PSI/ 477/2024/09, Dated. 02.12.2024 Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Const.

Dadar, Near Tilak Bridge, Opposite to Platform No.5 of Western Railway, Dada eligibility criteria, mode of submission o cost of EMD & Tendered document etc. 587

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

No.- Comml/E-auction/2024/121 Date: 05.12.2024 हैं। **1. कार्य का नाम**ः (1) जोधपुर मंडल वे स्टेशन पर क्लॉक रूम एवं डिजिटल लॉक के ठेके हेतु ई—ऑक्शन (2) जोधपुर मंडल के कार्य की अवधिः (1) क्लॉक रूम एव लॉट के ई—ऑक्शन प्रारंभ की तिथि 18.12.2024 को 11:00 बजे से **(2**)

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

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

Web site: www.assamtenders.gov. in www.dmeassam.gov.in, email: dmeassam@gmail.com

No. DME E-586740/1

INVITING FOR BID (IFB)

FOR SUPPLY OF BOOKS & JOURNALS FOR MEDICAL COLLEGES OF ASSAM, DENTAL COLLEGES OF ASSAM AND NURSING COLLEGES OF ASSAM e-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement systemile through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from a rate

contract for two years from the intending Publisher/Accredited Dealers for supply of Books and Journals for all Medical institute under the Directorate of Medical Education Assam under the Health & F.W. Department, Govt. of Assam. Thee-Tender is a Two-Bid System to be submitted with affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight point two five paisa only (for local bidders) or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

Important dates of the e-Tende

SI. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1.	e-Tender Publishing	09-12-2024	12.00 PM	-	=
2.	e-Tender Download	09-12-2024	12.30 PM	17-12-2024	12 Noon
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	16-12-2024	11.00 AM		No. 4C, 2nd Floor, Directorate of on, Assam, Sixmile, Guwahati-32
4.	Bid Submission	17-12-2024	03.00 PM	27-12-2024	02.00 PM
5.	Bid Opening	27-12-2024	03.00 PM		

The detailed information of bidding documents are available online through e procurement system i.e. through websitwww.assamtenders.gov.in only. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e- procurement may obtain the same by registering in the www.assamtenders.gov. in. The requirements to register with the e-procurement portal are available on the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in favour of the "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022 Janasanyog /C/4849/ 24/8-Dec-24

Director of Medical Education, Assam



Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. **Board Secretariat** Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the certificates in respect of the under - mentioned shares of M/s. Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited have been lost/misplaced and the holders of the said shares have applied to M/s Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited / M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. (Share Transfer Agent) for issue of Letters

S. No	Name of the	Folio No.	Certificate	Distinctive	No of	Address
	Shareholder		No.	No.'s	Shares	
1.	Gulzar Ahmad Mir	JKB017121	507743	14803301- 14804300	1000	Kalipora, Tehsil Beerwa-193411

The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way with above share Certificate(s). Any

Person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/objection in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim(s)/objection with the Bank at the Corporate Headquarters. M. A. Road, Srinagar/Share Transfer Agent at the address given below, within fifteen days from the date of Publication of this notice, after which no claim(s) will be entertained and the Bank/Share Transfer Agent will proceed to issue the letters

Board Secretariat Corporate Headquarters M. Á. Road, Srinagar – 190 001, Kashmir For Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Ref. No.: 16/2024-25

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited

Place: Srinagar Date: 06th December, 2024

Share Transfer Agent M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. Selenium Tower B, Plot 31&32 Financial District, Nanakramguda, SeriIngampally Mandal, Hyderabad 500 032

Sd/-(Mohammad Shafi Mir) Company Secretary

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T:+91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F:+91 (0)194 248 1928; E: sharedeptt_gc@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

SRI SRI ANIRUDDHADEVA SPORTS UNIVERSITY (A State University of Assam Govt.



Recognised by UGC under 2(f) category)

Applications are invited for admission to the Ph.D. program in Physical Education for the January 2025 session at Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva Sports University, Chabua, Assam. The eligibility of the candidates will be as per UGC norms. The detailed

Starting date of online application : 10/12/2024 Last date of online application : 12/01/2025

Janasanyog /DF/1574/ 24/8-Dec-24

Registrar (i/c), SASU

M ND-NDE



योजना एवं विकास विभाग

स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-01, समस्तीपूर। (केवल ई0 टेंडर पद्धित के अनुसार वेवसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–05(SBD)/2024-25 (PR- No. 012127 (Planning) 2024-25 and PR- No.12752 (Planning) 2024-25) को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।

PR- 014056 (Planning) 2024-25 कार्य प्रमंडल-01, समस्तीपुर

लघु जल संसाधन विभाग 'हर खेत तक सिचाई का पानी निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–04/2024–25 केवल ई० निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर संवेदकों से दर प्रतिशत दर पर निविदा पत्रांक-2645 कार्यपालक अभियता, लघु सिचाई प्रमण्डल, जहानाबाद। विज्ञापन निर्गत करने की तिथि दिनाक-03.12.2024 दिनाक-27.12.2024 से दिनाक- 03.01.2025 के अपराहन 05 परिमाण विपत्र प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय 00 बजे तक सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर | मुख्य अभियंता, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, पटना के कार्यालय प्री-बीड मीटिंग का स्थान, तिथि एवं समय में दिनाक—30.12.2024 को पूर्वाहन 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एव दिनाक-03.01.2025 के अपराहन 05.00 बजे तक सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर। दिनाक—04.01.2025 के पूर्वाहन 10.00 बजे से संबंधित तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय प्रमंडलीय कार्यालय में तकनीकी निविदाओं का मुल्यांकन-दिनाक–08.01.2025 से लगातार। वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि सक्षम प्राधिकार द्वारा बाद में घोषित किया जायेगा। निविदा की वैद्यता की अवधि कार्य की विवरणी परिमाण-वि बेल्टॉन को देय पत्र का बीड प्रोसेसिंग मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय मूल्य, सेवा शूल्क प्राक्कलित अग्रधन की कार्य पूर्ण करन सहित जिला योजना का नाम प्रखण्ड (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) की अवधि (लाख में) (लाख में) (केवल ऑन (केवल ऑन लाईन लाईन मोड मोड में भगतेय) (रूपये में) (रूपये में) खदौरी आहर पर्डन सिंचाई योजना क 738.88 10000 12 (बारह)मा 14.78 जीर्णोद्धार कार्य। ं (प्लॉट— ०७, ०६) आहर पईन 768.19 10000 5900 12 (बारह)माः सिंचाई योजना का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य। 15.37 समेरा सप्पी (प्लॉट- 33903) आहर 658.69 10000 5900 12 (बारह)माह भैख धराउत (प्लॉट- 4906, 4917) 10000 5900 12 (बारह)माह मखदुमपुर 982.89 आहर पईन पोखर सिंचाई योजना का

जीर्णोद्धार कार्य। विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, जहानाबाद

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

APPLICATION INVITED FOR PH.D. ADMISSION (JANUARY 2025 1NTAKE

requirements, eligibility criteria, entrance test and application form are available on the University website at www.sasu.ac.in.

Adv. No-SASU/CHB/296/Ph.D/2024/2198 Dated: 07/12/2024

कार्यपालक अभियता का कार्यालय

कार्यपालक अभियंता स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

PR- 014093 (MWRD) 2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Bihar School Examination Board invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed, experienced Firms /Companies/Agencies Societies for "Design, Development and Implementation of Blockchain Application for Pre & Post Examination Activities for BSEB." Detailed tender document containing eligibility criteria other terms and conditions are available on the website 18.12.2024 को 13:00 बजे से; **वेबसाइ**ट जहाँ से लॉट वाइज ई— ऑक्शन के lease join us onff®® ∕ NWRailv Open Tender Notice No. TRS-SYH-T

THE HINDU

From Page One

Special SC Bench will hear Places of Worship Act case

The AIMPLB pointed out that even the Ayodhya judgment had observed that the 1991 Act spoke "to our history and to the future of the nation... In preserving the character of places of public worship, the Parliament has mandated in no uncertain terms that history and its wrongs shall not be used as instruments to oppress the present and the future".

The Gyanvapi mosque management committee has also sought to intervene in the challenge against the 1991 Act in the top court. The Gyanvapi mosque is at the centre of multiple civil suits by Hindu plaintiffs claiming the presence of a temple under the mosque, and their right to worship.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Varanasi, which represents the Gyanvapi mosque, has argued that rhetorical claims and "purported grievances" caused by ancient rulers of the Mughal period cannot be grounds for challenging the validity of a legislative enactment like the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act.

The Union government has chosen to remain tight-lipped so far, promising to file a counter-affidavit in the pending challenge against the 1991 Act

The constitution of the Special Bench and listing of the case on a specific day has come amidst frenetic judicial interventions by local courts in States like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in civil suits challenging the origins and character of mosques.

Militants 'near' Damascus; Syria denies troop retreat

The monitor said government forces were also pulling out of towns as little as 10 kilometres from

Abdel Ghani said earlier that "our forces were able to control the Saasaa (security) branch in the Damascus countryside. The advance towards the capital continues."

Air strikes and shelling by government forces and their ally Russia killed at least seven civilians near the city of Homs, as the army sought to slow the rebel advance there.

SP to quit MVA over + post on Babri Masjid

On Friday, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Milind Narvekar shared a poster on X featuring images of the Babri Masjid demolition along with a quote from Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray: "I am proud of those who did this." The post also included photographs of Mr. Uddhav and his son Aaditya Thackeray.

Reacting to the post, SP's Maharashtra unit chief Abu Azmi criticised the Shiv Sena (UBT), saying, "If anyone in the MVA uses such language, how are they different from the BJP? Why should we remain in this alliance? We are quitting the MVA. I am speaking with SP president Akhilesh Yadav. The Congress must decide whether it can align with such a party."

The SP has two MLAs – Mr. Azmi and Raees Sheikh – in the 288-member Assembly. Both took oath on Saturday, while the remaining MVA legislators boycotted the first day of the Assembly's special session, alleging misuse of electronic voting machines. In response, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Bhaskar Jadhav defended his party's consistent stance on the Babri Masjid since 1992, questioning why the SP had suddenly raised the issue after 31 years. Mr. Jadhav and several Congress leaders accused the SP of shifting allegiance toward the ruling alliance.

Mr. Azmi further claimed there was no effective coordination within the MVA during the Maharashtra Assembly election.

Kashmir mosques lend themselves to solar storm

"The government should either increase the subsidy components for mosques, or hire a third party to invest in sharing and selling surplus energy," Mr. Ahmad added. The J&K government offers a subsidy component of only ₹9,000 in the Union Territory, unlike in other States, including Uttarakhand, where the State's subsidy component is ₹23,000 per kilowatt, and ₹17,000 for 3 KWs.

The Central scheme, which is currently applicable in J&K, provides ₹36,000 as the subsidy component per kilowatt, ₹72,000 for 2 KW, and ₹94,800 for 3 KW.

Till November this year, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) generated 1 MW (megawatt) of solar energy from rooftops, and disbursed ₹1 crore as Central subsidies to 110 domestic beneficiaries.

Official data show 249 residential rooftops are already equipped with solar panels. "On average, households have opted for larger systems, typically around 4 KW, maximising the financial and environmental benefits of solar energy. Around 1,549 consumers have finalised agreements with empanelled vendors and are progressing through the procurement and installation phases," KPDCL's spokesperson said. KPDCL is poised to achieve its target of 3.5 MW installed capacity within the next two months, the spokesperson added.

Show-cause notice sent to 86 IIT faculty members

<u>Shrabana Chatterjee</u> KOLKATA

A section of faculty members at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, is at loggerheads with the institute administration over the show-cause notice to 86 teachers. The rift began when the IIT Teachers' Association (IITTA) filed a complaint with the Union Education Ministry citing arbitrary recruitment, favouritism, and irregularities at the institute.

According to sources in the IIT, the issues began in September when the professors complained about "unprecedented nepotism, arbitrary faculty recruitment, failure in starting a multi-specialty hospital, and unlawful recovery of payment from faculty".

Four IITTA office-bearers were sent show-cause notices after filing the complaint and were asked to justify their claims. The situation became more tense when 86 other professors submitted another mass petition to the institute. The institute sent show-cause notices to these 86 professors and it snow-balled into a row.

U.P. invokes ESMA, imposes six-month ban on protests

<u>Decision comes amid the upcoming Maha Kumbh</u> and other events; the Opposition calls it 'undemocratic' and suppression of employees' rights

The Hindu Bureau LUCKNOW

he Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), banning strikes by government employees in all State government departments, corporations, and authorities for six months.

"In exercise of the powers under sub-section (1) of section-3 of the Uttar Pradesh Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1966 (U.P. Act No. 30 of 1966), the State government prohibited strikes for a period of six months from the date of the notification," reads the notification issued by the government.

The decision came amid the upcoming Maha Kumbh, which is going to be held in the State, and other important programmes.

The Act gives the police the power to arrest the em-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a visit to review preparations ahead of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Saturday. PTI

ployees violating the provisions of the Act without a warrant. The punishment is imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or a fine which may extend to ₹1,000 or both, to any person who instigated a strike which was illegal under the Act.

The Opposition described the decision as undemocratic, aimed at curtailing the right to protest. "The ruling BJP-led Uttar

Pradesh government is anti-people and anti-democratic to the core. Everyone, including government employees, has the right to protest. Such a decision shows that the present government is scared of listening to the grievances of any section of the population including its own employees. It is a black law, we condemn the move," said Anil Yadav, a

senior Congress leader.

Rajnath to oversee commissioning of *Tushil* in Russia

<u>Dinakar Peri</u> NEW DELHI

The first of two stealth guided missile frigates, *Tushil*, under construction in Russia, is set to be commissioned during the three-day visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh beginning on Sunday for the 21st meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC).

Mr. Singh and his Rus-

sian counterpart, Andrey Belousov, will co-chair the 21st meeting of the IRIGC-M&MTC in Moscow on December 10, a Defence Ministry statement said. "The two leaders will review the entire range of multi-faceted relations between the two countries in the field of defence, including military-to-military and industrial cooperation. They will also exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual

Mr. Singh will travel to Yantra Shipyard in Kaliningrad for the commission ceremony of the frigate during which he will be accompanied by Navy



Rajnath Singh

chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

In addition, he will pay tributes at 'The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in Moscow to honour the Soviet soldiers killed during the Second World War. He will interact with members of the Indian community.

Tushil is an upgraded Krivak III class frigate of Project 1135.6 of which six are already in service three Talwar class ships, built at Baltisky shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three follow-on Teg class ships, built at Yantar shipyard, Kaliningrad. The ship's construction was closely monitored by an Indian team of specialists from the Warship Overseeing Team stationed at Kaliningrad, under the aegis of the Embassy of India, Moscow, the Navy said in a

'Disappointing,' U.S. says in response to BJP's accusations

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

The U.S. reacted sharply on Saturday to the Bharati-ya Janata Party's (BJP) allegation that the U.S. State Department was behind targeted attacks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian businessman Gautam Adani, denying the accusations and saving they were

"disappointing".

In response to the series of posts by the BJP on 'X', which included accusations that it was behind an investigative reporting portal Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), the U.S. government said it had been a "champion of media freedom around the world", and does not influence editorial decisions by these organisations.

"It is disappointing that the ruling party in India would make these kinds of accusations," a spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi told *The Hindu*.

The U.S. Embassy spokesperson did not deny the allegation it was funding groups such as the OCCRP, but said the U.S. government "works with independent organisations on programming that supports professional development and capacity building training for journalists", adding that this "programming does not influence the editorial decisions or direction of these organisations".

The strong statements exchanged indicate a new low in ties between New Delhi and Washington, that have been under a strain.

The Ministry of External Affairs has so far refused to comment on the statements made by both the BJP and the U.S. Embassy response.

BSF deployment moved to zero line along Bangladesh border in Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh

The Border Security Force has shifted the deployment of its personnel to the zero line along the border with Bangladesh in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. The border is a long stretch of char lands along the Padma river, and the forces had so far been deployed a few hundred metres from the border inside the Indian territory.

Farmers who have their farmlands in the chars until now had to register with the BSF to access and cultivate the lands.

"There are three battalions in Murshidabad, where there is a problem of char lands. Everywhere, we have deployed forces along the zero line from Farakka to Kakmarichar," Deputy Inspector-General Anil Kumar Sinha of the BSF Baharampur range told presspersons.



West Bengal shares a 2,216-km border with Bangladesh, and it is manned by three frontiers of the BSF. SHIV SAHAY SINGH

The official said the deployment has been made from three battalions – Battalions 73, 146, and 149 of the South Bengal Frontier of the BSF.

'Long-pending demand'
While sources in the security establishment said that
the turmoil in Bangladesh
may have prompted the
deployment, BSF officials
said it was a long pending
demand of farmers in the

area. Chars are pieces of land formed of sand and silt that appear and disappear depending on the flow of river.

The chars along the Bangladesh border are created by the Padma. They don't have power and water supply, which is why the forces had been stationed inside the Indian territory.

BSF officials said that the work on surveying and

erecting fences along the International Border will start soon.

Better protection

statement.

Julfikar Ali, secretary, Border Development Committee of Murshidabad, who has repeatedly demanded deployment of the BSF at the zero line in the chars, welcomed the move. He said it will benefit thousands of farmers.

"Now farmers can access their land without having to take permission from the BSF. This would also help in better protection of our borders," he said.

Mr. Ali said that two Indian nationals were arrested and are still lodged in prison in Bangladesh after they crossed over to work in their fields on September 2. West Bengal shares a 2,216-km border with Bangladesh, and it is manned by three frontiers of the BSF

'Design phase of indigenous nuclear attack submarines to take 4-5 years'

<u>Dinakar Peri</u> NEW DELHI

The design phase of the indigenous nuclear attack submarines (SSN) will take four or five years and the construction of the first one, building on the experience of the ballistic nuclear missile submarine programme (SSBN), will take another five years, officials in the know said.

The third SSN leased from Russia is expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy in 2028 after delays.

Last week, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi said that "as per their timelines, 2036-37 was the very realistic timeframe when the first SSN can be inducted followed by the second one in a couple of years".

The design and development should take four or five years, and the construction another five



INS Arihant with a displacement of 6,000 tonnes was commissioned into service in August 2016. FILE PHOTO

years, the sources said. An SSN is different from an SSBN but the experience of building the latter is helpful and the reactor and other specifications will be finalised considering the requirement of speed and endurance that SSNs need, the sources said.

India had leased two SSNs, *INS Chakra* 1 and 2, in the past from Russia. The third one, contracted on lease, has seen several delays due to COVID, hold-

ing up the finalisation of the hull that was to be refurbished. It is now expected by 2027-end or early-2028, according to sources.

The SSNs are a critical

requirement for the Navy to keep a watch over the Indo-Pacific as they give unlimited endurance to perform a variety of tasks.

October saw two major developments – the Cabinet Committee on Security approved the indigenous construction of two SSNs estimated to cost around ₹35,000 crore, while India's fourth SSBN referred to as S4* was launched into the water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, as reported earlier.

India currently has two SSBNs in operation.

INS Arihant with a displacement of 6,000 tonnes and powered by an 83-MW pressurised light-water reactor with enriched uranium was commissioned in August 2016.

The second SSBN, *INS Arighaat* (S3), which retains the same reactor specifications and dimensions with several technological upgrades, was commissioned in August.

The third SSBN *Aridhaman* (S4) is currently undergoing sea trials and is expected to be commissioned into service next year, sources said.

Centre at Dhaka set on fire, says ISKCON

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

"A centre of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) was set on fire in Dhaka in Bangladesh," a spokesperson of the religious order said on Saturday.

"Early morning today, miscreants set fire to the Shri Shri Radha Krishna Temple and the Shri Shri Mahabhagya Lakshmi Narayan Temple, located in Dhour village, under the jurisdiction of Turag Police Station, Dhaka district," Radharaman Das, the spokesperson posted on X. He said all items inside the temple were burned down completely. According to ISKCON, there are more than 100 centres of the religious order in Bangladesh and four of its monks including Chinmoy Krishna Das have been arrested.

APPEAL
ave the Baby of Nasrin who is 4 months old in Manipal
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M ND-NE

Trinamool names Ritabrata as RS candidate

The Hindu Bureau KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday nominated Ritabrata Banerjee as a candidate for the upcoming election to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal.

"Under the inspiration of Hon'ble Chairperson MamataOfficial, we are pleased to announce the candidature of Shri Ritabrata Banerjee for the forthcoming Rajya Sabha byelections. We extend our heartfelt wishes to him. May he work towards upholding Trinamool's enduring legacy of indomitable spirit and continue advocating for the rights of every Indian," the Trinamool Congress said.

Mr. Banerjee heads the trade union wing of Trinamool, Indian National Trinamool Trade Union Congress (INTTUC). Once elected, this will be his second term in the Upper House. In 2014, Mr. Banerjee was nominated by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal. However, he was suspended from the CPI(M) in 2017 for anti-party activities and later joined the Trinamool.

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee described the nomination as "truly welldeserved, reflecting the tireless effort".

A vacancy was created after Trinamool Congress MP Jawhar Sircar resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

MLAs-elect of MVA skip oath, boycott first day of first session

Opposition legislators refuse to be sworn in, alleging 'EVM manipulation and suppression of democratic rights'; a total of 173 Mahayuti MLAs take the oath; Speaker's election tomorrow; Fadnavis government will seek trust vote soon after

Abhinay Deshpande MUMBAI

mid slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Bhavani, Jai Shivaji", 173 newly elected MLAs, including Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his deputies, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, of the Mahayuti alliance took oath on the first day of a three-day special session of the Maharashtra Assembly on Saturday.

However, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) boycotted the session, alleging misuse of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and questioning the massive mandate won by BJP-led Mahayuti.

Refusing to take the oath, Opposition leaders, including State Congress president Nana Patole, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray, and NCP(SP) MLA Jitendra Awhad, protested against the curfew and arrests at Markadwadi village in the Malshiras constituency of Solapur district as people demanded a mock poll using ballot papers.

Speaking to The Hindu while exiting the Assembly, Mr. Patole and Mr. Aaditya said the boycott was a stand against "EVM manipulation and the suppression of democratic rights".

The leaders said they



New beginnings: Chief Minster Devendra Fadnavis, his deputies, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, with other leaders on the first day of the Assembly Session in Mumbai on Saturday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

were not against taking oath as MLAs, but they had chosen not to do so on the first day. The boycott is in protest against EVM manipulation and curfew and arrests of villagers at Markadwadi, they said while heading to Matoshree for a meeting with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray.

Mr. Fadnavis, representing the Nagpur South-West Assembly constituency, was sworn in as a member of the Maharashtra Assembly for the sixth time, having been first elected in 1999. Pro-tem Speaker Kalidas Kolambkar, a ninetime MLA from Wadala, presided over the oath-taking ceremony that began at 11 a.m.

Senior MLAs Chainsukh Sancheti and

Jaykumar Rawal of the BJP, Manikrao Kokate of the NCP, and Ashish Jaiswal of the Shiv Sena were the first to take oath as they had been appointed members of the pro-tem Speaker's panel by Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan. The turn of Mr. Shinde, ex-Chief Minister and member of the House since 2004, and Mr. Ajit Pawar, who has been consistently re-elected since his first term in 1991, came later. Mr. Pawar, wearing a traditional red pheta (headgear) with a golden border, was greeted with cheers of "Ekach Dada, Ajit Dada [The one and only elder brother Ajit]" by his party members.

Seven BJP MLAs – Girish Mahajan, Seema Hire, Prashant Thakur, Sudhir Gadgil, Nitesh Rane, Pratap Adsad and Ram Kadam took oath in Sanskrit. Ku-

mar Ailani of the BJP did so in Sindhi. Abu Azmi of the Samajwadi Party took oath in Hindi, and Mufti Mohammad Khalique of the All Indian Majlid-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen in Urdu. NCP leader Hasan Mushrif invoked Allah.

The Speaker's election will be held on Monday. The Fadnavis government, which was sworn in on December 5, will go for the trust vote later.

Election results

The Mahayuti, comprising the BIP, the Shiv Sena led by Mr. Shinde, and the NCP led by Mr. Pawar, retained power by winning 230 of the 288 seats. The BIP won 132 seats, the Shiv Sena 57, and the NCP 41. The MVA won only 46 seats, with the Shiv Sena (UBT) getting 20, the Congress 16, and the NCP(SP) 10.

During the proceedings, Mr. Aaditya and several Opposition MLAs remained seated until the top leaders from the ruling alliance took their oath. As they exited, ruling alliance members called out, "Respect democracy. Why are you leaving?"

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Bhaskar Jadhav appealed to the ruling parties to honour legislative traditions by giving the Deputy Speaker's post to the Opposition.

Four Ministers take oath as Assam CM expands Cabinet

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> **GUWAHATI**

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expanded his Cabinet by inducting four Bharatiya Ianata Party MLAs as Ministers on Saturday, a little more than a year ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections in the State.

The MLAs – Prasanta Phukan (representing the Dibrugarh seat), Kaushik Rai (Lakhipur), Krishnendu Paul (Patharkandi), and Rupesh Goala (Doomdooma) – were sworn in by Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya.

The Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues were present at the oathtaking ceremony.

Mr. Phukan, a four-time MLA since 2006, and the first-timer Mr. Goala are from the tea-growing belt of eastern Assam. Mr. Paul, in his second term, and Mr. Rai, a first-timer, represent the Barak Valley seat in southern Assam which is dominated by Bengali speakers.

"Congratulations to all my colleagues who have taken oath today. Looking forward to working with them to fulfil Adarniya Shri Narendra Modi*ji*'s vision of a Viksit Assam," the Chief Minister posted on social media platform X.

Mr. Sarma now heads a 19-member Council of Ministers in the BJP-led coalition government, with the induction of the four A four-time MLA, a <u>legislator in his</u> second term, and two first-timers are among the new appointees

MLAs. Three ministerial

berths were vacant before Saturday's swearing-in. While one was kept vacant, two were vacated by BJP veterans Parimal Suklabaidya and Ranjit Dutta, who were elected as MPs from the Silchar and Tezpur constituencies earlier this year. The fourth slot was created by dropping Sanjay Kishan as the Labour and Tea Tribes Welfare Minister. He was appointed Chairperson of the Assam Food and Civil Supplies Corporation. "Thank you for your exceptional work and best wishes for serving the people of Assam in your new role as Chairman of Assam Food and Civil Supplies Corporation," Mr. Sarma wrote, congratulating him.

"It is an honour that the party has found me worthy of the new assignment, which I hope to do justice to," Mr. Phukan, said.

A maximum of 19 Ministers can be inducted into the Cabinet in the 126member Assam Assembly. The BJP heads the NDA government, which has 84 MLAs. The Asom Gana Parishad and United People's Party Liberal are the two other constituents.

At pre-Budget meet, farmers seek increase in income support, industries call for tax breaks

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

Union Finance Minister representatives of farmers' associations, agriculturebased industries and agricultural economists in New Delhi on Saturday as part of her customary pre-Budget consultations with stakeholders from various

Farmers asked her to double the income support under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi to ₹12,000 and reduce costs on input materials, while industries sought tax breaks and subsidies for expanding their network of infrastructure.

At the meeting, Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) leader Dharmendra Malik said the Centre



others at the pre-Budget meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

had neglected the agriculture sector for long, and sought steps to ensure timely availability of seeds. fertilizers, pesticides, power and labour. Mr. Malik said the minimum support price arrived at under the present calculation system did not cover input costs,

and urged the Centre to implement the formula given in the M.S. Swaminathan Commission's report to calculate the MSP. He urged the Centre to bring more crops within the ambit of the MSP, and demanded that the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi assistance be increased to ₹12.000 a year from ₹6,000 a year given at present.

Sangh Parivar-Bharativa Kisan Sangh's Badri Narayan Chaudhary said in a memorandum that the Kisan Nidhi amount had not been increased in the past six years. He asked the Centre to provide the facility of input tax credit in the Goods and Service Tax to farmers too. He demanded direct benefit transfer of fertilizer subsidy to farmers instead of providing it to fertilizer companies. The Kisan Sangh supported the policy on natural farming, and asked the government to make use of the livestock in the country to boost natural farming.

Farmers' Forum chairman Ajay Vir Jakhar said the most problematic area is perishable fruits and vegetables. "Uniform taxation in agricultural markets across India (like GST) will pave the way for improved governance, systems efficiency, mitigation of food inflation and price fluctuations, ignite entrepreneurial spirits to drive competition to benefit farmers and consumers alike," he said.

Industries demanded GST exemption on agricultural machinery, fertilizers, seeds, and medicines. The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry asked the Centre to reduce GST on pesticide from 18% to 5%. Its chairman (agribusiness committee), R.G. Agarwal, urged the Centre to curb sale of smuggled and spurious pesticides.

Leave at the earliest, India tells its citizens living in strife-hit Syria

Press Trust of India

As Islamist-led rebels conti- Indians currently in nue to make further advances in Syria, India has advised its citizens to avoid travelling to the Arab country and urged those staying there to exercise "utmost precaution" and restrict their movements.

In an advisory, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) asked the Indians living in the violence-hit country to leave by the earliest available commercial flights if they can.

The Islamist rebels had almost taken control of the central Syrian city of Homs on Thursday after capturing much of Aleppo, the country's largest city. Tens of thousands of people have been fleeing Homs.

The Ministry urged the Indians residing in Syria to remain in touch with the Indian Embassy Damascus.

"In view of the situation prevailing in Syria, Indian nationals are advised to avoid all travel to Syria, until further notification," the Ministry said.

"Indians currently in Syria are requested to remain in touch with the Indian embassy in Damascus at their emergency helpline number +963 993385973 (also on WhatsApp) and ID hoc.damas-

Syria are requested to remain in touch with the Indian embassy in Damascus at their emergency helpline number for updates MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL

cus@mea.gov.in for updates," it said.

"Those who can are advised to leave by the earliest available commercial flights and others are requested to observe utmost precaution about their safety and restrict their movements to the minimum," it added.

'Following the situation' On Friday, India said it is closely following the unfolding situation in Syria. "We have taken note of the recent escalation in fighting in the north of Syria. We are closely following the situation," Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"There are about 90 Indian nationals in Syria, including 14 who are working in various UN organisations. Our mission remains in close contact with our nationals for their safety and security," he said.

Mayawati flays Congress, SP for 'exploiting' Sambhal issue

The Hindu Bureau

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Saturday accused the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress of exploiting communal tensions for political dividends in Sambhal and inciting divisions within the minority community.

"These two parties are pitting Turks and non-Turks in the Muslim community against each other in Sambhal. Muslims must remain cautious from such tactics," she said.

'Silence on Bangladesh' The former four-time Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister targeted the Congress for its silence on the plight of Hindus in neighbouring Bangladesh and committing historical blunders during Partition. "The Congress remained silent on atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh but [is] shouting about Sambhal, only to cater to Muslim voters, ignoring the broader issues," she said.

Ms. Mayawati targeted Dalit MPs for being silent on community-related issues and expressed disappointment. She accused them of prioritising party loyalty over the interests of Dalits, whether in India or Bangladesh.

Over 100 farmers get notices from Waqf Board in Maharashtra

Press Trust of India

More than 100 farmers in Latur district of Maharashtra on Saturday said the Waqf Board had sought to take over their land on which they have been cultivating for generations.

The claim has been filed in the Maharashtra State Waqf Tribunal in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and notices have been issued to 103 farmers having total land measuring 300 acres, they said.

Two hearings

"These lands have been passed down to us through generations. These are not Waqf property. We want the Maharashtra government to give us justice. Two hearings on the matter have taken place in court and the next hearing is on December 20," said one of the farmers, Tukaram Kanwate.

'Efficient management'

The Centre introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on August 8 to streamline the working of the Waqf Board and ensure efficient management of its properties.

The Bill has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Waqf refers to properties dedicated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law.

Christian MPs object to some provisions in Waqf Bill

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Christian community should highlight its positive points, the important role it played, and "not just be reactive to negative news", Christian MPs from the Opposition bloc are learnt to have told the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) at a recent meeting here.

The CBCI, the apex body of Catholics in India, called a meeting of all Christian MPs on December 3.

The meeting was attended by around 20 MPs, most of them from Opposition parties.

Opposition Multiple MPs raised strong objections to certain provisions



of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, now under the consideration of a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

'Changes composition' The Bill, among many

Congress

clauses, changes the composition of the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards to include non-Muslim members.

Trinamool

parliamentary party leader Derek O'Brien, Congress MPs Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriakose, and Anto Antony, and CPI(M) MP John Brittas were among those who attended the meeting. BJP leader and Union

Minister George Kurian joined the meeting late, and most Opposition MPs were done speaking by then, a source said.

Two Christian MPs of the BJP were absent. A MP from Kerala raised

the issue of abolition of seats reserved for Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and 10 Assemblies. Complaints were raised about the cancellation of FCRA licences of some Christian organisations in recent vears.

(With PTI inputs)



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

Letter No.2410 05/12/2024 /Dtd.

The Bids invited vide Bid Identification No.C.C.E. DKL (R&B) 12/2024-25 vide letter No.2352 dt.29.11.2024 has been modified are as follow

The Bid document for the above notice will be available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in from Dt.13.12.2024 to 5.00 PM of Dt.27.12.2024 for online bidding and shall be opened at 11.00 AM on Dt.30.12.2024.

All other terms and conditions of the above tender call notice will remain unchanged. Chief Construction Engineer.

Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal OIPR - 34132/11/0023/2425

M ND-NDE

THE HINDU



Approval granted to open 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible with the Cabinet approving the opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas. "Our government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible. Under this, 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas will be opened across the country. While this step will benefit a large number of students, many new employment opportunities will also be created," Mr. Modi said in a post on X. He said the government was committed to providing school education to every section of society . PTI

YouTuber Faizal Khan not arrested: Bihar Police

Educator and YouTuber Faizal Khan, popularly known as 'Khan Sir' of Khan Global Studies coaching institute in Patna, has not been arrested, and the coaching institute's X handle had a "misleading, baseless and provocative" post, the Bihar Police said on Saturday. "This handle has made a misleading post. 'Khan Sir' was not arrested or detained by the police. Legal action will be taken against the social media handle of Khan Global Studies coaching institute for propagating fake, baseless and provocative information regarding the 'arrest' of Khan Sir," Anu Kumari, Sub-Divisional Police Officer of the Patna Secretariat Police Station-1, said.

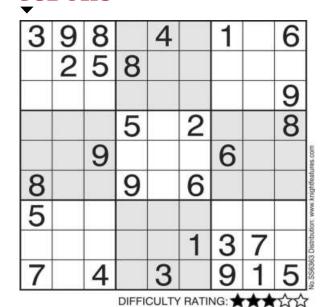
Mumbai Police get message warning of threat to Modi

The Mumbai Police on Saturday received a message threatening to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an official said. The number from which the message was sent was traced to Ajmer in Rajasthan and a police team was sent there immediately to nab the suspect, said an official. The WhatsApp message, received on the helpline of the traffic police in the early hours, mentioned two ISI agents and a plot to carry out a bomb blast to target Mr. Modi, he said. The investigators suspect that the sender is a mentally disturbed person or was under the influence of alcohol but further probe was on, the official

NMDFC, DICCI sign MoU to empower marginalised groups

The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) and the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote entrepreneurship among marginalised communities. Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "This collaboration between the NMDFC and the DICCI is a significant step towards building an Atmanirbhar Bharat. By promoting entrepreneurship, we are empowering individuals to become job creators and role models, transforming lives and communities across the nation."

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

T.N. tops health sector with its schemes: Udhayanidhi

Deputy CM says services are brought to the doorsteps of people to create a significant impact; he launches 'Healthy India, Happy India', a collaborative initiative by Naruvi Hospitals and *The Hindu*

The Hindu Bureau VELLORE

amil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Saturday said the State's Health Department was the frontrunner in the country when it came to reaching out to people with its various flagship health schemes.

Mr. Udhayanidhi was speaking at the inauguration of "Healthy India, Happy India", a collaborative initiative by Naruvi Hospitals and The Hindu, in Vellore.

He said the Health Department was recently honoured with the U.N. Inter-Agency Task Force award for 2024 for one of its flagship schemes, "Makkalai Maruthuvam" (Healthcare at people's doorstep). "The scheme has created a significant impact on the lives of nearly two crore people in the State by providing them essential health services. In its report, the NITI Aayog stated that Tamil Nadu was the frontrunner in at least 13 key departments, including health, in the country," he said.

Mr. Udhayanidhi said Mr. Stalin had taken the Health Department in the State to the "next level" by introducing various schemes, including the



N. Ram, Director of The Hindu Group, presenting a framed front page of *The Hindu* to Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin at an event in Vellore on Saturday. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

"Innuyir Kappom-Nammai Kakkum 48", which funds the treatment of persons injured in road accidents for the first 48 hours. "In fact, such proactive measures have also led to the remarkable increase of 42% in the total number of organ donors in the State. Such initiatives will be amplified only when people and organisations such as The Hindu and Naruvi Hospitals come together to support them," he said.

Role model

In his special address, N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Pvt Ltd, said that in the annual ratings of the India Today magazine in its "State of States" report, Tamil Nadu topped the list of States in the country, especially in

the health sector. In that sense, the State's Health Department was not only a role model to the rest of the country but also to the world, he added.

"Under the inspiration of Chief Minister Stalin, 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' has become an internationally known health scheme as it bagged an award from the United Nations. The Health Department is also appreciated for its initiatives in noncommunicable diseases," he noted, and lauded the efforts taken by the DMK government in the health sector.

G.V. Sampath, founder and chairman of Naruvi Hospitals, said the important partnership with The Hindu would take the message of awareness of health and wellness to the people. "It is the right step towards making informed decisions on health for the people," L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group,

Health and Family Welfare Minister Ma. Subramanian and Handlooms and Textiles Minister R. Gandhi were present.

said.

The "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative aims at promoting health and wellness as essential pillars of national strength. The initiative seeks to inspire individuals and communities to prioritise their health and adopt healthier lifestyles, contributing to a brighter and better future for India. To learn more about the campaign, visit healthyindiahappyindia.

thehindu.co.in.

'Mobile phone addiction leads to sleep deprivation'

The Hindu Bureau VELLORE

Fear of missing out on things that happen around them is making people of all age groups glue them-selves to their mobile phones that deprives them of a good sleep, which should be seven or eight hours a day, said a group of experts on Saturday.

At a panel discussion titled "Stress and sleep: The twin burdens that deter us from achieving full potential", which was organised as part of "Healthy India, Happy India", a collaborative initiative of Naruvi Hospitals and The Hindu here, Maria Antony, specialist in child and adolescent mental health, said excessive usage of mobile phones is inimical to sleep.

"Mobile phone usage has become the new-age aliment for many people as they think smartphones are the only way of recreation," she said. The hourlong discussion was moderated by Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), The Hindu.

M. Satish Kumar, specialist in respiratory medicine, said that the concept of sleep hygiene is to have a set pattern of activities, including going to bed at a regular time. "Getting up during sleep and feeling sleepy during the day is referred to as sleep fragmentation - it should be avoided for better sleep hygiene with less stress," he said,



urging people to keep a diary of sleep and wake times and naps taken.

Pulmonologist Prince James said snoring is the result of obstruction to the smooth flow of oxygen into the lungs. Obesity is one of the main causes of obstructive sleep apnea, a condition that can turn out to be dangerous.

Mary Kurien, an otorhinolaryngologist, spoke of the physiological causes that cause snoring among children and prevent them from getting adequate sleep. While some causes might resolve themselves as the children grow up, others might need intervention, she added.

Relatives of women, children killed in Jiribam violence seek death penalty for perpetrators

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Family members of the six women and children from the Meitei community abducted and murdered in Manipur's Jiribam district last month were in New Delhi on Saturday where they made an appeal for justice, seeking swift identification of the perpetrators and the harshest of punishments to them under the law.

Sandhiya Begum, sister of the victims Telem Thoibi Devi and Laishram Heitonbi Devi, asked, "What could innocent women and children have to do with the war?" as she called for the death penalty against the persons responsible for the killings.

On Saturday, different coalitions of Meitei civil so-



Family members of the victims of violence perpetrated in Manipur's Jiribam narrate their ordeal in New Delhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ciety organisations in New Delhi came together to organise a press conference in the city over the massacre in Jiribam last month. Telem Uttam Singh and his son Nongyai Meetei were among other family members of the victims who were in New Delhi for the press conference. Mr.

Singh's wife (Thoibi Devi) and their eight-year-old daughter were among the victims of the abductioncum-murder.

In Jiribam district, both the Meitei and Kuki-Zomi-Hmar communities are in a minority. The district had largely remained peaceful throughout the ethnic con-

Manipur extends ban on mobile data services

IMPHAL

The Manipur government extended the ban on mobile data services in nine restive districts till December 9, the order issued by the Home Department said. The order was issued after reviewing the prevailing law and order situation, the government said.

flict that began last year until June 2024, when two murders – one of a Kuki-Zo man and another of a Meitei man – pushed the district into the centre of the conflict, with widespread arson and violence internally displacing thousands With tensions more. mounting since then, se-

curity officials in Manipur reported an alleged attack by armed militants near the Borobekra police station in Jakuradhor on November 11, to which they responded with firing and killed 10 militants from the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar community. While the Kuki-Zo civil society outfits in Churachandpur insisted that the men killed in the gunfight with the CRPF were "village volunteers", the police reported that during the gunfight, six women and children from the Meitei community were abducted and two elderly persons burnt to death.

Days later, the bodies of the women and children, which included a 10month-old child, were found floating in the Barak river, which borders Jiribam district.

Nadda opens 100-day campaign against TB

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

"The rate of TB (tuberculosis) decline in India has doubled from 8.3% in 2015 to 17.7% today, much ahead of the global average. Deaths due to TB have also reduced in India by 21.4% in the last 10 years," Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said at the launch of the intensified national '100 day TB elimination campaign' on Saturday in Haryana.

The goal of the campaign, to be implemented in 347 districts across the country, is to find and treat 'missing TB cases', especially in high-risk groups, and reduce TB deaths significantly.

The Union Health Minister said that the campaign had been launched with the intention to provide new momentum to the goal of 'TB-mukt (free) Bharat'. He said that TB is now detected early due to a pan Indian network of over 1.7 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

"The government has significantly scaled up diagnostic services by increasing the number of laboratories from 120 in 2014 to 8,293 laboratories today. It has also introduced a daily regimen of drug-sensitive TB, including a new, shorter and more effective regimen, which has improved TB treatment success rate to 87%," the Minister said.

The Health Ministry in its release added that it had now made it mandatory for even private medical practitioners to notify new TB patients, so that their treatment could be followed up immediately. "This might look like a small step but it has led to an 8-fold increase in the rate of TB notifications in the private sector," the release said.

M ND-NDE

UN declares December 21 as World **Meditation Day**

Press Trust of India UNITED NATIONS

India was a member of the core group of countries including Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mexico and Andorra that guided the unanimous adoption of the resolution titled World Meditation Day in the 193member UN General Assembly on Friday.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said in a post on X that India's leadership in overall human wellbeing stems from "our civilisational dictum of #VasudhaivaKutumbakam - the whole world is one family".

The Hindu journalist wins accolades at IPI India Awards for reporting on Manipur

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Hindu journalist Vijaita Singh's reporting on Manipur's ethnic strife, raging for over 18 months now, won accolades at the International Press Institute India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2024 Saturday. The IPI, in a statement,

said that there were several entries in the print, digital, and broadcast categories, covering different angles of the strife in Manipur and as a result, the jury had decided to recognise the five best entries for cash prizes and citations as a "mark of appreciation and acknowledgement of the media's efforts to bring out the various facets of the human tragedy caused by the civil

The citation for Ms. Singh, Deputy Editor at The Hindu, came along with recognition of the reporting done on the conflict by other journalists and newsrooms, which included The Print, TheCaravan (Greeshma Kuthar), Scroll.in (Arunabh Saikia and Tora Agarwala), and India Today (Ashutosh Mishra).

The IPI India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2024, was awarded to photojournalist Bhanu Prakash Chandra for his account of the war in Ukraine – Sunflower fields and no man's land end – published in The Week.

This award comes with a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a trophy and a citation.

The jury was headed by former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur. The members included Riyad Mathew, Chairman, IPI-India and Chief Associate Editor and Director, Malayala Manorama; Shobhaa De, columnist; and Vijay Joshi,

Editor-in-Chief, Press Trust

Human tragedy

of India.

Ms. Singh's reporting on the ethnic conflict in Manipur has spanned the length and breadth of the issues facing the north-eastern State – from the granular details of the brutality of the conflict to the broader themes of how it began and has been playing out over the past 18 months, including covering the human tra-

gedy faced by tens of thou-

sands of civilians across communities in the strifetorn State.

Ever since the conflict began on May 3, 2023, over 250 people have been killed, thousands more injured, and over 60,000 people have been left internally displaced.

After the awards were announced, Ms. Singh said, "I am very grateful to The Hindu for consistently providing space to report on an issue that I believe ought to be etched in public memory." The IPI added, "The Jury was unable to select any entry in the broadcast category deserving the award."

The award was instituted in 2003 and has been given to 20 media organisations and journalists in print and electronic media so far.

NBRIBE



Suven Pharma to buy \$64.4 mn stake in U.S. firm NJ Bio Inc.

Global private equity major Advent International-owned firm Suven Pharmaceuticals will acquire 56% stake in NJ Bio Inc. for \$64.4 million. The acquisition is expected to be completed this month and help consolidate its position in the contract development and manufacturing organisation space, Suven Pharmaceuticals said on Saturday. Based in Princeton, NJ Bio is into cutting-edge solutions across the antibody-drug conjugates value chain.

Q3: Soaps, home insecticides hit, GCPL sees flat volumes

Impacted by an increase in soap prices and unseasonal rainfall slowing down sales of the home-insecticides segment, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. (GCPL) expects a 'flattish' underlying volume growth and a mid-single-digit sales growth in the domestic market in the December quarter. Both segments jointly contribute to two-thirds of GCPL's standalone revenue – mainly income from operations from the domestic market.

Need enforceable code of conduct for CoC: RBI's Rao

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao pitched for an enforceable code of conduct for the committee of creditors (CoC) under the insolvency resolution process. While emphasising the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which was introduced in 2016, had gained significant traction as a recovery and resolution mechanism, Mr. Rao also said significant improvements are needed with respect to the area of CoC. PTI

India's textile sector rattled by apparel GST hike proposal

A ministerial group's reported recommendation to raise the indirect tax rate on readymade garments priced over ₹1,500, has triggered concerns

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

recent proposal reportedly mooted by a Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST rates' rationalisation, to amend the indirect tax levies structure for readymade garments has set off alarm bells in India's apparel and textiles industry with fears of a huge hit on jobs and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The GoM is said to be considering a hike in the GST rates to 18% from 12% for garments priced above ₹1,500, and 28% for those priced over ₹10,000.

"Take the case of woollen sweaters. It is not a luxury, but a necessity in northern States. It is not possible to get woollen sweaters at less than ₹1,500, and the proposal is to increase the GST on it by 50%," noted Rahul Mehta, chief mentor, the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI). Garments currently attract GST rates in two slabs -5% or 12%. "Now, the plan is to add a 28% slab," he pointed out.

For wedding clothing, the garments are all priced above ₹10,000 each. So the entire segment will either shifit to the informal sector or get wiped out, the industry fears. All handwoven garments are priced at



Not yet: The CBIC has termed reports on GoM recommendations on GST rate changes as premature and speculative. BIJOY GHOSH

more than ₹1,500, and raising GST on them will also hit handloom weavers.

"Extending the 5% slab to garments priced up to ₹1,500 is a good move because it is almost eight years since the GST was introduced and only garments up to ₹1,000 attract the 5% rate," said Sanjay Jain, chairman of the national expert committee on textiles of the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Impact on MMF

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and the Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) pointed to the impact of inverted duty structure for manmade fibre (MMF) sector. The fibre attracts 18% GST, yarn 12% and fabric 5%. However, dyes and chemicals are taxed 18% or 28%. and textile processing taxed at 5%. This is an anomaly industry wants the

GST Council to address.

A majority of the textile and garment units are MSMEs, and a GST hike will have huge impact on them, SIMA chairman S.K. Sundararaman cautioned. "We fear any hike will disrupt the formal retail sector, driving consumers and firms to informal channels," said Rakesh Mehra, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry chairman.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has termed reports about the proposed GST rate changes for various goods and services as "premature and speculative".

The GST Council has not yet deliberated on any rate changes and the GoM is yet to finalise and present its recommendations to the Council. after which the Council will take a final view, the CBIC noted. The Council is slated to meet at Jaisalmer on December 21.



IRDAI slaps showcause notice on Star Health

N. Ravi Kumar HYDERABAD

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued a show cause notice to Star Health and Allied Insurance Company for alleged violations of various IRDAI regulations and guidelines.

The notice follows an inspection IRDAI conducted for the period from January 31, 2022 to February 11, 2022 and the observations it made pertaining to the company's business and operational aspects. The company is in the process of submitting response to the observations, Star Health said in filings on Friday and Saturday.

The company has been advised to reply within 21 days from the date of receipt of the notice along with supporting documents. It is in the process of providing adequate replies to the alleged violations and believes that there will not be any impact. However, the outcome and related implications cannot be predicted with certainty at this stage, the insurer said.

After IndiGo suit, M&M switches new e-SUV brand



Brand war: The automaker, however, said it has decided to contest the brand right over BE 6e in a court. BIJOY GHOSH

<u>Lalatendu Mishra</u>

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) said it was changing the brand name of its electric-origin SUV to BE 6 from BE 6e to avoid delays in product introduction owing to legal challenges by InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (IndiGo) which could drag on for years.

But M&M has decided to contest the brand right of BE 6e in court. After M&M unveiled electric origin SUVs, the BE 6e and XEV 9e, on November 26, Inter-Globe Aviation, which has the call sign 6E, filed a law suit to prevent M&M from using the brand 6e.

"Mahindra's mark is "BE 6e" not standalone "6E". We believe it differs fundamentally from IndiGo's "6E," representing an airline," M&M said.

"Our registration application is for an entirely different industry sector and product and hence, do not see any conflict.

"In fact, we would like to point out in the past, Tata Motors had objected to InterGlobe using the Indi-Go mark, given their Tata Indigo car brand. Inter-Globe continues to use the mark IndiGo in a different industry and business. We therefore find their objection to BE 6e to be inconsistent with their own previous conduct," M&M said.

Stating its priority and focus were on ensuring an excellent experience for its customers as it takes its product to the market, it said, "We would not like to get distracted from our vision of popularising electric transport in India."

"We also find it unseemly that two large, Indian multinationals should engage in a distracting and unnecessary conflict when, in fact, we should be championing each other's growth and expansion," M&M said.

"We, however, do believe the claim by IndiGo is baseless and if not challenged, will set an unhealthy precedent. We will continue to strongly contest this in court and reserve our right to the brand name BE 6e," it said.

By 2030, ITC wants to bring 10 million farmers on its farm-services platform

N. Ravi Kumar HYDERABAD

The \$8 billion in revenue, diversified ITC Ltd. is keen on 10 million farmers across 4,000 farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in the country accessing its Meta Market for Advanced Agriculture and Rural Services (MAARS) by 2030.

About 1.7 million farmers with about 1,700 FPOs now access ITCMAARS, the phygital ecosystem with a super app at its centre offering a bouquet of services from customised advisory on crops and weather, access to seeds and fertilizers, information on prices in the mandis to linkages with banks. The super app includes Krishi Mitra, a Gen-AI powered voice assistant for farmers.

For the company, ITC-MAARS is the next level of its popular e-Choupal initiative and a step further to strengthen bonds with farmers who are the backbone of its agri business besides staying relevant through handholding measures and having in place a robust tech-driven system to ensure access to crop, traceability and quality.

Forging partnerships The evolving ITCMAAP

The evolving ITCMAARS ecosystem has also meant ITC connecting with scores of start-ups, research institutions and other partners providing associated services such as soil testing, local weather information and drones. The firm expects the partnership to strengthen as it looks to to onboard more farmers.

onboard more farmers.

"We would like every farmer to have ITC-MAARS... [it] has such



in its engagement with farmers. N. RAVI KUMAR

For the diversified company, ITCMAARS is essentially the next level of its popular e-Choupal initiative

good quality information,"
ITC's agri business division's chief executive officer S. Ganesh Kumar said during a media interaction at Bhopal this week.

Scaling up and being

precise about the information at every geography is now easier with the app, which now is available in seven languages.

"Our ambition is to take

it to 4,000 FPOs from [the existing] about 1,700 FPOs... [also] we want to take this across to more value chain whether fruits, vegetables and spices," the CEO added.

Crop insurance Among new services, crop

insurance is likely to be added. The States where ITC wants to either roll out or

expand ITCMAARS include Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, and east MP. At present, the company procures three million tonne of agricultural commodities annually from 22 States, with FPOs roped in across 10 States. The focus is on traditional crops like wheat, paddy and maize. In Madhya Pradesh, ITC works with 550 FPOs toprocure 2.5 lakh tonne of wheat.

Farmers in villages of Sehore district, who interacted with journalists, said that ITC procured produce from the farm gate, and at a price higher than what they would get in the mandis. At some places, ITC, as part of its climatesmart agriculture initiatives, has introduced farmers to smart practices such as the use of broad bed furrow, drones and water stewardship.

(The correspondent was in Bhopal at the invitation of ITC)

Fossil fuels to play crucial role in energy security, says Rosneft CEO

<u>Lalatendu Mishra</u> MUMBAI

Fossil fuels will continue to play an important role in global energy security despite the sharp growth in renewable energy basket to de-carbonise the globe, said Igor Sechin, CEO of Russian oil major Rosneft.

While speaking at the recently held XVIIth Verona Eurasian Economic Forum, he highlighted projections from Bank of America, which estimate economic growth in developing countries and the expansion of data centres will drive an annual increase of up to 9 million barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) in global energy consumption.

Meanwhile, renewable energy output is expected to grow by only 2 million boepd, underscoring the reliance on oil and gas.

Rising demand

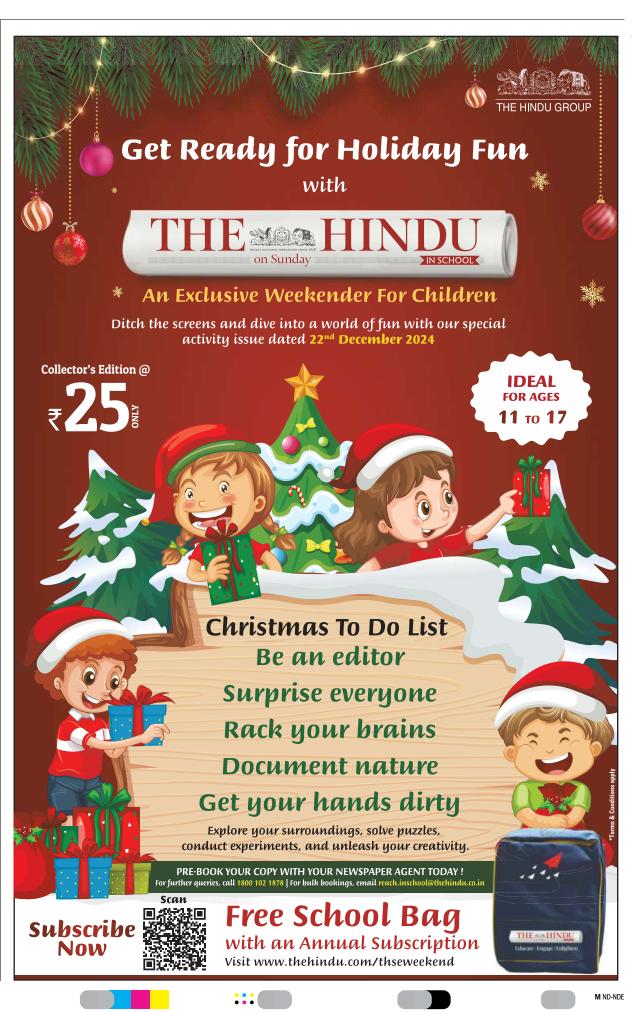
By 2050, global oil demand is forecast to rise to 20 million barrels per day (bpd), supported by rising consumption in India and other developing nations. He further emphasised the need for significant investment in the energy sector.

As per OPEC, annual in-

vestments in oil production must rise by 50%, reaching \$550 billion by 2050, to meet demand and compensate for depletion of conventional reserves.

He also questioned the

fe also questioned the feasibility of achieving netzero targets, noting renewable energy capacity would need to surge tenfold by 2050 to 35 terawatts – a figure over four times the world's current installed energy capacity.





Intermittent fasting inhibits hair regeneration in mice: study

The Hindu Bureau

Intermittent fasting has proven benefits for metabolic health, but a new study shows that it could slow hair growth - at least in mice. Researchers report in the Cell that mice subjected to intermittent fasting regimes show improved metabolic health but slower hair regeneration compared to mice with 24/7 access to food. A

similar process might occur in humans, based on a small clinical trial that the team also conducted, but it's likely to be less severe since humans have a much slower metabolic rate and different hair growth patterns compared to mice.

In addition to its metabolic benefits, previous studies have shown that fasting can improve the stress resistance of stem associated

blood, intestinal, and muscle tissue, but little is known about how it impacts peripheral tissues such as skin and hair. The researchers hypothesised that fasting might also be beneficial for skin tissue regeneration, the process by which old and damaged cells are replaced.

To test this, they examined hair regrowth in mice that were shaved and then subjected to different intermittent fasting regimes. Some mice were fed on a time-restricted feeding (TRF) schedule that involved eight hours of food access and 16 hours of fasting each day, while other mice were subjected to alternate-day feeding (ADF).

They were surprised to find that fasting inhibited hair regeneration. While control mice that had unlimited access to food had regrown most of their hair

after 30 days, mice on both intermittent fasting regimes showed only partial hair regrowth after 96

Phases of activity

The team showed that this inhibited hair growth occurs because hair follicle stem cells (HFSCs) are unable to cope with the oxidative stress associated with switching from using glucose to fat. HFSCs go through phases of activity and dormancy, and hair regrowth depends on these cells becoming active. While the control mice's HFSCs began to become activated around day 20 post-shaving and remained active until their hair had regrown, the intermittent fasting mice's activated HFSCs underwent apoptosis (programmed cell death) during extended fasting periods.

Preventing malaria using genetically modified parasites

Genetically modified malaria-causing parasites do not cause disease; they instead prime the immune system during the initial stage of their life cycle in the liver

R. Prasad

vaccines against malaria rolled out in some countries in Africa. Besides vaccines, scientists have been using genetically altered mosquitoes to stop the spread of malaria. One is the release of radiation-sterilised male mosquitoes to prevent eggs from hatching.

Another is engineering mosquitoes that slow the growth of malaria-causing parasites in the gut thereby preventing transmission of malaria to humans. The other method is using genetically modified mosquitoes that can spread resistance to malaria-causing parasites by thriving and with mosquitoes.

Now, in a radical approach, scientists have shifted their focus from genetic modification of malaria-causing mosquitoes to malaria-causing parasites. They have genetically modified malaria-causing parasites so that the parasites do not cause disease. Instead, they prime the immune system during the initial stage of their life cycle in the liver and before they enter the bloodstream. Malaria-causing parasites cause infection and symptoms begin to show only when they move into the bloodstream from the liver stage.

The priming of the immune system, like in the case of vaccines, by the genetically modified malaria parasites shields the individuals when malaria-causing mosquitoes bite them later. While the genetic modification kills the para-

Focus shifts to GM parasites

Mosquitoes are used to deliver genetically modified parasites

- Genetically altered parasite in the liver stage
- The genetic modification kills the parasites by completely arresting its growth on day one (early-arresting) or day six (late-arresting) during the liver stage
- Nine participants were bitten by mosquitoes carrying late-arresting parasites, eight by early arresting parasites, and three belonged to the placebo group
- All participants were exposed to controlled three weeks after the third immunisation session



Genetic frontiers: Till now, scientists have been genetically altering the mosquitoes to stop the spread of malaria

■ The latearresting parasite group had 89% immune protection compared with 13% for the earlyarresting arm

The amount of antibody produced was the same immaterial of parasites being or day six in

Parasites killed on day six produced certain T cells that were not seen in participants bitten by mosquitoes carrying parasites that died on day one

sites by completely arresting their growth on day six during the liver stage (latearresting parasite), the parasites have sufficient time to prime the immune system far more effectively than when the parasites are killed on day one (early-arresting parasite) of entering the liver. In a small trial, research-

ers exposed nine healthy malaria to 50 bites by mosquitoes that carried the genetically modified late-arresting parasites that were designed to die on day six of the liver stage, eight healthy adults with the early-arresting parasites, and three adults in the placebo group who were bitten by uninfected mosquitoes.

The 50 mosquito bites were considered as one immunisation session, and the participants were exposed to three such sessions in all. Each successive immunisation session was set at 28-day intervals.

Three weeks after the third immunisation session, all participants were exposed to controlled human malaria infection by means of five bites from mosquitoes infected with the genetically unaltered *P*. falciparum parasite. This was to test the efficacy of genetically modified malaria parasites in priming the immune system.

blished in the New England Journal of Medicine, the efficacy results were striking. While eight of nine (89%) participants primed by late-arresting parasites were protected from malaria when exposed to mosquitoes carrying unaltered

falciparum parasite, only one of eight (13%) participants who were primed by early-arresting parasites was protected from malaria. No participants in the placebo arm were protected from malaria.

The titres of antibodies

targeting key P. falciparum antigens in both the early-arresting and last-arresting parasite groups were far higher than those observed in the placebo group and did not differ between participants in the two intervention arms. This suggests that the vastly different timings of killing the parasites in the liver did not affect the duced.

However, there were differences in the cellular immunity in the two intervention groups. Though the overall cellular frequency T-cell lineages remained similar, certain *P*. falciparum-specific T cells were seen only in participants who were primed by mosquitoes carrying the last-arresting parasites. "This suggests an important independent role of late-liver-stage antigens in inducing gamma delta Tcell responses," they write. Sporozoites,

are the infective stage of the malaria parasite, when attenuated by radiation also offer protection against malaria. In contrast to the genetically modified parasites used in this study, the protection offered by radiation-attenuated sporozoites against malaria ranged between 50% and

However, administration of radiation-attenuated sporozoites by means of mosquito bites requires higher doses (approximately 1,000 mosquito bites) to reach levels of protection similar to the level offered by last-arresting parasites used in this "Our findings suggest

that parasites arresting late during the liver stage offer improved protection, as compared with early-arresting sporozoites, and provide a step toward a next-generation malaria vaccine," they write. However, they also caution that the conclusions from the trial are limited by the small sample size, and urge that studies with greater numbers of particiunderstanding of both the efficacy and the safety profile of genetically modified last-arresting parasites. They also note that the "immunologic assessments were exploratory, and the relevance of the variables associated with last-arresting-induced protection needs confirmation". Also, the durability of immune protection offered by last-arresting parasites needs to be assessed especially against heterologous P. falciparum strains where malaria is endemic.



Single mutation can make H5N1 spread among humans

A recent study led by scientists at Scripps Research reveals that a single mutation in the H5N1 virus – which has recently infected dairy cows in the U.S., causing a few mild human cases but retaining specificity for avian receptors could enhance the virus' ability to attach to human cells, potentially increasing the risk of passing from person to person. A single glutamic acid to leucine mutation at residue 226 of the virus hemagglutinin was sufficient to enact the change from avian to human specificity.



A new catalyst can turn methane into useful polymer

Although less abundant than carbon dioxide, methane gas contributes disproportionately to global warming because it traps more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. MIT engineers have now designed a new catalyst that can convert methane into useful polymers, which could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new catalyst works at room temperature and atmospheric pressure, which could make it easier to deploy at sites of methane production, such as power plants and cattle barns.



Coffee wilt disease linked to gene transfer from fungus

Researchers compared the genomes of 13 historic strains and multiple disease outbreaks of coffee wilt disease to investigate how the pathogen Fusarium xylarioides has adapted to coffee plants. They found that *F. xylarioides* is made up of at least four distinct lineages, and also found evidence that these strains had repeatedly received segments of DNA from another fungal pathogen, F. oxysporum, which enhanced F. xylarioides's ability to infect coffee plants.

New insights into how Long COVID affects the brain

Rajeev Jayadevan

Long COVID is a condition marked by multiple persistent symptoms that sometimes occur even after mild infections. Among these, memory loss, brain fog and sleep disturbances indicate brain involvement. MRI scans done before and after COVID-19 show shrinkage in certain brain regions, pointing to tissue loss. This raises crucial questions: how does a respiratory virus go on to affect the brain? And what drives brain inflammation in these patients? Two recent papers provide insights into how the virus might indirectly affect the

A study published in Cell Host & Microbe concludes that the continued presence of the virus spike protein could be triggering inflammation and neurodegenerative changes in the brain. The spike also activates inflammatory pathways. When researchers injected spike protein into the skulls of mice, they observed brain inflammation along with behaviou-

The authors found that spike protein-based vaccines do not have similar effects. They found that vaccinated mice infected with the virus had lower spike protein levels. Moreover, Long COVID symptoms are rarely linked to vaccination. This suggests that it is the immune response to the virus, not vaccination, that is responsible for the widespread presence of spike protein in the body.

In human studies, the researchers identified spike protein within the skulls of people who died of causes other than CO-VID. This indicates that spike protein stays in the



caused brain inflammation. GETTY IMAGES body long after the initial infection, which may have occurred several months earlier. Long COVID patients with persistent spike protein also had elevated levels of biomarkers such as tau protein in their cerebrospinal fluid.

These biomarkers are released when brain cells are damaged.

What is so special about spike protein being found within the skull? The hollow core of the skull houses a unique type of bone marrow which is different from that found inside other bones. Connected directly to the coverings of the brain through blood vessels, the skull bone marrow plays a role in brain health and disease. Immune activity within the skull's bone marrow can influence both the progression and recovery of various brain disorders.

The next question is how exactly these immune alterations lead to brain damage. A paper published in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity - Health examines the interaction between the virus and microglia, the brain's resident immune cells. These cells function similarly to macrophages found in the rest of the body, clearing debris, eliminating viruses, and coordinating immune responses. Like a gardener trimming a hedge to maintain its shape, microglia also prune unwanted connections between brain cells, a process essential for early brain development and neuroplasticity.

However, dysregulation of this pruning can contribute to various brain disorders. Under normal conditions, microglia remain at rest. However, when activated - such as after CO-VID-19 – they can trigger prolonged brain inflammation, potentially leading to memory problems and other symptoms.

So it appears that this virus leaves a footprint in the body long after it has gone, resulting in persistent health problems in a few.

Currently, there is no definitive cure for Long COVID, though some individuals improve over time. The lack of specific treatment reflects an incomplete understanding of the involved mechanisms and the challenge of effectively targeting these complex pathways without harming the body.

Understanding these pathways could pave the way for treatments that prevent or alleviate symptoms, and restore quality of life for people living with Long COVID.

(Rajeev Jayadevan is cochairman of the National IMA COVID task Force)



Question Corner

Not a straw

How do hummingbirds drink nectar at frenetic speed?

Hummingbird bills look a little like drinking straws. The frenetic speed at which they get nectar out of flowers and backyard feeders may give the impression that the bills act as straws, too. But new research shows just how little water or nectar, that comparison holds. The team discovered that a drinking hummingbird rapidly opens and shuts different parts of its bill simultaneously, engaging in a highly coordinated dance with its tongue to draw up nectar at lightning speeds. By analysing the footage and combining it

scans of hummingbird specimens, researchers discovered the intricate bill movements that underlie drinking – 1) to extend its tongue, the hummingbird opens just the tip of its bill, 2) after the tongue brings in nectar, the bill tip closes, 3) to draw nectar up the bill, the hummingbird keeps the bill's midsection shut tightly while opening the base slightly, and 4) then it opens its tip again to extend the tongue for a new cycle.

with data from micro-CT

The row over tungsten mining near Madurai

Who had got the rights? Why have there been protests? What's the Tamil Nadu government's stand?

C. Palanivel Rajan

The story so far:

he Ministry of Mines recently announced it had granted tungsten mining rights to Hindustan Zinc Limited, a subsidiary of Vedanta Limited, through an auction on November 7. One of the areas chosen was a band in Melur in Madurai district. Following protests, the State government of Tamil Nadu said that it would soon pass a resolution to reject it.

What does the Ministry say about mining?

The Union government, through a statement on November 7, stated that the Ministry of Mines had successfully concluded the auction of eight critical mineral blocks, launched under Tranche IV of the auction of critical and strategic mineral blocks. It attributed the success of the auction to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, which leveraged the Union government's authority to grant mineral concessions for key minerals listed in Part D of the First Schedule. Following the issuance of the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on June 24 for 21 mineral blocks, 10 mineral blocks advanced to the second round of e-auction. They contained deposits of strategic minerals such as

The major argument against mining at Melur is because of the location's rich flora and fauna, say activists

phosphorite, graphite and vanadium, essential for high-tech and green energy applications.

As the Nayakkarpatti tungsten block is one among eight blocks selected for mining, the Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd. of the

Ministry of Mines in its report noted that the 2,015.51 hectares earmarked for tungsten mining was found to be rich in scheelite – an important ore of tungsten. The water source for mining in the area was listed as the Periyar canal.

Why is there opposition?

The public, environmental activists and politicians have staunchly opposed the move to start tungsten mining in the biodiversity-rich heritage area at Melur. Though the Ministry claimed that it had taken inputs from the Tamil Nadu government, which reportedly showed no opposition before the auction, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to cancel the mining rights awarded to the private firm before announcing that the State government would pass a resolution to cancel mining rights. The earmarked area for mining comprises Melur, Terkutteru, Muthuvelpatti, Kulanipatti, Kidaripatti, Etimagamala Arittapatti, Vallalappatti, Sillippyapatti, Chettiyarpatti, and Nayakkarpatti.

Locals and environmental activists fear that mining would destroy its rich flora and fauna in addition to distorting its cultural significance. The major argument raised by opposing voices is the location's significance as a biodiversity heritage site, declared by the Tamil Nadu government through a notification in November 2022, to protect the site comprising 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (Melur block) and 53.8 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk) from quarrying and other developmental activities.

Though the Ministry had explained that out of the total area of 20.16 sq.km, only 1.93 sq.km within Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages had been notified as a biodiversity heritage site, activists are sceptical about the impact of mining on the environment and cultural sites like temples and Jain beds located around the area.

R.S. Mugilan, an environmental activist known for his protest against projects like Sterlite, Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, hydrocarbon Project in Neduvasal, and Neutrino project, said, "Vedanta – the company that won the auction for tungsten mining, is known for pollution practices at its copper smelting unit in Thoothukudi." Highlighting issues from the climate change perspective, Poovulagin Nanbargal, an environmental organisation based in Tamil Nadu, notes that the tailings (the left-over materials from the processing of mined ore) when stored after the mining extraction, would release heavy metals like copper, cadmium, zinc, lead, arsenic, and would be detrimental to humans and the environment.

Is there a Centre-State rift?

Though the State government says it vehemently opposed the mining of tungsten block in Melur, the Union government alleges: "Since February 2024, when the block was first put to auction till the declaration of result of the auction of November 11, there was no communication from any quarter including the State government regarding any opposition to the auction. Nor did the State government request the Union government to drop the block from auction." However, the State Minister for Water Resources pointed out that repeated conversations were held with the Union government over mining. He clarified: "When the Union government sought the details of the land, we had pointed out that there was a biodiversity heritage site at the proposed area. Without taking into account such factors, the Union government has awarded the rights to the company."

Why can't the world agree on a plastic ban?

How much plastic waste is produced now? What is the most common type of plastic waste found in the environment? Why are several countries averse to tackling plastic pollution? Why did talks fail at Busan? Is another round of negotiations likely?

tonnes of

every year

plastic waste

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

he 5th Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) on plastic pollution was a conclave of delegations from about 170 countries mandated to establish a legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution, informally called the Global Plastics Treaty. Despite a week of meetings, the INC-5 failed to meet its mandate.

What is the Global Plastics Treaty?

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolved in March 2022 to 'end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.' To that end, INC committees were constituted and tasked with negotiating a treaty before the end of 2024. Over the last two years, countries met five times, and attempted to bridge divergent views on how to end plastic pollution. Several countries are enthusiastic about ways and means to encourage recycling and prohibit certain plastics that lead to littering - India for instance has banned single-use plastic since 2022 – but many of them are reluctant to limit plastic production. Several countries are either petro-states or those that have significant industries that manufacture plastic polymers. Before the latest, and what was expected to be the last round of negotiations, began in Busan, South Korea, the Chair of the INC-5, Luis Vayas Valdivieso, circulated a draft text called a 'non paper.' This was roughly a synthesis of the views of all countries on managing plastic production but in the end, it turned out that despite long negotiations, the chasm between countries who viewed addressing plastic pollution as a waste



Complete ban: An environmental activist wears a banner reading "No plastic" during a campaign to reduce plastic use in Seoul on December 3. AFP

Currently, management problem, and those that saw it as unachievable without cutting its production at the world source, was one that was too wide to bridge. produces about 400 How bad is the problem of plastic pollution? million

According to a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) factsheet, plastic waste generation nearly trebled from between 1970 and 1990. In the early 2000s, the amount of plastic waste generated rose more in a single decade than it had in the previous 40 years. Currently, the world produces about 400 million tonnes of plastic waste every year. If historic growth trends continue, global production of primary plastic is forecasted to reach 1,100

million tonnes by 2050. There has also been a worrying shift towards single-use plastic products, items that are meant to be thrown away after a short use. Approximately, 36% of all plastics produced

are used in packaging, including single-use plastic products for food and beverage containers, of which 85% ends up in landfills or as unregulated waste. On top of that, about 98% of single-use plastic products are produced from fossil fuel, or "virgin" feedstock. The level of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, use and disposal of conventional fossil fuel-based plastics is forecast to grow to 19% of the global carbon budget by 2040. Of the seven billion tonnes of plastic waste generated globally so far, less than 10% has been recycled. Millions of tonnes of plastic waste are lost to the environment, or sometimes shipped thousands of kilometres to destinations where it is mostly burned or dumped. The estimated annual loss in the value of plastic packaging waste during sorting and processing alone is \$80-\$120 billion. Cigarette butts – whose filters contain tiny plastic fibres – are the most common type of plastic waste found in the environment. Food wrappers, plastic bottles, plastic bottle caps, plastic grocery bags, plastic straws, and stirrers are the next most common item.

What is India's position on the treaty?

India said that it would be "unable" to support any measures to regulate the production of primary plastic polymers as it has larger implications in respect of the right to development of member States. Indian delegation leader, Naresh Pal Gangwar, of the Environment Ministry, said at the concluding plenary session India had always been 'committed" to the principle of consensus in decision-making in respect of substantive matters under multilateral environmental agreements. This principle reiterated collective decision-making and reflects shared

responsibilities and commitment. Elaborating on these points, India's position was that it had banned 22 kinds of single-use plastic and put in place an Extended Producer Responsibility regime. This means that companies had to ensure a certain percentage of their plastic-packaging waste was recycled and that the littering of some of the most common kinds of plastic waste was banned. However, virgin polymer production is one of India's major products and exports, with conglomerates such as Reliance having significant stakes in the industry. India viewed calls to cut plastic production and regulate its supply as akin to introducing barriers to trade. Its position was closer to that of China, Saudi Arabia and several other oil and petrochemical-refining states. At the talks, 85-100 of the gathered countries were supportive of cuts to plastic production, year-wise targets to achieve them and restrict supply and trade. Finally, India has strongly opposed proposals for countries to vote on propositions in draft texts that were produced at negotiations such as INC. In INC-like negotiations – like the Conference of Parties talks in climate - every single word and punctuation has to be agreed upon by all countries. This inevitably leads to deadlock that can take years to resolve. There have been proposals to include voting rights to engineer progress but countries have opposed this, on the ground that it violates the principle of equity.

Is this the end of the road?

By no means. It is expected that an "INC 5.2" will likely be convened sometime later next year to resume conversation and find common ground to firm a treaty. The final treaty, if agreed to. will lead to the beginning of a periodic Conference of Parties (COP) – just like in the climate talks. The UN talks in Rio de Janerio, in 1992, was where countries decided to address carbon dioxide emissions. It took three years until the first COP was organised in Berlin and in the 29 years since, the world has moved at a glacial pace to address CO2 emissions.

According to an analysis by the Center for International Environmental Law, multilateral environmental agreements have taken varying amounts of time to negotiate treaty text due to a range of factors, ranging from just over a year to nearly five years between the start of negotiations and treaty adoption. In addition, depending on the number of countries required to ratify, it is not unusual for several years to pass between adopting the treaty and its entry into force. For example, the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction held five sessions over five years. It met seven times by holding a "resumed" fifth session and a "further resumed" fifth session.

How will martial law flip-flop affect S. Korea?

What led to the declaration, and the subsequent swift withdrawal, of emergency provisions? What are the key reasons for the development? How many times has martial law been imposed in the country? What happened to the impeachment motion against President Yoon Suk Yeol?

in his

tenure

Adithya Narayan

The story so far:

or a brief while on December 3, South Korea, a country with a history of military rule, had fleeting visions of its past, as President Yoon Suk Yeol imposed emergency martial law. This would have curbed the activities of political parties, brought the media under the ambit of law, and required protesting workers to resume duties.

What followed the declaration?

Yielding to pressure, Mr. Yoon repealed the law within six hours after lawmakers braved Army troops to vote 190-0 against it at the 300-member strong Parliament. This included 18 members of Mr. Yoon's People's Power Party (PPP). The opposition filed an impeachment motion against the President. But on Saturday, lawmakers from the PPP staged a walkout when the National Assembly met to discuss impeaching the President, and therefore, the motion failed.

What is the history of the law?

South Korea's constitution states that martial law can be imposed to "cope with a military necessity, or to maintain the public safety and



In rage: A demonstrator holds a poster during a protest calling for the ouster of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in Seoul on December 7. AFP

order, by mobilisation of the military forces in The time of war, armed conflict or similar national conservative emergency." The law can be repealed if President overturned by a majority in the National Yoon Suk Assembly. Between the end of the Second World Yeol has War and South Korea's transition to democracy faced a in 1987, martial law has been imposed 16 times. series of Park Chung-hee, who came to power in 1961 challenges

through a military coup, had imposed martial law multiple times during his 17-year reign. Major General Chun Doo-hwan, who came after Park, oversaw one of the darkest chapters in the history of martial law when troops cracked down on a pro-democracy uprising in the city of Gwangju, killing at least 200 people in 1980.

What led to the decision?

At the time of Mr. Yoon's ascension to the President's chair in 2022 (with a razor-thin majority of 0.8 percentage-points), the National Assembly was already dominated by the opposition Democratic Party. A victory for them in this year's parliamentary elections landed Mr. Yoon in a precarious position, making him the first South Korean leader in decades without a majority in the National Assembly. This led to constant bickering, with the President vetoing Bills and accusing the opposition of filing 22 impeachment motions against his administration officials. Coupled with the latest argument over a Budget Bill, the stand-off culminated in Mr. Yoon declaring martial law to stop "shameless pro-North anti-state forces that plunder the freedom and happiness of our people", terming the Assembly a "monster that destroys the liberal democratic system".

What has been Mr. Yoon's track-record?

A prosecutor by profession, Mr. Yoon came to power succeeding Moon Jae-in from the Democratic Party. During his career, the 63-year-old has handled several high-profile cases, including the investigation and conviction of former President Park Geun-hye. In comparison to Mr. Moon, who struck a conciliatory tone with North Korea by meeting its leader Kim Jong-un, the Conservative Mr. Yoon has adopted a hawkish approach. He called for increased military drills and economic sanctions on Pyongyang, in moves perceived as an overture to bolster ties with the U.S.

On the domestic front, increasing home prices and rising unemployment have kept his administration busy. The country is home to an ageing population and has the world's lowest birthrate. The government's efficacy was first put to test on October 29, 2022, at the Halloween weekend stampede where 159 people were killed at a popular nightlife district in Seoul. The authorities' response to the incident came under sharp criticism. The second challenge came in the form of the doctors' protest which began in February 2024, when the government decided to admit more medical students to address staff shortages. The medical workers wanted the government to address their harsh working conditions and dismal pay before recruiting more students. Another blot on Mr. Yoon's career was the bribery charges levelled against his wife, Kim Keon Hee, who was caught on camera receiving a \$2,200 Dior pouch as a gift. These factors, clubbed with his anti-feminist policies and attacks against the media for spreading 'fake news', led the President's approval points to drop to 17% last month.

What has been the aftermath?

While Mr. Yoon apologised, senior aides to Mr. Yoon offered to resign en masse. Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun, who is believed to have recommended martial law to Mr. Yoon, resigned from his post. The opposition's impeachment motion had the backing of citizens and labour unions who have gone on strike in Seoul. Allies of Mr. Yoon such as the leader of his PPP party, Han Dong-hoon, termed the martial law imposition wrong and suggested withdrawing President Yoon's constitutional powers. However, lawmakers from the PPP staged a walkout during the discussion on the impeachment motion. The National Assembly is empowered to impeach the President if more than two-thirds of the members support the motion. The opposition currently holds 192 seats in the 300-strong Parliament while Mr. Yoon's party has 108 members. The opposition needed eight members of the PPP to break ranks and join its cause for impeachment to come through.

Under South Korean constitutional law, if a President is removed from office, his powers are suspended until the Constitutional Court makes a final decision. Once his or her termination is confirmed, the election for a new President must be held in 60 days.

Syria's jihadist-in-chief

Abu Muhammad al-Jolani

The man picked by slain Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to establish a branch of al-Qaeda in Syria is now leading the country's most potent militant organisation that has made dramatic territorial advances in recent weeks

Stanly Johny

e deputised al-Jolani, who is one of our soldiers, with a group of our sons, and pushed them from Iraq to Syria to meet with our cells in Syria and set for them the plans and drew for them the policy of work," Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the then-chief of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) announced on April 2, 2014, referring to al-Qaeda's Syria arm, Jabhat al-Nusra. Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, a Saudi-born Syrian jihadist was a lieutenant of Baghdadi. It was Jolani he turned to when he decided to expand his jihadist network into Syria, where a civil war broke out in 2011. "We supplied them with half of what is in the treasury every month, and supplied them with men who had battlefield experience from among the *muhajirun* ["emigrants"; foreign fighters] and ansar ["supporters"; local jihadists], so they did well next to their brothers from the ardent sons of Syria," said Baghdadi, taking credit for the creation of a-Nusra.

Baghdadi was killed in an American airstrike in Syria in October 2019. The 'caliphate' he built, which at its peak had spread from eastern Syria's Deir Ezzor to Iraq's Mosul, was destroyed. The Islamic State, the jihadist organisation Baghadi created and led, has been scattered and weakened ever since. But Jolani, the man Baghadi chose to lead his network in Syria, is today the leader of Syria's armed insurgency. He is the 'emir' of the 'Syrian Salvation Government', which is based in the northwestern province of Idlib, and the leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the main opposition jihadist group. In the last week of November, when the whole region's focus was on a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hezbollah, Jolani's jihadists launched a surprise attack on Syrian forces from Idlib. Before most people understood what was actually happening, the HTS captured Aleppo, Syria's second-largest city.

Then his troops moved south towards Hama at breakneck speed as regime troops retreated without a fight. Now, Jolani's men are advancing

towards Homs, a strategically important city that sits at an intersection between Latakia and Tartus, the regime strongholds on the Mediterranean coast, and Damascus, President Bashar al-Assad's seat of power. "Our goal is to unseat Assad', declared Jolani, after taking Aleppo. After years of tense calm, Mr. Assad is now facing a mortal threat from a surging jihadist movement.

Loyalty to al-Qaeda

Born in 1982 in Riyadh, where his father worked as an oil engineer, Jolani, whose real name is Ahmed Hussein al-Shara, grew up in the suburbs of Damascus. He moved to Iraq in 2003, weeks before the American invasion began. He was arrested by Iraqi authorities and put in Camp Bucca, the infamous prison where Baghdadi had spent months. After his release in 2008, Jolani went back to al-Qaeda, now headed by Baghdadi. The 'emir' made him chief of operations in Mosul. After he was sent to Syria by Baghadi, Jolani built a brutal jihadist organisation that announced its arrival through suicide bombings. "The regime will never stop except by the power of Allah and the power of weapons," al-Nusra said in February 2012 in a video message, justifying its suicide bombings.

Jolani split with Baghdadi when the latter wanted al-Nusra to join the Islamic State. Jolani wanted to retain his autonomy in Syria and he announced that al-Nusra was the true representative of al-Qaeda. "The sons of al-Nusra pledge allegiance to Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri," Jolani said in a video message in 2014, referring to the then al-Qaeda chief. Al-Nusra's world view had largely been borrowed from that of al-Qaeda. Its immediate goal was to overthrow the Assad regime, the near enemy, and establish an Islamic emirate in Syria under Sharia law. The long-term goal was to create many more such states and eventually establish an al-Qaeda Caliphate. It had termed both Israel and the U.S. "enemies of Islam" and attacked non-Sunni communities in Syria, particularly the Alawites, President Assad's sect. They could attract thousands of foreign fighters into their



fold, including battle-hardened men from Iraq and Afghanistan. They also carried out harsh punishments in the name of Sharia, including beheading. Within a few years, al-Nusra emerged as the most powerful anti-regime militant group in Syria. When regional powers were focused on defeating the Islamic State, which had exported terror across the world, Jolani stayed below the radar, building his own empire in Syria.

By 2016, it was evident that the Assad regime had an upper hand. A year earlier, Russia had sent troops to Syria to help the regime. Iran had supplied Shia militias. Hezbollah had also deployed thousands of its fighters. The regime alliance took back Aleppo, and the lost territories in Hama, Homs and in the south. The militants from

different parts of the country moved to Idlib, Jolani's forte. Mr. Assad wanted to march his troops to Idlib but the Russians were not on board. Turkiye had strongly opposed any attack on Idlib. The Assad regime was forced into accepting a ceasefire when Russia and Turkiye entered into a detente.

Jolani became the new emir of Idlib. The Free Syrian Army, a Turkish proxy (which is today called the Syrian National Army) also joined hands with him in Idlib. Having sensed an opportunity to retain power, Jolani realised that his al-Qaeda tag had become a burden rather than an advantage. He first renamed Jabhat al-Nusra as Fateh al-Sham. In 2017, he "dissolved" Fateh al-Sham and

announced the creation of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and said that the new organisation broke all links with al-Qaeda. He also said the HTS was not fighting against the West, but only against the Assad regime. "Syria will never be allowed as a launching pad for attacks against the West," he said in an interview in 2015. During peacetime, Jolani built a strong army under the HTS's banner, which included jihadists from different regions - Arabs, Central Asians and Uighurs. He established a government, bureaucracy and Sharia-based judicial system. He adopted the Turkish lira as the official currency of his government. He sat on the fence as the regime's allies, Hezbollah and Iran, came under attack from Israel in Syria. Jolani was careful not to upset Israel

Jolani, a U.S.-designated terrorist, has never denounced his jihadist ideology. In the 2015 interview, he said Syria's Alawites would be left alone "as long as they abandon elements of their faith which contradict Islam". He has called for an Islamic regime in Syria based on Sharia - that is the final goal of the HTS. In recent months, he said Syria's minorities have nothing to fear from the HTS. But he repeatedly emphasises the Salafi-jihadist character of his "revolution". The secular Syria is no longer alive in HTS territories.

not target him either.

When the civil war was in a frozen stage, the HTS was busy preparing for the next phase of the showdown. In November 2024, Jolani made the move. Hezbollah had been weakened in the months-long war with Israel. Iran lost several of its commanders in Syria in Israeli air strikes. The Russians are busy fighting in Ukraine. Jolani sensed that the Assad regime was weak. And he pushed ahead.

"The solution is simple," he said in an interview in February 2021. "I mean, we need to address the causes rather than the symptoms. The cause of this issue, this huge catastrophe, is this [Assad] regime. Once it is no longer there, this huge disaster would disappear. Therefore, the main issue would be toppling this regime, pushing to topple it in every possible way."

THE GIST

Jolani moved to Iraq in 2003, weeks before the American invasion began, and joined al-Qaeda

He established Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qaeda's Syria branch, which emerged as a powerful jihadist entity in the midst of Syria's civil war

After capturing Idlib, he rebranded al-Nusra twice and announced that his main goal was to topple the Assad regime and not to fight jihad against other countries

HTS, the outfit Jolani commands, has taken Aleppo and Hama in recent weeks, and is marching towards the strategic city of Homs

The die-hard loyalist

Kash Patel

The Indian origin Republican, who once vowed to 'shut down the FBI', has been picked by Donald Trump to lead the Bureau

Joan Sony Cherian

art three of the children's book, The Plot Against the King, written by Kash Patel, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), talks about the "MAGA king" and his quest to "take down Comma-la-la-la and reclaim his throne". One can safely assume that the 'king' here is Mr. Trump and 'Comma-la-lala', the incumbent U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris. This also gives us an idea of what Mr. Patel, who owns a charitable foundation called Fight with Kash which among other things funds defamation lawsuits, and a clothing line which sells a variety of merchandise with his logo 'K\$H', stands for - unabashedly brazen and unapologetically loyal to the incoming U.S. President.

Mr. Patel, who was born in 1980 to Indian immigrant parents (who first moved to Canada from East Africa in the 1970s and then to the U.S.) started his career as a public defender in the State of Florida, following which he joined the U.S. Justice Department as a counter-terrorism prosecutor. A member of the Republican party, he was then appointed to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



(HPSCI) in 2017. He worked as senior aide to Devin Nunes, the chair of the HPSCI and a staunch Trump supporter. Mr. Patel rose up the ranks within Mr. Trump's inner circle when he scathingly criticised the FBI's investigation into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election. He, along with Mr. Nunes, authored the 'Nunes memo' which accused the FBI of being politically motivat-

ed in its investigation. From then on, Mr. Patel rose swiftly through administrative ranks. In 2019, he became a member of the National Security Council and was later appointed Chief of Staff to the interim Defence Secretary. President Trump in his last months in office wanted to promote Mr. Patel to deputy FBI director but then Attorney-General William Barr opposed it, writing in his memoir that he told the then White House Chief of Staff that such an appoint-

ment would be 'over my

dead body'.

After Mr. Trump's first presidential term, Mr. Patel continued being a Trump loyalist as well as a decrier of intelligence bureaucracies. His experience within the Justice Department had made him deeply suspicious of the FBI and other intelligence agencies. He has repeatedly stated that these agencies are controlled by the 'deep state' a term used to refer to allegations that actors within bureaucracy control and run the government. He authored a book called Government Gangsters, which is part memoir and part tirade against the 'deep state', and lists out individuals who are enablers of the system such as President Joe Biden, William Barr, Hilary Clinton etc.

Massive upheaval

He has stated in his book that top officials of the FBI need to be fired and the organisation be given a massive upheaval and reorganisation. He has been a

vocal proponent for reform within the FBI stating that the organisation's footprint has gotten too big. "I'd shut down the FBI. Hoover Building on Day 1 and reopen it the next day as a museum of the 'deep state," Mr. Patel said in an interview. "And I'd take the 7,000 employees that work in that building and send them across America to chase down criminals."

He has vowed to go after journalists who leaked intelligence reports and the officials who facilitated such leaks. In an interview with Steve Bannon last year, he stated "We're going to come after the people in the media who lied about American citizens, who helped Joe Biden rig presidential We're going to come after you...we're putting you all on notice."

Mr. Trump has repeatedly vowed to go after his political enemies and institutions which conducted investigations on him after his Presidential term in 2020.

Having Mr. Patel - a man who has appeared with him for hearings, testified for him and is also now serving on the board of the parent company of Truth Social, Mr. Trump's social network - at the helm of the FBI could give the President-elect access to potential and ongoing investigations.

The scion after 'penance'

Sukhbir Singh Badal

The former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, who survived a bid on his life, seeks to revive the SAD. which suffered back to back electoral setbacks

Vikas Vasudeva

ukhbir Singh Badal, the former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab and president of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), is at the centre of attention after he survived an assassination bid by a pro-Khalistan sympathiser.

Mr. Badal, who was found to be tankhaiya, or guilty of religious misconduct, was performing penance for his 'mistakes' at the Golden Temple, the central place for worship for the Sikhs in Punjab's Amritsar, on December 4 when a former militant, Narain Singh, opened fire at him. The two-time former Deputy Chief Minister escaped unhurt as the assailant was overpowered by security personnel.

On December 2, Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, had pronounced religious punishment for Mr. Badal and several other Akali Dal leaders for the "mistakes" committed by the SAD government during 2007 to 2017.

Sukhbir's rise in politics was a foretold story. He became the youngest ever president of the SAD in 2008, after he took over from his father Parkash Singh Badal, the former Punjab Chief Minister. Born on July 9, 1962 in Punjab's Faridkot, Sukhbir completed his school education at The Lawrence



School, Sanawar, in Himachal Pradesh, and later completed MA (Economics) in Punjab University. He also has an MBA from California State University, Los Angeles. His political career kicked off in the late 1990s. Sukhbir firmed up his grip over the party by mid-2000. He stayed as Deputy Chief Minister from 2009-2017. He remained a member

of the Lok Sabha four times, and served as Union Minister of State for Industry during 1998-99 in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha during 2001 to 2004. The Assembly elections

in Punjab in 2012 proved a milestone in his political career as he was credited with steering the SAD-BJP alliance to a historic win, beating anti-incumbency sentiments. His agenda surrounding 'development for all' and making the SAD a 'catch all party' appeared to have paid favourable electoral outcome. However, in 2017, when the SAD-BJP alliance was voted out, the same agenda came under scrutiny, and senior party leaders started pointing fingers at Sukhbir's leadership competency. After enjoying political dominance in Punjab for close to two decades, his journey started to witness new challenges amid controversies and a waning support.

Election defeat

Towards the end of its rule in the State, the SAD had to face severe criticism over several issues – including the pardon granted to Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim in a blasphemy case and the Kotkapura-Behbal Kalan police firing incidents of 2015, which followed after the sacrilege of 'Guru Granth Sahib' at Bargari village. Two persons were killed in the police firing in Behbal Kalan of Faridkot district during protests.

After the SAD's dismal performance in the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elec-

tions, a sense among several senior (Taksali) leaders was that during the Akali Dal's 10 years (2007-2017) of rule in Punjab, the party had come under the sway of the "Badal family". Sukhbir's attempt to change the basic character of the party, making it a "catch-all" party seeking votes in the name of the region (Punjab) instead of Sikh "panth" had not gone down well with many senior leaders, who felt that the party had deviated from its core ideology of

giving voice to Sikh issues. Sukhbir's acceptance of his "mistakes" and his plea for forgiveness from the 'panth' (the Sikh community) are being seen as a lastditch effort to revitalise the party. In the recent Lok Sabha election, the SAD won only one seat out of the 13 parliamentary constituencies in the State. The loss was a grim reminder of the trouble that the SAD was facing, following its drubbings in the 2017 and 2022 Assembly polls.

The immediate challenge before Sukhbir, who has tendered resignation as party president, which is yet to be accepted, would be to win back the faith of the 'panth'. Many believe it could only be possible through his selfless actions towards the cause of the 'panth' and Punjab, not just through apology and 'penance'.

WASHINGTON

Indian-Americans to protest attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh



Several Indian-Americans plan to hold peaceful rallies in Washington and Chicago over the next two days to protest the attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh. Hindus in Muslim-majority Bangladesh has faced more than 200 attacks following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5. PTI

ABIDJAN

Burkina Faso junta chief dismisses PM and dissolves the government



Burkina Faso's ruling military leader Captain Ibrahim Traore on Friday dismissed the country's Prime Minister, Apollinaire Joachim Kyelem de Tambela, and dissolved the government. The sacked premier had served at the head of three successive governments, surviving each reshuffle. No reason was given for the dismissal. AFP

KYIV

Ukraine confirms delivery of second batch of Danish F-16s



Denmark has delivered a second batch of F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Saturday as he travelled to Paris to meet with top politicians and dignitaries. The announcement comes as Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region marks a day of mourning for 10 persons killed in a Russian attack on Friday. AP

THE HAGUE

At least four dead in The Hague explosion and building collapse



At least four people died Saturday when an apartment complex in The Hague collapsed after a huge explosion and fire, authorities said, but firefighters managed to pull someone still alive from the rubble. The blast and resulting inferno destroyed at least five homes but it was not clear how many were buried in the debris. AFP

South Korea President Yoon escapes impeachment over martial law row

The motion, which needed a two-thirds majority to pass, failed as the ruling PPP boycotted the vote; Opposition party says it will try again amid protests; President apologised for the turmoil but said he would leave it to his party to decide his fate

Agence France-Presse SEOUL

outh Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol escaped impeachment on Saturday over his brief declaration of martial law, after lawmakers from his ruling party boycotted a vote despite huge protests outside parliament.

Mr. Yoon stunned the nation and the international community on Tuesday night by suspending civilian rule and sending troops to parliament, but was forced into a U-turn after lawmakers nixed his

Opposition parties pro-

Australia defends its

action on

Reuters

anti-semitism

Australia's government de-

fended its record on curb-

ing anti-semitism on Satur-

day after Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Neta-

nyahu accused it of anti-Is-

rael policies, following an

arson attack on a Mel-

Prime Minister Anthony

Albanese's centre-left La-

bor government of encou-

raging crimes such as Fri-

day's attack on the Adass

Israel synagogue through

policies including support of a recent UN motion backing a Palestinian state. "Unfortunately, this cri-

Mr. Netanyahu accused

bourne synagogue.



Failed bid: Members of South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party at the National Assembly in Seoul on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

posed the impeachment motion, which needed a two thirds majority to pass, but a near-total boycott by Mr. Yoon's People

Fiery spirit

Power Party (PPP) doomed it to failure.

"The number of members who voted did not reach the required twothirds majority," National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik said, adding that as a result, the impeachment vote was "not valid".

The country - and the world – was watching, he said, adding it was "very regrettable that a vote could not even be held on such a significant national issue". He said it signified "a fai-

lure to engage in the democratic process" on the part of the ruling party.

The PPP claimed after the vote that it had blocked the impeachment to avoid division "severe chaos".

The opposition has al-

ready vowed to try again as soon as on Wednesday, and many protesters vowed to continue demonstrations next weekend.

"I will impeach Yoon Suk Yeol, who has become the worst risk for South Korea, at any cost," Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung

Before the vote, Mr. Yoon, 63, apologised for the turmoil but said he would leave it to his party to decide his fate.

"I caused anxiety and inconvenience to the public. I sincerely apologise," he said in the televised address, his first public appearance in three days.

Terrorists should not run Syria, says Assad-ally Russia in meeting with Iran, Turkiye

Agence France-Presse DOHA

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday that Syria must not be allowed to fall into the hands of a "terrorist group" as Islamist-led rebels advance on President Bashar al-Assad's seat of

Mr. Lavrov spoke after talks in the Gulf state of Qatar on Saturday with fellow Assad-ally Iran and Opposition supporter Turkiye aimed at preventing Syria from collapsing into chaos after the lightning rebel advances of recent days.

"It's inadmissible to allow the terrorist group to take control of territory in violation of agreements," Mr. Lavrov said, citing a 2015 UN Security Council Resolution which he said "strongly reiterated sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Syrian Arab Republic".

The Russian Minister was alluding to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Islamist group which has headed the assault and is rooted in the Syrian branch of al-Oaeda. HTS has sought to soften its image in recent years but remains proscribed as a "terrorist organisation" by Western governments.

Mr. Lavrov and Iran's Abbas Araghchi met with Turkive's Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of the Doha Forum, an annual gathering for political dialogue.

Mr. Araghchi said the three Ministers agreed on the need to launch "political dialogue between the Syrian government and

Date 14-11-2024



Little hope: A man rides a scooter with his children and wife in the Syrian city of Salamiyah in Hama on Saturday. AFP

opposition legitimate groups". The three countries have been partners since 2017 in the Astana process seeking to end the civil war that has persisted in Syria since 2011.

Despite repeated violations, a 2020 ceasefire agreement brokered by Russia and Turkiye had largely frozen the conflict for several years but it was blown apart by the shock offensive the rebels launched late last month.

Moscow and Tehran have offered military support to help Mr. Assad's forces hold off the rebels.

Ankara backs some of the rebel groups involved in the offensive and looks favourably on its success so

Surprise situation

However, the scale of the collapse of Mr. Assad's forces has taken observers by surprise with conflicting reports about how close the rebels have come to Mr. Assad's seat of power in Damascus.

Qatar - which gave early support to the rebels after Mr. Assad's government crushed a peaceful uprising in 2011 - remains a fierce critic of the Syrian leader but is calling for a negotiated end to the fighting.

'Assad's failure'

Speaking at the same event in Doha, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Iassim Al-Thani said Mr. Assad had failed to "seize these opportunities" during a period of calm in the country's war both "on the return of the refugees or on reconciling with his own

Ahead of the three-way talks, Mr. Araghchi said he had "very frank and direct" bilateral meetings with his Turkish counterpart and the ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Mr. Assad earlier this week to "reconcile with his people". On Friday he said he hoped the rebel advance would "continue without incident".

The world is 'a little crazy', says Trump as he meets Macron

Agence France-Presse

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday said that the world was "a little crazy" as he met President Emmanuel Macron in Paris ahead of the reopening of Notre Dame cathedral on his first international trip since his re-election.

The two men embraced and shook hands several times on the steps of the French presidential palace, with Mr. Trump given a full guard of honour.

"It seems like the world is going a little crazy right now and we will be talking about that," Mr. Trump told reporters as he prepared to sit down for talks with Mr. Macron which started around 45 minutes

later than scheduled. Despite tensions between the two men during **U.S. President-elect** visits Paris ahead of the re-opening of **Notre Dame** cathedral on his first foreign trip since his re-election

Anti-government protesters stage a march in central Tbilisi on Saturday in support of detained fellow activists for a 10th consecutive day.

Georgians have been protesting against the government's postponement of European Union accession talks until 2028. AFP

his first term, Mr. Trump hailed his ties with the centrist French leader, saying: "We had a great relationship as everyone knows. We accomplished a lot."

Mr. Macron told Mr. Trump it was "a great honour for French people to welcome you" for the reopening ceremony at Notre Dame, which was devastated by a blaze in 2019 during Mr. Trump's first term.

"You were president at that time and I remember the solidarity and the immediate reaction," Mr. Macron added.

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VACANCY NOTIFICATION NO. 2/2024

Online Applications are invited for 12 Posts of Assistant Professor in Pay Level 10 (Pay Matrix Rs. 56,100-1,77,500) in different Departments for NIA, Jaipur All Details are available in the Website of the Institute: www.nia.nic.in. Applications are to be filled Online only in the Website of the Institute. The Closing Date for Online Filling of Application is 21 January 2025.

Dated: 06-12-2024

(JP SHARMA) JOINT DIRECTOR (ADMN.)

damage Melbourne.

minal act cannot be separated from the anti-Israel spirit blowing from the Labor government in Australia," Mr. Netanyahu said. Murray Watt, Australia's

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, responded that "the Albanese Government has taken a range of strong actions to stand against anti-semitism and to stamp out community". Since taking office in

May 2022, the government had provided \$25 million to Jewish organisations to upgrade security and safety at Jewish sites, including schools, banned the Nazi salute and was taking action against hate speech, Mr. Watt said. Mr. Albanese con-

demned the attack on Fri-

day, saying there was no

place for anti-semitism in

Australia.

Police said on Saturday they were still looking for two persons suspected of deliberately starting the synagogue fire that injured one and caused widespread

THE HINDU

NOSTALGIC

I have happy memories of my time in India, says Greg Chappell



FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

The former India coach Greg Chappell spoke with clarity in the media enclosure at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday. "Do I miss the chaos and drama? Not really. But I miss a lot of India. I have very happy memories of my time in India. Sure, we had some ups and downs. And you guys (reporters), you love controversy."

A METHOD

'Be in a neutral position and play Bumrah as straight as possible'



The Australian great Greg Chappell talked about how to tackle Jasprit Bumrah and the India pacer's tactical acumen at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday. "He is a smart guy and understands the game... I would play him as straight as I can, be in a neutral position and react appropriately," he said.

TIMING IT RIGHT

Can't leave call on exit to the players themselves: Chappell



On the exit of big players, Greg Chappell said it depends on the selectors more than the individual concerned. "You cannot leave it to the player, it is the call of a robust selection panel. As for the player, you would know when your time is up, the question is would

STEPPING UP

Gagan propels Yoddhas to crucial win against Puneri Paltan



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gagan Gowda shone in UP Yoddhas' 36-33 victory over Puneri Paltan in a Pro Kabaddi League match in Pune on Saturday. Gagan scored 15 points for the Yoddhas, while Pankaj Mohite got 11 points for Paltan. Telugu Titans posted a narrow 34-32 win over Bengal Warriors in the other contest of the day.

Better safe than sorry, say Ding and Gukesh

The championship sees the seventh consecutive stalemate as the holder and the challenger play out a draw in the 10th game; the score reads 5-5 with four games remaining



P.K. Ajith Kumar SINGAPORE

question still begs the answer. The stalemate continues at the World chess champion-

Ding Liren and D. Gukesh drew their seventh game in a row at World Resorts Sentosa on Saturday. The score is tied at 5-5. Just four games remain in the classical format. If it is a 7-7 draw, a tie-breaker of speed chess will have to be

played With the stakes so high, and with so few games left to be played, it wasn't surprising to see both the men deciding to play it safe for the second game in a row. Games seven and eight were much sharper, though they both were drawn. But now, neither Ding nor Cukesh could afford a loss. For, it would be rather difficult to come back into the match.

Not much difference

Gukesh may be the slightly happier of the two, as he managed to get a draw with black pieces, though he insisted that there wasn't much of a difference these days between

GUKESH D. High stakes: Both players will be happy with a draw as a loss will be detrimental at this stage. PTI

the colours. Both have two games with white.

In Game 10, the opening was London System – not for the first time in this match. That was a bit of a deviation from the theme here, as both the men have looked keen to try out different openings.

Another major theme was also missing. Ding has been behind the clock for most of the time in the opening phase of the uit on this occasion, he had a lead over Gukesh.

Not that it mattered much in a game that looked heading for a draw from early on.

The queens left the arena by the 14th move and, as former World No. 3 Anish Giri cryptically remarked, there were just one and a half moves between the

opening and the endgame. The ending had the same-coloured bishops, rooks and knight, with Gukesh saddled with doubled pawns, but that was no cause for even the faintest of headaches.

All the pieces except those bishops were then traded off, and the game ended with three-fold repetition, in 36 moves.

Shortly after the duel,

Gukesh said the cost of the game was higher than be-"But my approach and

my goal are still the same to play good games," he Ding said there was not

much room to make mistakes.

"We need to be careful with every move," he said. That was an understatement, in true Ding style.

GAME 10: MOVES

1, d4 Nf6 2, Nf3 d5 3, Bf4 e6 4, e3 c5 5. Be2 Bd6 6. dxc5 Bxc5 7. c4 0-0 8. 0-0 Nc6 9. Nc3 dxc4 10. Bxc4 Nh5 11. Bg5 Be7 12. Ne4 Nf6 13. Nxf6+ Bxf6 14. Qxd8 Rxd8 15. Bxf6 gxf6 16 .Rfd1 Bd7 17. Rac1 Be8 18. Rxd8 Rxd8 19. Kf1 Kg7 20. a3 f5 21. Ke1 Kf6 22. Be2 Ne7 23. g3 Rc8 24. Rxc8 Nxc8 25. Nd2 Nd6

26. Nc4 Nxc4 27. Bxc4 Bc6 28. f4

b6 29. Kd2 Ke7 30. Kc3 Kd6 31. b4

Ding v Gukesh



33. Bb3 Bb7 34. Bc4 Bc6 35. Bb3 Bb7 36. Bc4 Bc6. Game drawn

Head torments India again before Aussie pacers drive home the advantage

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar ADELAIDE

The faithful, who congregated at the Adelaide Oval, relished the local hero's exploits. Travis Head, back in his city, and against a familiar rival, turned on his aggressive mode. The southpaw's blistering hundred held Australia in good stead as the second Test swung the host's way here on Saturday.

If Head's 137 derailed India in the 2023 ICC ODI World Cup final at Ahmedabad, the latest 140 at his home ground, could help Australia spring back in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, in which Pat Cummins and his men trail at

At close on the second day, after Australia scored 337 in its first innings and gained a 157-run lead, India wobbled at 128 for five in the second innings and trails by 29 runs.

K.L. Rahul tried to pull one down the leg-side off Cummins and feathered the ball straight to Alex Carey. Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill found the odd four but the former succumbed to Scott Boland's nagging accuracy with Carey's gloves again coming into play.

The same pacer-keeper combine got the better of Virat Kohli and when Mitchell Starc scattered Gill's stumps, it was left to Rishabh Pant's chutzpah to lend some cheer to the Indian fans. Pant often toppled over while scooping Boland over third-man and fine-leg while skipper Rohit Sharma after surviving a Starc questionnaire, lost his citadel to Cummins.

Earlier in an afternoon of bright skies and persistent breeze, Australia res-

Local hero: Head entertained the Adelaide crowd with a blistering ton. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

INDIA - 1ST INNINGS 180 in 44.1 overs.

${\bf AUSTRALIA-1ST\ INNINGS}$ Usman Khawaja c Rohit b

Bumrah 13 (35b, 2x4), Nathan McSweeney c Pant b Bumrah 39 (109b, 6x4), Marnus Labuschagne c Jaiswal b Nitish 64 (126b, 9x4), Steve Smith c Pant b Bumrah 2 (11b), Travis Head b Siraj 140 (141b, 17x4, 4x6), Mitchell Marsh c Pant b Ashwin 9 *(26b, 1x4)*, Alex Carey c Pant b Siraj 15 (32b), Pat Cummins b Bumrah 12 (22b, 2x4), Mitchell Starc c Harshit b Siraj 18 (15b, 3x4), Nathan Lyon (not out) 4 (6b), Scott Boland b Sirai 0 (9b):

umed at the overnight 86 for one. Opener Nathan McSweeney retreated in the day's third over as Jasprit Bumrah bowled tighter lines and found his desserts. If McSweeney nibbled at one close to the off-stump, Steve Smith wafted at a ball down the leg-side and in both instances, Pant's gloves were

Hope

Bumrah's morning spell of 4-1-10-2 offered hope but the roar that greeted Head on his arrival, seemed to be a premonition of a dreary outing for the visitors. With Marnus Labuschagne being the eager beaver, Extras (b-13, lb-1, nb-7): 21; Total (in 87.3 overs): 337.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-24 (Khawaja, 10.6 overs), 2-91 (McSweeney, 36.1), 3-103 (Smith, 40.1), 4-168 (Labuschagne, 54.3), 5-208 (Marsh, 63.4), 6-282 (Carey, 76.6), 7-310 (Head, 81.4), 8-332 (Cummins, 84.6), 9-332 (Starc, **INDIA BOWLING**

Bumrah 23-5-61-4, Sirai 24.3-5-98-4, Harshit 16-2-86-0, Nitish 6-2-25-1, Ashwin 18-4-53-1

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS Yashasvi Jaiswal c Carey b Boland 24 (31b, 4x4), K.L. Rahul c Carey b

and Head the marauder, Harshit Rana felt the scald ing heat of the Aussie willows. The seamer lost his radar and the two batters cashed in.

R. Ashwin stepped in and Head, ever keen to mark his territory, hoisted a six. And Labuschagne motored towards his 50.

The 65-run fourth-wickpartnership ended Labuschagne slashed at Nitish Kumar and found a leaping Jaiswal. Australia 168 for four and perhaps nursing a good appetite ahead of the break.

After the intermission, Ashwin got one past Mitchell Marsh's bat and the batCummins 7 (10b, 1x4), Shubman Gill b Starc 28 (30b. 3x4), Virat Kohli c Carev b Boland 11 (21h. 1x4), Rishabh Pant (batting) 28 (25b, 5x4), Rohit Sharma b Cummins 6 (15b, 1x4), Nitish Kumar (batting) 15 (14b, 3x4); Extras (b-5, lb-2, nb-5): 9; Total (for five wkts., in 24 overs): 128

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12 (Rahul, 3.5 overs), 2-42 (Jaiswal, 8.1), 3-66 (Kohli, 14.3), 4-86 (Gill, 17.2), 5-105 (Rohit, 20.5).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING Starc 9-0-49-1, Cummins 8-0-33-2, Boland 7-0-39-2.

ter instantly walked. Meanwhile Head nunched slashed, pulled stepped out too, while Carey and Cummins played the supporting roles. After hoisting Ashwin for a six, Head's repeat-act swivelled high but Mohammed Siraj

could not hold on. Having savoured the reprieve, Head charged towards his ton and the stands were agog with excitement. India pulled back through the new-ball and Siraj castled Head but the seamer's obnoxious send-off to the centurion evoked boos from the audience. By then Head had set Australia on a good platform.

Olonga — the conscience-keeper who stood up for what was right

K.C. Vijaya Kumar ADELAIDE

Speedster, painter, musician, author and rebel. These diverse labels sit easy with Henry Olonga. However, the former Zimbabwean seamer and current Australian citizen, would rather be known as a man with a heart.

His fingers smudged with paint, Olonga, was busy drawing a picture of a stadium at the Adelaide Oval's Village Green area here on Saturday. Next to him a lone vocalist and a musician belted out songs. Olonga is comfortable in this universe of arts.

He also stays in touch with cricket, a game he played at the international level from 1995 to 2003. Twenty one years ago, Olonga and Andy Flower wore a black armband to protest the atrocities committed by the then Zimbabwean President Robert Mu-

Their careers ended and Olonga moved to England,



and later to Australia. This tale of exile is a constant: "I was born in Zambia and had a Kenyan father and I felt even when I played for Zimbabwe I was considered an outsider." He now feels at home Down Under: "I love Australia. I am married to an Australian wife and I have got two children."

He does multiple things, cuts music albums, delivers speeches, paints for causes, is a casual coach

with the South Australia Cricket Association and is an umpire at weekend games. "A lot of Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis play and much later they get to know who I am," he

A fast bowler with softskills may seem an anachronism but Olonga insisted that he was always into aesthetics: "I always had that soft side and I never saw it as different or odd. I always liked variety. I get bored doing one thing.

And the decision to protest and quit cricket? The answer is quick: "I stood up for what I believed. It meant the end of my career, but there are things more important than the game. When I lived in a country with a (Mugabe), who man slaughtered so many of his own people, I got to say something. No regrets."

For Indian fans, Olonga stirs a memory in association with Sachin Tendulkar. In the 1998 Coca-Cola Cup at Shariah, the pacer dismissed the maestro cheaply but in the final, it was payback time and a century (124 n.o.) was hammered. "Everyone remembers because it is on You-Tube. I got him out and then in the final, he went crazy, I went for plenty of runs (6-0-50-0) and he smashed it," Olonga As the conversation

wound to a close, the 48year-old conscience-keeper said: "A lot of people say, stay out of politics. But, sportspeople are human beings and have strong ideas. You should not be excluded from using your voice to convey strong feelings.' But cricket cannot be far

when Olonga is around and he is quick to praise the Indian pacers: "They are amazing. (Jasprit) Bumrah is the best bowler, has got a bit of hyper-extension, which gives him a crack. He reminds me of Wasim (Akram) of the short run-up."

Head surprised by the reactions after his dismissal

K.C. Vijaya Kumar ADELAIDE

A glorious century marred by the manner of departure was the theme when Travis Head squared upto the media here at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday night. The southpaw's 140 set Australia on a pedestal in the second Test, but talk centred around Mohammed Siraj's send-off to the batter after castling him.

"I was surprised at the reaction in terms of the situation of the game and the lead up, and there was no confrontation leading up to it, and I felt like it was probably a bit far at the time, and that's why I am disappointed in the reac-

tion that I gave back, but I'm also going to stand up for myself. We are pretty civil with each other as teams and that is why it was disappointing to see a couple of reactions after I was out," Head said. Elaborating about his

special hundred, the batter said: "Yeah, I was very pleased with the way I started. Very pleased with the way I was able to play against Ashwin. I guess at the start with the field up, I picked my moments and manoeuvred the field. And then sort of sensed where the game was at and I thought it was a great opportunity to put some pressure on before that new ball and try to maximise."

Bowlers did well before Head took the game away: Morkel

K.C. Vijaya Kumar ADELAIDE

After a forgettable day for India on Saturday, bowling coach Morne Morkel turned up at the press conference for some fire-fighting. With a calm voice and a diplomat's grace, the South African deftly handled the queries.

The first volley was about Mohammed Siraj's needless send-off to centurion Travis Head and Morkel was ready: "We all know Siraj puts everything on the line, he is the kind of bowler, who will run in all day. There are some moments in a game. But I am sure off the field they will be the best of mates."

Asked about India's

he plays."

Pant's approach at the batting crease, the bowling coach said: "Just like Head, this is the way Pant bats, that's his approach. Always puts the bowlers under pressure. Seeing the scoreboard vou won't expect the kind of shot he played from the first ball but that is how he is."

bowling in the second Test

so far, Morkel offered his

analysis: "Yesterday (Fri-

day), the lines and lengths

could have been better,

there was some extra

swing too. Thought they

did well today (Saturday)

morning before Travis

Head played his innings.

He put the bowlers under

pressure but that's the way

And about Rishabh

NBRIDE



Batters rule the roost after Atkinson's hat-trick

Gus Atkinson claimed a hat-trick before batters let loose to power England 533 runs ahead of New Zealand on Saturday in the second Test at Wellington on day two.

The scores: England 280 & 378/5 in 76 overs (Bethell 96, Duckett 92, Root 73 batting, Brook 55) vs New Zealand 125 in 34.5 overs (Williamson 37, Atkinson 4/31, Carse 4/46).

South Africa seizes the initiative against Sri Lanka

South Africa was building a defendable total against Sri Lanka as it reached 191 for three in its second innings and a lead of 221 on day three of the second Test at Gqeberha on Saturday.

The scores: South Africa 358 in 103.4 overs and 191/3 in 55 overs vs Sri Lanka 328 in 99.2 overs (Nissanka 89, Paterson 5/71).

Zeynep powers Yash Mumbai to the top of TPL

Zeynep Sonmez propelled Yash Mumbai Eagles to the top with 265 points, even though the team shared honours with a 50-50 score against Bengal Wizards in the last league match of the Tennis Premier League in Mumbai on Saturday.

The results (league): Punjab Patriots bt Hyderabad Strikers 51-49; Rajasthan Rangers drew with Bengaluru SG Pipers 50-50; Bengal Wizards drew with Yash Mumbai Eagles 50-50; Guiarat Panthers bt Chennai Smashers 52-48.

Chandan and Tanishka clinch the titles

Chandan Sinai Caro toppled fourth-ranked J.N. Sanjey Arwindh to win the boys' u-13 title in the UTT National-ranking table tennis tournament in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday.

The results: U-13: Boys (finals): Chandan Sinai Caro (Goa) bt Sanjey Arwindh (TN) 11-6, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9. Semifinals: Chandan bt Rishaan Chattopadhyay (WB) 12-10, 13-11, 7-11, 6-11, 16-14; Sanjey bt Himon Mondal (WB) 12-10, 11-6, 5-11, 11-2. Girls (finals): K. Tanishka (Kar) bt Aarya Redkar (PSPBA) 11-7, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9. Semifinals: Tanishka bt Saturya (WB) 8-11. 11-6. 11-9. 10-12. 11-8: Aarva bt Avni (Har) 11-8. 11-9. 13-11.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs India: 2nd Test, day 3, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) &

Under-19 Asia Cup: (final), Bangladesh vs India, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 a.m.

Sri Lanka vs South Africa: 2nd Test, day 4, Sports 18-1 (SD &

HD) & JioCinema, 1 p.m.

Chess: World Championship, FIDE (YouTube), 2.30 p.m.

F1: Abu Dhabi GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

West Indies vs Bangladesh: 1st ODI, FanCode, 7 p.m.

New Zealand vs England: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Monday)

F1 constructors' battle set to go down to the wire

McLaren leads Ferrari by 21 points; 1-2 finish nets 43 points, plus another one for the fastest lap

ABU DHABI GP

S. Dipak Ragav

n Formula One, two championships are handed out every year. While the drivers' title is the most prestigious, the other one awarded to the team with the most points – the constructors' title – is more significant for the team and its employees.

Though the drivers' crown has been part of the sport since its inaugural year in 1950, the first constructors' title was awarded only in 1958.

However, as the sport has grown in terms of fan base and commercial success, the constructors' title determines the prize money, which forms a crucial portion of a team's revenue.

This year, Max Verstappen sealed his fourth straight drivers' crown in Las Vegas a fortnight ago,



Advantage: With McLaren locking up the top two spots in the grid, the Woking based team is well-placed to come on top. AFP

but the battle for the constructors' title remains alive ahead of the finale in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

McLaren leads Ferrari by 21 points, with 44 points up for grabs on Sunday. A 1-2 finish for a team nets 43 points, plus another one for the fastest lap in the race.

The last time the constructors' battle was alive till the season's final race was in 2021 at Abu Dhabi

when Mercedes pipped Red Bull. McLaren is the odds-on

favourite, considering its healthy cushion. Even if the Ferarris finishes 1-2 McJ aren can fin-

Even if the Ferarris finishes 1-2, McLaren can finish four and five, along with the fastest lap, to triumph.

If neither Ferrari nor McLaren wins the race and the teams are still tied, McLaren will emerge winners on countback.

The British squad will have five wins, the same as the Italian marquee, but it has 10 second-place finishes to Ferrari's four so far.

With McLaren locking out the front row led by Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri in qualifying and Ferrari starting only third (Carlos Sainz) and 20th (Charles Leclerc), the Woking-based squad looks good to clinch its first constructors' title since 1998.

SNAPSHOT



Triumphant: The victorious PSPB team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tanisha loses to Stephanie

Second seed Stephanie Visscher of Netherlands defeated Tanisha Kashyap 6-1, 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at Stellenbosch on Saturday.

Mahika wins the title

Mahika Khanna beat Sunira Thapa of Nepal 6-2, 7-6(4) in the girls' final of the ITF junior tennis tournament in Pokhara, Nepal, on Saturday.

The results: U-18 finals: Boys: Hainuo Guo (Chn) bt Aashravya Mehra 6-3, 6-4; Doubles: Ojas Mehlawat & Adhiraj Thakur bt Aditya Mor & Prakaash Sarran 6-2, 6-1. Girls: Mahika Khanna bt Sunira Thapa (Nep) 6-2, 7-6(4). Doubles: Disha Behera & Arzan Khorakiwala bt Mahika Khanna & Angel Patel 6-3, 2-6, [10-5].

Gurjinder shines for champion PSPB

Two penalty corner

conversions by Gurjinder Singh in the fourth quarter helped Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) to a 2-0 victory over

Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) in the final of the SNBP 60th Nehru hockey tournament at the Shivaji Stadium here on Saturday. The champion team was presented ₹5,51,000 and the runner-up got ₹2,51,000.

The umpire of the match

R.V. Raghuprasad, who has officiated in Olympics, World Cup and Asian Games, was presented the best umpire of the decade award in memory of Gian Singh, and given ₹50,000. The result: Final: PSPB 2 (Gurjinder Singh 2) bt RSPB 0. Special Awards: Best player: Gurjinder Singh (₹25,000).

Special Awards: Best player: Gurjinder Singh (₹25,000). Best goalkeeper: K.K. Afnas (₹25,000). Best forward: Triloki Venvanshi

(₹25,000). **Best defender:** Mukul Sharma (₹25,000).

Scheffler takes a two-stroke lead

V.V. Ramanan NASSAU

Scottie Scheffler was in a hurry to assert his supremacy as the second round of the Hero World Challenge got underway under bright skies at the Albany course on Friday.

The defending champion notched up seven birdies on the front nine (making par on the fifth and eighth) and one more in the 14th to return a card of 8-under-64 and a two-day total of 131 for a two-stroke lead over fellow-Major winner Justin Thomas and the fast-rising Akshay Bhatia.

"I didn't really have to make very many long birdie putts on the front nine. I just was really solid on the greens and was able to hit it close as well," was the World No. I's response to a query on making six birdies over the first seven

While Thomas, second

overnight, played characteristically well for a 67, with five birdies and a dropped shot, it was the debutant Bhatia who caught one's attention.

The 22-year-old made seven birdies with three of them on par-5 holes but also had a bogey on the eighth hole. With 14 birdies, he is tied with Scheffler for most birdies through two rounds.

For overnight leader Cameron Young, it was a round to forget.

Starting at 64, he had to suffer the horrors of six bogeys and one double bogey (on the 18th) and a 75 pushed him down the leaderboard to tied-10.

Leading scores (after second round): 131: Scottie Scheffler (67, 64); 133: Akshay Bhatia (67,66), Justin Thomas (66, 67); 135: Keegan Bradley (68, 67); 137: Sepp Straka (69, 68), Sungjae Im (69, 68), Ludwig Aberg (67, 70). (The writer is in Nassau at the

invitation of Hero MotoCorp)

'Right call to scrap Impact Player in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy'

Vivek Krishnan NEW DELHI

After two seasons of the Impact Player provision being used in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, it was communicated to all the teams in mid-October that convention would be restored in the domestic T2O competition. The decision came just a few days after the BCCI said it will continue with the ruling in the IPL for another three seasons.

Among the players taking part in the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, there seems to be consensus that the call to do away with it in domestic cricket is the right one.

The major issue, expressed notably by Rohit Sharma during last season's IPL, was the adverse effect on all-rounders. They were not playing much of a part given teams had the luxury of bringing in a specialist batter or



Unadkat. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

bowler as required.
Saurashtra captain Jay-

dev Unadkat cited the example of all-rounder Prerak Mankad, who batted at No. 3 and also bowled 19 overs of medium-pace in the group stage this season, to back the scrapping of the tactical substitution.

"I have never been a fan of the Impact Player. Allrounders are a crucial part of the game. You can see

Prerak for us. He has bowled around 15(19) overs in this edition whereas he bowled only six-seven overs in 10-12 games when the Impact Player was in place. If we are looking to develop all-rounders in domestic cricket, then we don't need this rule. All the teams are now back to looking at players with multiple skills rather than having eight batters and six bowlers in a game," Unadkat said.

Tripura skipper Mandeep Singh echoed these views. "It led to more entertaining cricket maybe, but all-rounders were going out of the game. A lot of people did feel it was weird that you were having an extra batter and extra bowler. It wasn't unfair because it was the same for both teams, but the fun of the game went away and there was an imbalance. Playing with just 11 players is the traditional way and I prefer

QUICK SINGLES

Indu Chandhok passes away Indu Chandhok, the doyen

of Indian motorsports, with which he was actively associated for over six decades, passed away on Saturday. He was 93. Born in Kolkata on July 22, 1931, and then moving to Chennai in 1932, Chandhok was one of the founder-members of the Madras Motor Sports Club in 1953 and later the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India in 1971, of

Chhetri fires BFC to the top with a hat-trick

president during 1978-79.

which he was also the

Sunil Chhetri justified his place in the starting eleven with a hat-trick against Kerala Blasters in a 4-2 victory in an ISL match in Bengaluru on Saturday. The results:

BFC 4 (Chhetri 8, 73, 90+8, Williams 38) bt KBFC 2 (Jesus Jimenez 56, Freddy Lallawmawma 67).

At Chennai: CFC 0 lost to EBFC 2 (Vishnu 54, Jeakson 84).

Services wins six of the 10 Greco-Roman gold medals

N. Sudarshan BENGALURU

Services dominated day two of the senior National wrestling championship at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium here on Saturday, claiming six of the ten Greco-Roman golds on offer.

Of the six, Vinayak Patil had the toughest bout, in the 67kg final against Haryana's Anil. The 23-year-old, a bronze medallist at the U-23 Asian Championship in June this year, eventually came through 2-1, stonewalling every spirited effort from Anil.

The results: Greco-Roman:
Men: 55kg: Gold: Lalit (Ser) bt
Manu Yadav (Chg) 7-0 (retd.);
Bronze: Neeraj Patel (MP) bt
Shivappa (Kar) 3-3, Nitin (Har) bt
Rishav Chaudhary (UP) 7-3.
60kg: Gold: Pravesh (Ser) w/o
Sagar Singh (Pun); Bronze:
Saurabh (UP) bt Shubham
Sharma (Del) 9-0, Udit Patel (MP)
bt Abhishek Nishad (Chg) 7-2.
63kg: Gold: Umesh (Del) bt Vijay
(Ser) 5-3; Bronze: Parth (Mah) bt
Mukul Chauhan (UP) 2-0, Sunny
(Har) bt Julfikar Malik (Utk) 8-0.

67kg: Gold: Vinayak Patil (Ser) bt



Tough fight: Vinayak, top, stonewalled Anil's spirited challenge fo the 67kg gold. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Anil (Har) 2-1; **Bronze:** Ankit (Del) bt M. Taibanganba (Man) 8-0, Amit Kumar (Raj) bt Badal Chauhan (UP) 11-0.

72kg: Gold: Ankit Gulia (Ser) w/o Aakash (Har); **Bronze:** Deepak (Del) bt Ravinder (Raj) 5-1, Gaurav (UP) bt Akash (Pun) 7-1.

77kg: Gold: Karan (Ser) bt G. Amit Kumar (Jhk) 11-2; Bronze: Sagar Thakran (Del) bt Deepak (Har) 10-7, Aurangzeb Khan (MP) bt Chhagan Meena (Raj) 5-2. 82kg: Gold: Aman (Har) w/o Rahul (Ser); Bronze: Bhagwant Singh (UP) bt Shiv Kumar (Utk) 10-0, Aryan Kamboj (Pun) bt

Aakash Kumar (Bih) 8-0. **87kg: Gold:** Sunil (Har) bt Dinesh Dhanda (Del) 8-0; **Bronze:** Rajesh Machra (Raj) bt Abhishek Yadav (MP) 8-0, Sushant (Ser) bt Shamahoon (J&K) 9-0.

97kg: Gold: Sonu (Ser) bt Naman (Del) 3-0; **Bronze:** Abhimanu (Pun) bt B.H. Kiran (Kar) 8-0, Netaram Tetrwal (Raj) w/o Nitesh Kumar (Chd).

130kg: Gold: Uttam Rana (UP) bt Digvijay (Mah) 5-4; Bronze: Jagdeep Singh (Pun) bt Kamesh Patil (Kar) 5-0, Prem (Ser) bt Mudassir Khan (MP) 8-0. Women: 50kg: Gold: Shivani

Pawar (MP) bt Vinita (Har) 12-4; **Bronze:** Nandini (Mah) bt Ritika Sharma (HP) 10-0, Preeti (Pun) bt Shweta Sanju (Kar) 2-2. **72kg: Gold:** Priyanka (Har) bt Laxmi Pandey (UP) 4-0: **Bronze:**

Laxmi Pandey (UP) 4-0; **Bronze:** Kritika Jamwal (HP) bt Devu Sankar (Ker) 2-0, Bipasha (Del) bt Vaishnavi (Mah) 2-0.

Anshu and Amanat hog the limelight

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi BHUBANESWAR

Anshu, the daughter of Paralympian and Asian Games silver medallist shot putter Virender Dhankhar, hurled the shot to a new national mark as she bagged the under-18 women's gold medal in the National junior athletics on Saturday.

A boxer-turned shot-putter, Anshu, hailing from Sonepat, achieved the feat with a mark of 16.85m in her third attempt. "After my shot was rejected, I managed with the one given to me," said Anshu.

Asian under-20 silver medalist Amanat Kamboj broke the 12-year-old meet record while claiming the under-18 gold. Amanat, born to athlete parents, unleashed a nice and flat throw to 52.89m in her first attempt before facing some issues with her release.

Asian under-20 silver

medallist Vinod Singh won

the gold by clocking his per-

sonal best 29:43.39.

Prachi Devkar made her 5,000m debut memorable by winning the title with 17:22.79. Abhinaya Rajarajan shattered Rashmi Sheregar's nine-year-old meet record (11.89) as she equalled Dutee Chand's under-18 National record of 11.62 in 2013 in the heats.

The results: Finals: U-20: Men:

10,000m: 1. Vinod Singh (MP) 29:43.39, 2. Gaurav Bhosale (Mah) 29:43.46, 3. Arun (Har) 29:43.48; Women: 1.500m: 1. Vineeta Gurjar (UP) 4:29.26, 2. Chanchal Jakhad (Har) 4:29.36, 3. Manju Choudhari (Raj) 4:29.37; 5,000m: 1. Prachi Devkar (Mah) 17:22.79, 2. Sonam Parmar (MP) 17:25.70, 3. Neeta Rani (UP) 17: 27.47; Discus: 1. Nikita Kumari (Raj) 48.31, 2. Neha Jaglan (Har) 47.65m, 3. Akhila Raju (Ker) 47.41m; 4x400m mixed relay: 1. Maharashtra 3:31.11, 2. Haryana 3:33.02, 3. Tamil Nadu 3:33.90. Winners only: Under-18:

Women: Shot put: Anshu (Har) 16.85m (NR, Old 16.75m, Gurleen Kaur, 2023); Discus: Amanat Kamboj (Pun) 52.89 (NMR, Old 49.54m, Navjeet Kaur Dhillon, 2012); U-14: Boys: Triathlon: Imran Alam (Bih) 2,275 points; Girls: Devika (Raj) 2,519.

John Wick should redeem himself in the HPSL Golconda 2000 Guineas

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old colt John Wick, who won the Mysore 2000 Guineas and ran fourth in the Mysore Derby, is in good shape and should redeem himself in the HPSL Golconda 2000 Guineas (Gr. II), the stellar attraction of Sunday's (Dec. 8)

MEGATOP PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 2-y-o only (Cat. II) – 12.30 p.m.: 1. Ayushman (8) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 2. Gold Giver (3) Saqlain 56, 3. Lake Michigan (4) Akshay K 56, 4. Royal Warrior (1) P. Sai K 56, 5. American Affair (2) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 6. Dubai Touch (5) R.S. Bhati 54.5, 7. The Purpose (6) Afroz K 54.5 and 8. Whistledown (7) Trevor 54.5. 1. WHISTLEDOWN, 2. AMERICAN

AFFAIR, 3. GOLD GIVER

BAKRANANGAL PLATE (Div. II)

(1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.05: 1. Clefairy (4) M. Mark 60, 2. Wind Sprite (9) Shivansh 60, 3. Quality Warrior (8) Afroz K 58.5, 4. Park Lane (5) Md. Ismail 58, 5. Classy Dame (6) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 6. Master Touch (3) Mukesh 55, 7. Golden Inzio (1) Kuldeep Sr. 53, 8. Pancho (7) B. Nikhil 51.5 and 9. Sadiya (2) Surya Prakash 50.5.

1. WIND SPRITE, 2. QUALITY WAR-

RIOR, 4. PARK LANE

MEGATOP PLATE (Div. II)
(1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 2y-o only (Cat. II) – 1.40: 1. Cherie
Chevalier (3) P. Sai K 56, 2. King's

y-o only (Cat. II) – 1.40: 1. Cherie Chevalier (3) P. Sai K 56, 2. King's Code (7) R.S. Bhati 56, 3. N R I Blaze (8) A.A. Vikrant 56, 4. Walking Thunder (5) Trevor 56, 5. Ashwa Changez (6) Gaurav 54.5, 6. Blue Candy (4) Nakhat 54.5, 7. Foxy Girl (1) Akshay K 54.5 and 8. French Lady (2) Md. Ismail 54.5.

1. WALKING THUNDER, 2. FOXY GIRL, 3. ASHWA CHANGEZ

BASALATH JAH MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II) — 2.15: 1. The Inheritor (4) Gaurav 60, 2. Encore (3) R.S. Jodha 59, 3. Kingston (6) Nakhat 57, 4. D Minchu (5) P. Ajeeth K 56, 5. Delhi Heights (12) Mukesh 55.5, 6. She Can (7) Akshay K 55, 7. Reigning Beauty (9) Saqlain 53.5, 8. Armstrong (1) P. Sai K 53, 9. Ragnarök (8) Santosh Raj 53, 10. Malibu (11) Md. Ismail 52.5, 11. Dyanoosh (10) Angad 52 and 12. Amyra (2) Afroz K 51.5.

K 51.5.

1. D MINCHU, 2. REIGNING BEAUTY,
3. THE INHERITOR

5 RAJA NARASIMHA RAO ME-MORIAL CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.45: 1. Alpine Girl (6) Mohit 60, 2. Uchchaihshravas (7) P. Sai K 59, 3. Sugar (2) Trevor 58, 4. Original Sin (4) I. Chisty 54.5, 5. Pleasant Star (3) Akshay K 54.5, 6. Queen Empress (5) H.M. Akshay 54 and 7. Anemoi (1) R.S. Bhati 53. 1. PLEASANT STAR, 2. UCHCHAIHSHRAVAS, 3. SUGAR

TRIBUTE PLATE (2,000m), 3y-0 and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.15: 1. Skyward (7) Gaurav 60, 2. Genie (6) Nakhat 58, 3. Freedom Touch (4) Ashad Asbar 57, 4. DAS (2) P. Ajeeth K 56.5, 5. Battle On (8) P. Sai K 53, 6. N R I Star (1) Kuldeep Sr. 53, 7. Balahaka (3) G. Naresh 52.5 and 8. Oskars Officer (5) Abhay Singh 52.5. 1. BATTLE ON, 2. FREEDOM TOUCH, 3. SKYWARD

BASALATH JAH MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II) – 3.45: 1. Best Buddy (4) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Lucky Zone (13) Ashad Asbar 59.5, 3. Minecraft (10) Akshay K 58.5, 4. Berrettini (5) P. Sai K 56.5, 5. Adbhut (1) Saqlain 55.5, 6.

Gretsy (11) Kuldeep Sr. 55.5, 7. High Reward (3) Ajay K 53, 8. Tripurari (8) B. Nikhil 53, 9. Brooklyn Beauty (9) G. Naresh 52.5, 10. Hurricane Bay (6) P. Ajeeth K 52.5, 11. Blazing Gun (12) Mukesh 52, 12. Juramento (2) Abhay Singh 51.5, and 13. Runlikethewind (7) Afroz K 51.5. 1. MINECRAFT, 2. ADBHUT, 3.

HPSL GOLCONDA 2000 GUINEAS (Gr. II) (1,600m), (Terms) 3-y-o only – 4.15: 1. Annhilator (8) Mohit 57, 2. Dapper Look (9) Nakhat 57, 3. Duke Of Tuscany (II) Trevor 57, 4. Espionage (I) Kuldeep Sr. 57, 5. John Wick (5) Akshay K 57, 6. Kalki (6) Mukesh 57, 7. King Immortal (4) I. Chisty 57, 8. Nonpariel (3) B.R. Kumar 57, 9. Oliver's Mount (7) Gaurav 57, 10. Secret Saint (2) Saqlain 57 and 11. Vafadar (10) Hindu Singh 57.

1. JOHN WICK, 2. SECRET SAINT, 3. DUKE OF TUSCANY

BAKRANANGAL PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.45: 1. Classical Music (4) H.M. Akshay 60, 2. Crimson Rose (9) B.R. Kumar 60, 3. Sucker Punch (2) Deepak 59, 4. Grand Duke (5) R.S. Jodha 58, 5. See My Attitude (3) Mohit 57.5, 6. Top In Class (1) Mukesh 56.5, 7. Silver Lining (7) Afroz K 53.5, 8. Muaser (8) P. Ajeeth K 52 and 9. Exponent (6) Nakhat 51.

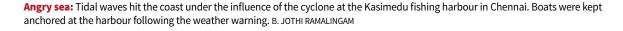
1. CRIMSON ROSE, 2. CLASSICAL

Day's Best: JOHN WICK Jackpot: (I) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9. Mini Jackpot: (I) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9. Treble: (I) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, (iii) 7, 8 & 9.

MUSIC, 3. SEE MY ATTITUDE

Treble: (I) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, (iii) 7, 8 & 9. Tanala: All races.

M ND-N





Death and destruction: An earthmover being used for rescue on a landslip site at Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu where seven members of a family died after being trapped in their house under debris and boulders. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY



In the eye: Strong winds blow near the Shore Temple in Mamallapuram ahead of Cyclone Fengal. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Wrath of the slow cyclone

Cyclone Fengal remained a low-pressure system after forming in the far eastern Indian Ocean on November 14 and became a depression in the Bay only after 10 days; it moved leisurely, bringing heavy rain to parts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

hile heavy rain during the northeast monsoon is common at this time of the year in Tamil Nadu, the State and the Union Territory of Puducherry did not expect Cyclone Fengal to cause such widespread devastation when it crossed the eastern coast on the night of November 30. On December 1, unusually heavy rainfall of 40 cm to 50 cm was recorded in many places in Puducherry and the northern and northwestern parts of Tamil Nadu.

The cyclone then slowly drifted westward, dumping rain, causing floods, submerging acres of crops, damaging civic infrastructure, and displacing thousands of people. When it later moved inland, it pummelled several districts. Mailam in Villupuram district received 51 cm of rainfall on December 1 and Uthangarai in Krishnagiri district received 50 cm on December 2. Some areas of Villupuram received more than

33 cm of rainfall on a single day. While the effects of the cyclone was felt in Andhra Pradesh on the eastern coast, which is normal for such weather systems, Cyclone Fengal in a rare occurrence crossed the Western Ghats, bringing rain to parts of Kerala.

It remained a low-pressure system after forming in the far eastern Indian Ocean on November 14 and became a depression in the Bay of Bengal only after 10 days. It moved relatively slowly for another week before the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said it had become a cyclone. On November 28, the IMD announced that Cyclone Fengal would cross the north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast on the morning of November 30. The cyclone moved at a leisurely pace. While fast-moving cyclones tend to retreat quickly, slow-moving ones weaken into a deep depression, dumping heavy rain.

A Central team visited Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to assess the damage. The Centre has approved the release of ₹944.80 crore to Tamil Nadu from the State Disaster Response Fund. (Text by K. Lakshmi)



Taking a toll: Vehicles that were swept away by flood water near the Uthangarai highway in Krishnagiri had to be moved with the help of cranes. N. BASHKARAN



On a war footing: Workers prepare sandbags as protection against high tidal waves on the Shanghumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

News in Frames



No way forward: A tree uprooted on East Coast Road at Marakkanam in Villupuram district following heavy rain and strong wind. S.S. KUMAR

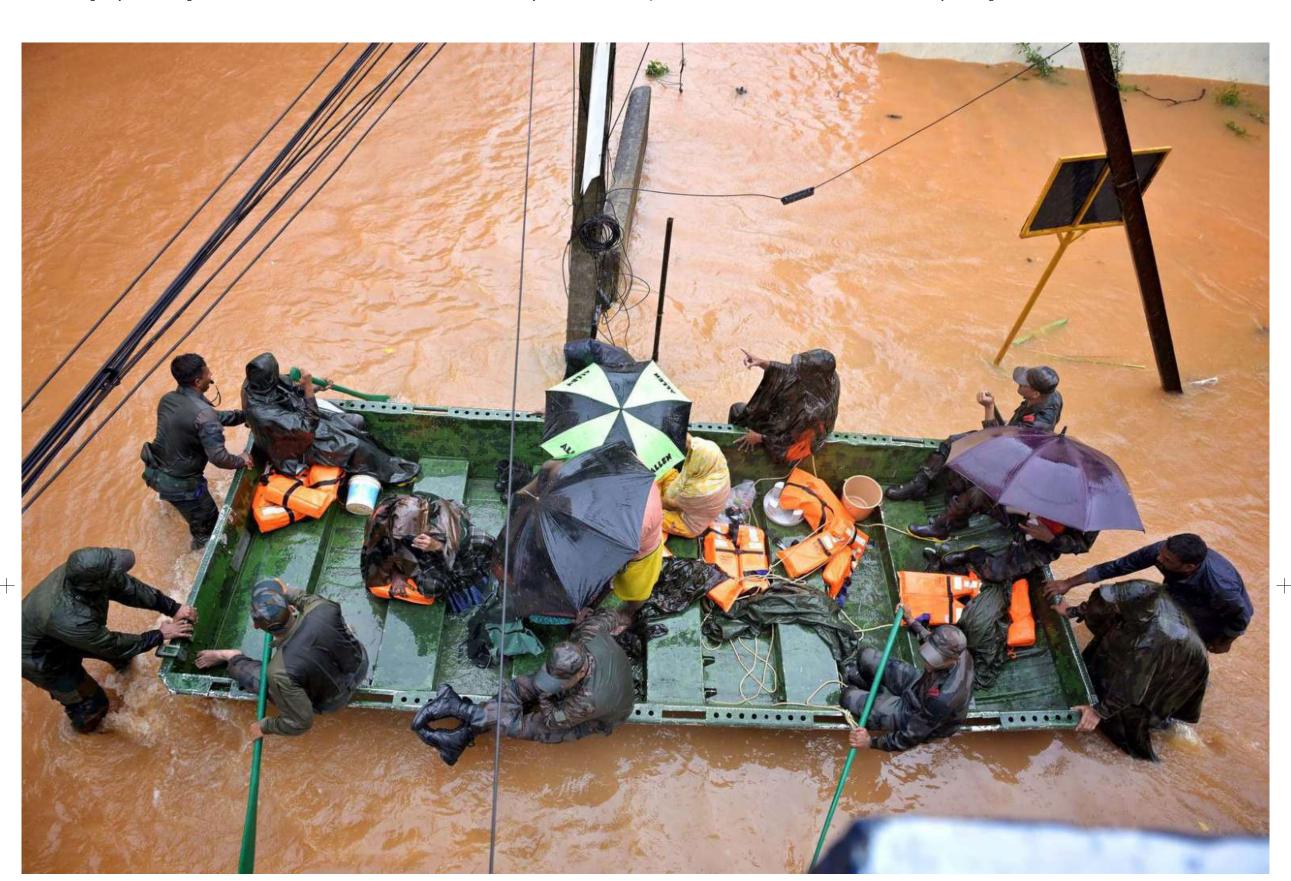


Salvation drive: Damaged documents and certificates of students and staff of a private school left out to dry in Arakandanallur of Villupuram district. S.S. KUMAR



Sunday, December 8, 2024

Safe haven: Fishing boats anchored at the Visakhapatnam fishing harbour following an alert ahead of Cyclone Fengal v. RAJU



On the job: Indian Army personnel rescue people from a flooded area in Puducherry. S.S. KUMAR







S ND-NDE

Worst affected: (clockwise from left) Farmers remove damaged saplings from a paddy field in Thrissur of Kerala; damaged paddy at Kalathur in Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu; an early harvest near Vijayawada city to salvage grain. K.K. NAJEEB, C. VENKATACHALAPATHY & K.V.S. GIRI