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KEDARNATH LANDSLIP

Five pilgrims dead, search continues

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All-civilian crew aim for first private spacewalk

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Its sale is unregulated, rising exponentially

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Arjun and Harika to lead India's challenge

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Kolkata doctors continue protests despite SC appeal

Shrabana Chatterjee
Moyurie Som
KOLKATA



Junior doctors shout slogans as they march towards Swasthya Bhavan during a protest in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

Resident doctors of public medical institutions in West Bengal refused to call off their protest despite an appeal by the Supreme Court to them to rejoin duty by 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

The doctors from multiple government medical colleges took out a procession to Swasthya Bhavan and held protests after they were not allowed to enter the Health Department headquarters. While they continued their protests over the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College Hospital here, officials from Nabanna (State Secretariat) appealed to them to hold talks to end the month-long logjam.

Trinamool Congress MLA Chandrima Bhattacharya said, "The Principal Health Secretary sent an email from Nabanna to the protesting junior doctors at 6.10 p.m. We were ready to allow 10 or more of them to hold talks with us. However, we did not receive any response from them. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was waiting at Nabanna till 7.30 p.m. to hold talks with the doctors, but the doctors did not come."

Reacting to statements by government officials, the doctors said, "We want to keep all channels for negotiations and talks open. But the way they wrote the email and the language they used was an insult to us. The way the email came to us, it was not an official email; it was a mail from the Health Secretary, we are not in any position to officially respond to it. If there is any positive response from the government to our five demands, we are ready to consider their appeal to hold talks."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Students in Imphal defy curfew, clash with police

Manipur bans Internet in five districts of Imphal Valley and imposes curfew in two of them; 50 students injured when police used force to stop them from storming Raj Bhavan , CM's residence

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI



Paramilitary and police personnel stand guard during a protest demanding the removal of Manipur DGP and security adviser. ANI

The Manipur government on Tuesday banned Internet services in five districts of the Imphal Valley and imposed a curfew in two of them as students, protesting for the second successive day against the rising violence in the State, clashed with security forces on the streets of Imphal.

Over 50 students were injured when the police used force to prevent them from storming the Raj Bhavan and the Chief Minister's residence, which are 200 metres apart. Those seriously injured have been admitted to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal. They included a girl in the hospital's intensive care unit, a medical officer said.

Sensing trouble from a large group of students who had spent the night in an all-woman market in the Khwairamband area, the Imphal West administration had imposed a curfew from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The State capital straddles Imphal West and Imphal East districts.

The students defied the curfew as more protesters joined them to march to the Raj Bhavan, but security personnel stopped them from nearing the VIP zone. This led to scuffles and the security personnel fired tear gas shells to disperse the protesters.

Students of Manipur University in another part of Imphal took out a protest march. They demanded the removal of the State's security adviser Kuldiep Singh and Director-General of Police Rajiv Singh for failing to protect the lives and properties of the citizens. The protesters also demanded the resignation of all the MLAs on "moral grounds".

As groups of men and women spilled onto the streets to join the protesters, tearing up some posters displaying photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, the Imphal West district authorities reimposed the curfew from 11 a.m.

CONTINUED ON
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IN BRIEF

Hema panel: HC raps Kerala govt. over inaction

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court on Tuesday pulled up the State government, saying its inaction on the Justice Hema Committee report was "alarmingly lethargic". The court directed it to give the report to the special investigation team and file an action-taken report. » Page 5

6 Indians enlisted with Russian Army released

NEW DELHI
At least six Indians enlisted with the Russian Army have been released from their camps on Russia-Ukraine border, months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue "personally" with President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Moscow in July. » Page 10

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Detritus of a storm



Fine-grained surface: Black sand washed up on the Visakhapatnam beach after high tidal waves triggered by a depression in the Bay of Bengal lashed the coast over the past few days. High tide usually brings along the mineral-rich sand. K.R. DEEPAK

Israeli strike kills 40 in humanitarian zone in southern Gaza's Khan Yunis

Agence France-Presse
AL-MAWASI



Palestinian boys stand near a damaged vehicle buried in the sands after Israeli strike on a tent camp, at Al-Mawasi. REUTERS

Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike on Tuesday on a humanitarian zone in the Palestinian territory killed 40 people, with the Israeli Army saying it had targeted a Hamas command centre in the area.

The strike hit Al-Mawasi – in Gaza's southern province of Khan Yunis – which was designated a safe zone by the Israeli military early in the war, with tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians seeking refuge there. Israel's military has carried out occasional operations in and around the area, including a strike in July that it said killed Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif, and which Gaza health authorities said killed more than 90 people.

In Gaza, civil defence official Mohammed al-Mughair said 40 dead and 60 wounded were taken to nearby hospitals following the strike early Tuesday.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Basal said people sheltering in the camp in the dunes along the Mediterranean coast had not been warned of the strike.

The strike left behind "three deep craters", he said. "There are entire families who disappeared under the sand."

Survivors of the strike scrambled to retrieve their belongings from the rubble, including mattresses and clothing. "They told us to come to Al-Mawasi, so we came to Al-Mawasi, we settled here. The area was bombed without prior warning, they didn't ask us to flee to a safer area or anything," a Palestinian man said.

The Israeli military said its aircraft had "struck significant Hamas terrorists who were operating within a command-and-control centre embedded inside the humanitarian area in Khan Yunis".

TRUCE POSSIBLE: ISRAEL
» PAGE 14

Engineer Rashid gets interim bail ahead of J&K elections

Ishita Mishra
Peerzada Ashiq
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted interim bail to Engineer Rashid, a member of Parliament from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla constituency, till October 2.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a terror funding case and has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh of Patiala House Courts granted the relief to Mr. Rashid, who had moved the court seeking interim bail to campaign in the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir scheduled to be held on September 18, 25 and October 1.

Mr. Rashid defeated former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah in the Lok Sabha poll in Baramulla earlier this year. He leads the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP). Of the 90 seats in the Assembly, AIP is contesting most of the 47 seats in Kashmir Valley.

Oppn. questions move

Questioning the move to release Mr. Rashid ahead of the elections, the NC vice-president said, "The bail was not given for the benefit of the constituents but for electoral gain. I pity the people of Baramulla as their MP received bail not to serve or represent them but to get votes."

With Mr. Rashid fielding candidates in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) stronghold in south Kashmir, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti has accused AIP of "being a proxy of the BJP". "Parents of poor jail inmates are not even allowed to meet. And some people are contesting polls from jail...," Ms. Mufti said.

However, Democratic Progressive Azad Party president Ghulam Nabi Azad welcomed the court decision and called it "a step towards justice".

Rahul's U.S. speech triggers a storm; BJP calls it a 'dangerous narrative'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Rahul Gandhi interacts with students and faculty of Georgetown University, in Washington DC on Tuesday. ANI

Criticism of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi before the Indian-American community triggered a political storm on Tuesday, with the BJP accusing Mr. Gandhi of creating a "dangerous narrative" by speaking on "sensitive issues" abroad.

Speaking at a diaspora event in Herndon, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC, on Monday, Mr. Gandhi accused the RSS of treating some religions, languages and cultures as "inferior" to others, and expressed concern over the status of religious and linguistic minorities in India.

"First of all, you have to understand what the fight is about. The fight is not about politics. That is superficial," Mr. Gandhi said.

Turning to a member of the audience, who belonged to the Sikh community, he then asked his name and said, "The fight is about whether a Sikh is going to be allowed to wear his turban in India or a *kada* in India. Or he, as a Sikh, is going to be able to go to gurdwara. That is what the fight is about. And not just for him, for all religions".

Mr. Gandhi is on a four-day trip to the United States, where his programmes include interaction with the Indian-American community, and students, and individual meetings with officials in Capitol Hill.

Over the past three days, Mr. Gandhi, in his public engagements, has been targeting the RSS-BJP combine and their vision for India.

CONTINUED ON
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SEBI chief's firm paid by listed firms, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Alleging a conflict of interest, the Congress on Tuesday said Dhaval Buch, husband of SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch received ₹4.78 crore between 2019 and 2021 from Mahindra and Mahindra when the stock market regulator was adjudicating its cases.

The party said Agora Advisory Private Ltd., a consultancy firm in which Ms. Buch had a 99% stake, received fees from listed companies such as M&M.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 11

Court allows 7 students to enrol at St. Stephen's

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday ruled that the admissions of seven students, who were allowed by the court last week to enrol at St. Stephen's College, will remain unaffected. The court, however, asked Delhi University (DU) not to allocate any more seats to the college for the current academic session.

The case stems from a policy dispute between DU and the college. St. Stephen's had put the admissions of a total of 22 students on hold, terming them "extra allocations" by DU. Seven of the affected students had approached the High Court. On August 23, a single-judge Bench of the High Court granted provisional admission to the students. The college filed an appeal against the order, following which the students were barred from attending classes. The matter was heard again by the single Bench, which, on September 6, asked St. Stephen's to admit the seven students. On Monday, the college filed an appeal against last week's order.

Demolition drive halted in Jangpura; AAP, BJP leaders visit spot, promise support

Satvika Mahajan
Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI


BJP members held a protest in the area, blaming the Delhi government for the eviction notices. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Five days after residents of the Madrasi Camp slum cluster in south-east Delhi's Jangpura received eviction notices from the Public Works Department (PWD), leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the BJP met the residents and promised them support. The two parties also blamed each other for the eviction notices.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court, while hearing a plea filed by the affected residents, asked the authorities to ensure that no coercive action is taken in the slum cluster in the Old Barapullah Bridge area, which is proposed to be cleared for the construction of a new flyover.

Taking note of the residents' complaints, PWD Minister Atishi wrote to the department, asking it not to carry out any demolition in the slum cluster. She said the area is a Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board-notified JJ cluster. Therefore, the residents have a right to rehabilitation before an anti-encroachment drive is initiated in the slum cluster, the Minister added.

Political wrangling

The day saw protests by members of the BJP against the Delhi government, whom they blamed for the notices. Delhi BJP's JJ cluster in-charge Sushil Chauhan said, "AAP had not left any stone unturned in rendering people homeless." He added that the BJP will continue to fight for the rights of the area's residents.

Shortly after the BJP's protests, senior AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia visited the spot along with Jangpura MLA Praveen Kumar (AAP). After interacting with the residents, Mr. Sisodia said, "The BJP intimidates officers by getting notices issued through the L-G. Then members of the same party come out to protest against these notices."

Sharing her anguish, a resident said, "Our children go to nearby schools, and some of us work at houses in the area. We have lived here for generations. How can we suddenly move out?"

Deepak, a street vendor, said, "Authorities came and drove us out without notice on September 5. I have to pay instalments of the PMSvanidhi loan too. But for the last month, I have had no work."

BJP plotting to topple Delhi govt. through President's Rule: AAP

Requested President to dismiss Delhi govt., says BJP; AAP has no right to remain in power after repeatedly violating Constitution norms, says LoP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday slammed the BJP for seeking the dismissal of the Delhi government from President Droupadi Murmu.

The principal Opposition party responded by claiming that the government had lost the right to remain in power after "repeated violations of Constitutional norms".

The demand was made by a BJP delegation during a meeting with the President on August 30. The party also submitted a memorandum to Ms. Murmu, claiming that Delhi was facing a "constitutional crisis" in the absence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is lodged in Tihar Jail following his arrest by Central probe agencies in corruption cases.

The fresh spat between the two parties has ensued after the President's Secretariat forwarded the memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs for "proper action". According to a source, such queries are "routinely forwarded to the nodal ministries" by the President's Office.


Delhi Minister Atishi. FILE PHOTO

Delhi Finance Minister Atishi accused the BJP of conspiring to topple the AAP government through the "backdoor" by imposing President's Rule.

"If the BJP topples the government, the people of Delhi will give it a befitting reply. The BJP will lose even the eight seats it holds now and will be reduced to zero in the next year's Assembly poll," she said.

The Minister also said the BJP believes in grabbing power by "poaching MLAs of ruling parties" whenever it loses elections. "They did it in Delhi too, but could not succeed. So, now, they have set their second conspiracy in motion," she said.

'Respond to issues'

Reacting to it, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, said the BJP has requested the President to immediately dismiss the government as it has failed to fulfil its constitutional obligations. Mr. Gupta demanded the government's response to the issues raised by them. He said the memorandum highlighted the non-formation of the Sixth Delhi Finance Commission, the "breakdown" of the administrative machinery, and the "deliberate" non-implementation of Central schemes.

MCD Standing Committee poll likely on September 26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The election for the last remaining seat on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)'s Standing Committee will likely be held on September 26, an official said on Tuesday. The poll was necessitated after the seat was vacated by BJP's Kamaljeet Sehrawat, who won the West Delhi Lok Sabha constituency in the recently held general election.

Six members of the 18-member panel, three each from the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), were elected in March 2023. The remaining 12 members were elected through last week's zonal committee polls in which the BJP won seven posts and AAP the remaining five.

A win for the BJP in the Standing Committe poll would ensure its control over the civic body's main decision-making arm that has executive powers to grant approval to projects worth over ₹5 crore while a victory for AAP would help it equalise and push for a draw of lots to select the panel's chairperson and deputy chairperson.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
I disown my daughter-in-law Amardeep Khattar Aneja W/o late Ashish Aneja & grandson Abhir Aneja from my movable & immovable property & break all my relationship. I am not responsible for any of their actions/ transactions in future. Darshan Dayal son of Late. Mohan Lal House no.7, Maya Apartments, Near Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Vikas Puri New Delhi- 18

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LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE HONOURABLE COURT OF THE DISTRICT ADDL. FAMILY JUDGE AT VISAKHAPATNAM
O.P.15/2024
Between :
Sri Rajesh Sahukari .....Petitioner
And :
1. Smt. Sahinta Sahukari
2. Sri. Rashid Faisal @ Rishi .....Respondents
NOTICE
To
1. Smt. Sahinta Sahukari, W/o. Rajesh Sahukari, Hindu , aged 26 years house wife, residing at J1 504, Maya Garden City, Zirakpur, Chandigarh, Haryana, Aadhar No: 6023 9910 0073, Cell No. 83605 05563.
2. Sri. Rashid Faisal @ Rishi, S/o. Rafiq, Hindu, age 20 years, Residing at 103, Ekta Vihar, Amabala Cantt, Haryana.
Please take notice that the above named appellant has instituted the above OP against you and the same stands posted to 15-10-2024 at 10:30 am for your appearance. On that Day you are personally or through your advocate attend before the Hon'ble Court at 10:30 am failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence exparte as per law.
T.V.RAVI KUMAR, Advocate, VISAKHAPATNAM
Cell : 88854 78803

BEFORE THE HONORABLE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION. KOZHIKODE
C.C.NO.620/2023
Mr. Bino George - Complainant
Shastri New Age Business Corporation
B-2/154 Shop No. 1 Yamuna Vihar, Shahdara North East, Delhi, Delhi - 110053.
- Opposite Party
In the above matter the complainant has filed a complaint against you, the above petition is now Stands posted to 10/10/2024 for objection if any by you. And if you have any objection over the same shall be informed before the court on that date. Other wise you will be set as Ex-Prate by an order of the Hon'ble court.
(SD) Adv. Sanal Kumar. E
09/09/2024 Advocate for the Complainant

Mpox patient at Lok Nayak Hospital stable, says Bharadwaj

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Tuesday said the mpox patient receiving treatment at Lok Nayak Hospital is in a stable condition.

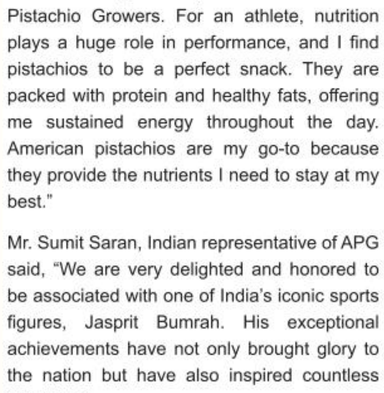
"We have gathered information about a patient who has been confirmed to be suffering from mpox. He had a travel history, so it is believed he was infected abroad. He has been kept in isolation in the disaster management ward here," said the Minister.

Sources at the hospital said the patient, who is the first reported case of mpox in India, does not currently have a fever and is on the road to recovery.

"We have isolation wards for confirmed and suspected mpox patients. Our doctors are well prepared to deal with such cases," said Suresh Kumar, the hospital's medical director.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT
A Business Initiative

American Pistachios Growers onboards Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador



The India office of American Pistachios Growers (APG) has announced Jasprit Bumrah, One of the leading pace bowlers/ cricket icons in the WORLD, as the brand ambassador for California-grown American pistachios for the 2024-25 season. "Jasprit Bumrah's unwavering commitment to excellence, both on and off the field, makes him the ideal ambassador for American Pistachios Growers (APG)," said Garth Thorburn, the Minister Counselor for Agriculture at the US Embassy in India. "We are thrilled to have him champion the message of pistachio nutrition. A significant number of pistachio growers in the United States, particularly in California, are of Indian origin. This partnership not only strengthens the bond between our nations but also promotes a shared vision of health and wellness for people everywhere. Welcome to the family, Jasprit." Speaking on the association, Jasprit Bumrah exclusively represented by RISE Worldwide said, "I'm delighted to partner with American Pistachio Growers. For an athlete, nutrition plays a huge role in performance, and I find pistachios to be a perfect snack. They are packed with protein and healthy fats, offering me sustained energy throughout the day. American pistachios are my go-to because they provide the nutrients I need to stay at my best."

Mr. Sumit Saran, Indian representative of APG said, "We are very delighted and honored to be associated with one of India's iconic sports figures, Jasprit Bumrah. His exceptional achievements have not only brought glory to the nation but have also inspired countless individuals.

Uttar Pradesh to Host SEMICON India 2024, Emerging Hub for Semiconductor Industry

Uttar Pradesh is set to host SEMICON India 2024, a prestigious global event, from September 11-13, 2024, at the India Expo Mart Limited (IEML) in Greater Noida. This event aligns with the Prime Minister's vision to establish India as a major player in global semiconductor manufacturing. The event is organized by SEMI, in collaboration with the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). It will feature 255 exhibitors from 17 countries, showcasing the breadth of participation and collaboration expected at this global event. The state has launched policies like the UP Electronics Manufacturing Policy 2020, aiming to attract ₹40,000 crore in investment. Leading global companies like Samsung, Oppo, and Vivo have set up operations in the state. Uttar Pradesh is investing in infrastructure to support the growth of the semiconductor and electronics industries. The upcoming Jewar International Airport, multi-modal logistics hubs, and operational inland waterways will enhance connectivity and facilitate trade.

The SEMICON India 2024 event marks a significant step toward realizing India's vision of becoming a global leader in semiconductor manufacturing.

POWERGRID puts up India Pavilion at CIGRE Paris Exhibition 2024

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) showcased its prowess and rapid strides in the power sector at the India Pavilion put up by POWERGRID at the prestigious CIGRE Paris Exhibition 2024. Shri R. K. Tyagi, CMD POWERGRID welcomed Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India in presence of Shri Madhav Sulphule, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Paris, Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC, Shri Michel Augonnet, President, CIGRE, Shri Michael Heyeck, Vice President Finance, CIGRE and Shri Philipe Adam, Secretary General, CIGRE at the India Pavilion. The dignitaries also unveiled the POWERGRID CIGRE and upcoming GRIDCON-2025 brochures. POWERGRID's engineers presented 40 technical research papers and case studies at the conference. POWERGRID's lady engineers presented six papers during the conference and are also active members of numerous technical committees.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh Visits NBCC Executed International Craft Complex

Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Government of India along with other senior officials visited NBCC executed International Craft Complex, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 06.09.2024. This large, modern facility, covering over 2,000 square feet, is designed and executed to show off the beautiful craftsmanship from different parts of India. During the visit, Shri K.P. Mahadevaswamy, CMD, NBCC briefed Shri Giriraj Singh about the project wherein Hon'ble Minister appreciated the quality, workmanship, variety and special features of the building. Shri Saleem Ahmad, Director (Projects) along with other officials from NBCC were also present during the occasion. The building with two basements, ground floor and three upper floors shall accommodate Headquarters office, Northern Regional office. Built on a plot area 7,153 sqm, it comprises of 199 staff cabins and 35 rooms. The craft complex will have 23 shops for artisans along with one showroom, one kiosk, five galleries and one convention halls. The approximate cost of the execution is Rs. 125 Crore.

REC Limited Honoured as "Nodal Agency of the Year" at Bharat Electricity – Powering India Awards 2024

REC Limited, has been conferred with the prestigious "Nodal Agency of the Year" award at the Bharat Electricity "Powering India Awards 2024". This esteemed recognition is a testament to REC's innovative initiatives and leadership in the energy sector, driving significant progress in India's power infrastructure. The award was presented during the highly anticipated PowerGen India & Indian Utility Week 2024, a premier event that brings together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts in the energy sector. Shri Prabhat Kumar Singh, Executive Director (RDSS), accepted the award on behalf of REC Limited, reinforcing the company's commitment to excellence and its role as a key player in India's sustainable energy journey. The Bharat Electricity – Powering India Awards recognizes exemplary performance and innovation in the Indian power and utilities sector, honouring organizations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the industry.

KIET Group of Institutions Organizes 3-Week Student Induction Programme

The Department of B.Tech and Applied Sciences at KIET Group of Institutions, Ghaziabad, is organizing the Student Induction Programme for B. tech 1st year students of batch 2024-25. The programme is being conducted under the guidelines of AICTE and Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow. This progamme is cumulative of various academic as well as extracurricular activities, including sports, yoga, creative arts, literary and cultural activities which will run for 21 days. The first day of this programme starts with Yoga Session at 6:30 am, followed by a session on Universal Human Values. During this this 3-week Student Induction Programme, the dignitaries of the institute, including Dr. Preeti Bajaj, Director General, Dr. Manoj Goel, Joint Director, Dr Anil Ahlawat, Director Academics, Dr Anurag Gupta, Dean Students Welfare, Dr Shailendra Kumar Tiwary, Dean B. Tech I Year and Applied Sciences, Dr C. M. Batra, Associate Dean B. Tech I Year and Applied Sciences, Mr. Anup Srivastava, Registrar and Deans of other departments will have an interactive session with the students. Various experts' talks have also been arranged to enhance the technical learning experience provided to the students.

Stray dogs, monkeys on the rise due to poor garbage disposal: HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday voiced concern over the escalating problem of stray dogs and monkeys in the Capital, attributing it to the municipal authorities' failure to dispose of garbage.

"It is all stemming from the non-disposal of garbage by the municipal bodies. Due to the non-collection of garbage, all the food and waste is littered around. Feeding of animals has to be done in a scientific manner," a Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela observed.

"The MCD is not doing its job properly. If the MCD allows the whole city to be filled with garbage, what to do? If you stop feeding the animals, they will stop coming. The whole city is full of garbage," the Bench remarked.

The court also asked Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to place before it the number of patients who had approached it in the past three months seeking treatment for dog or monkey bites.

The court's observation came while hearing public interest litigations filed by two NGOs – Nyaya Bhoomi and The Society for Public Cause – over the "growing" number of attacks by stray dogs. The PILs said the population of street dogs was directly related to the amount of food waste in an area and claimed that the stray dog count was very low in clean areas.

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 11	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:31
RISE 13:21	SET 23:26
THURSDAY, SEP. 12	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:30
RISE 14:19	SET 00:00
FRIDAY, SEP. 13	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:28
RISE 15:14	SET 00:23

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

Delhi Palam Today
33°C Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with strong winds and moderate lightning will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Cong. slams *Mahayuti* govt. over Nagpur crash

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Congress on Tuesday targeted the ruling *Mahayuti* government in Maharashtra over the accident involving the car of State BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule's son, saying that the driver of the car is being made a scapegoat.

The car owned by Sanket Bawankule hit several vehicles in the early hours of Monday in Ramdaspeth area, injuring at least two persons. The police on Tuesday said Arjun Hawre, who was in the driver's seat, was arrested but later released on bail since it is a bailable offence. Speaking at a press conference, Nagpur Deputy Commissioner of Police Rahul Madane said Mr. Sanket has confessed to the police that he was present in the car at the time. "All three occupants of the car were questioned. Their medical samples have been sent to the forensic lab," the DCP said.

Alleging that Mr. Sanket is being shielded, State Congress's chief spokesperson Atul Londhe said, "It was observed that after the accident, the number plate of the car was removed...there were attempts to destroy evidence." The police, however, have denied that the number plate was removed.

"It looks like the Home Department has started a project where people can crash their cars, kill/injure people, and blame it on the driver..," Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar said, referring to earlier allegations that an NCP MLA tried to save those responsible for the car crash in Pune in May, and leaders of the Shiv Sena tried to save a party worker's son after he ran over a woman in Worli.

Fifth wolf caught in Bahraich, hunt on for sixth predator

Captured wolf is a female and will be sent to a zoo, says Chief Forest Conservator; Wildlife Institute of India experts to study pattern of attacks

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department said it had captured a wolf on Tuesday from Sisai Churamani village of Bahraich district, taking the number of wolves caught as part of 'Operation Bhediya' to five.

This wolf was part of a pack of six wolves that had terrorised residents since mid-July, killing eight persons and injuring more than 20, said the department officials.

The wolf was caught near the Ghaghara river, where another wolf was caught on September 4.

"A Forest Department team started tracking the wolf using drones, thermal cameras, and pugmarks. We set a trap and captured the wolf when it returned to Sisai Churamani village," said Ajit Pratap Singh, a forest official. "A multi-pronged approach is in place to capture the remaining wolf. Various Forest Department teams are tracing pugmarks and gathering intelligence from residents," added Mr. Singh.

Chief Forest Conservator Renu Singh said the captured wolf is a female. On the basis of the advice by wildlife experts, she added, they have decided to send the captured animal to a zoo.


The fifth wolf caught by Forest Department officials in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday. ANI

A search operation has been on over the past two weeks in Bahraich district, with over 15 Forest Department teams comprising more than 300 forest officials tasked with capturing the predators.

Senior forest officials, including Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Sanjay Srivastava, are camping in the area with a team of experts from the Wildlife Institute of India that also visited the region to study the pattern of the attacks.

'Reduced forest area'
Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said here that man-animal conflict occurs due to the reduction in forest area.

The CM was addressing a function in the State capital, where he distributed appointment letters to 647 forest guards, wildlife guards, and 41 junior engineers selected through the U.P. Subordinate Services Selection Commission.

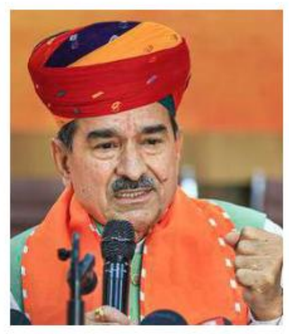
Climate change
"If the forests burn, the environment will be damaged and landslides will occur. Not only wildlife, but humans will also have to face the ill-effects of untimely climate change," Mr. Adityanath said.

"Uttar Pradesh is the first State to include human-wildlife conflict in the 'disaster' category and make a provision of ₹5 lakh (compensation) for loss of life," he added.

(With PTI inputs)

Rajasthan BJP chief's remarks on scrapping new districts draw flak

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR


Rajasthan BJP president Madan Rathore

A recent statement of BJP Rajasthan president Madan Rathore about the likelihood of abolishing six to seven of the 17 new districts formed by the previous Congress regime has created ripples in the political circles of the State. The State government has yet to take a decision in the matter following submission of the report by an expert committee.

Mr. Rathore, during his visit to Bhilwara earlier this week, said that former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had created new districts for "appeasing the Congress MLAs" and the BJP government would nullify the formation of six to seven districts which were made without any demand from the local people.

The State government had appointed a Cabinet sub-committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa in June to review the present status of 17 new districts and three divisions carved out during the previous Congress regime. An expert committee, appointed later to give its suggestions, has since submitted its report to the State government.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel said after a Cabinet meeting here earlier this month that the expert committee's report was being examined. Though Mr. Patel affirmed that the Congress government had formed new districts without considering public opinion and in "utter disregard" of the norms for dividing the existing districts, no official decision in the matter has been taken as yet.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and Congress MLA Tikaram Jully said here on Tuesday that Mr. Rathore had no authority to announce the abolition of new districts, as he was only the head of the ruling party. "The Congress government created small districts, as they are considered efficient for administration and they provide fast relief to the people," Mr. Jully said.

'Politically loaded'
Mr. Jully accused Mr. Rathore of violating the confidentiality of the government's decisions by making "politically loaded" remarks.

He said such an announcement could only be made after the competent officers or committees reached a conclusion on the basis of a thorough review of administrative jurisdiction of new districts, requirements for smooth functioning, and availability of financial resources.

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हिन्दी माध्यम टॉपर
53 AIR मोहन लाल
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9 AIR NAUSHEEN — ALL INDIA TEST SERIES
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11 AIR KUSH MOTWANI — ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE
12 AIR ANIKET SHANDILYA — ABHYAAS
13 AIR MEDHA ANAND — ALL INDIA GS TEST, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS, PT 365, MAINS365, MAINS ADVANCE, INTERVIEW GUIDANCE
14 AIR SHAURYA ARORA — ABHYAAS INTERVIEW GUIDANCE
15 AIR KUNAL RASTOGI — ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS INTERVIEW GUIDANCE,
16 AIR AYAN JAIN — ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS INTERVIEW GUIDANCE
17 AIR SWATI SHARMA — ALL INDIA TEST SERIES ABHYAAS
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238 AIR विपिन दुबे — ऑल इंडिया GS टेस्ट, अभ्यास
257 AIR मनीषा धार्वे — ऑल इंडिया GS टेस्ट अभ्यास, इंटरव्यू गाइडेंस
313 AIR मयंक दुबे — ऑल इंडिया GS टेस्ट अभ्यास, इंटरव्यू गाइडेंस
517 AIR देवेश पाराशर — ऑल इंडिया GS टेस्ट, अभ्यास, PT 365, दर्शनशास्त्र टेस्ट, निबंध टेस्ट, इंटरव्यू गाइडेंस
541 AIR शिवम अग्रवाल — ऑल इंडिया GS टेस्ट अभ्यास, इंटरव्यू गाइडेंस
551 AIR मोहन मंगवा — अभ्यास इंटरव्यू गाइडेंस
555 AIR ईश्वर लाल गुर्जर — ऑल इंडिया GS टेस्ट, अभ्यास, PT 365, निबंध टेस्ट, इंटरव्यू गाइडेंस
556 AIR शुभम रघुवंशी — लक्ष्य, अभ्यास, इंटरव्यू गाइडेंस

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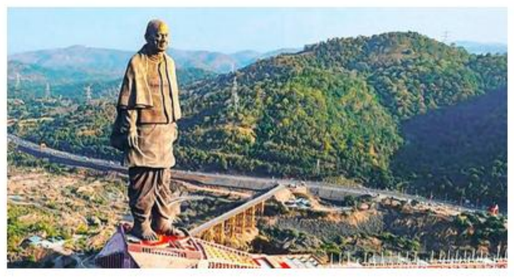
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GTB NAGAR
30 AUG, 5:30 PM
19 JULY, 8:30 AM
AHMEDABAD 20 AUG | BENGALURU 23 SEPT | BHOPAL 5 SEPT | CHANDIGARH 9 SEPT | HYDERABAD 11 SEPT | JAIPUR 18 SEPT | JODHPUR 11 JULY | LUCKNOW 5 SEPT | PUNE 9 SEPT

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INBRIEF



Post on X claims cracks on Statue of Unity; FIR registered

The police in Kevadia, Gujarat, have registered a case against an unidentified person after a post on social media platform X claimed that "cracks" have started appearing on the Statue of Unity and it can "fall anytime", an officer said on Tuesday. The 182-metre tall statue, built as a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of independent India, is a major tourist attraction. A post written in Hindi on the handle "RaGa4India" on September 8 also carried an old photograph of the structure, which appeared to be from the time of its construction. The post is unavailable for viewing as the X user has since deleted it. PTI

NHRC notice to Jharkhand for 'neglect' of pregnant woman

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday issued notice to the Jharkhand government over an incident in which a pregnant woman in labour pain was not attended to for about 27 hours at the M.G.M. Hospital, Jamshedpur. The 'laxity' had led to the death of the baby in the womb. The woman was referred by a community health centre, but in the hospital, she was reportedly made to lie on the floor as there was no bed available. It was also reported that another woman, who had given birth, was made to lie on the floor. Observing that these incidents raise a serious issue of violation of human rights, the NHRC issued notice to the State Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report, including the status of health of the woman and availability of beds, within two weeks.

Tejashwi begins tour of State to meet grassroots workers, takes aim at CM

RJD leader launches his 'Karyakarta Samvad Yatra' from Samastipur, lashes out at Nitish Kumar saying people have lost faith in a Chief Minister who has 'become a mute spectator'

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA



Launching a dialogue: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav interacting with the party workers on the first day of 'Karyakarta Samvad Yatra' in Samastipur on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav launched his 'Karyakarta Samvad Yatra' on Tuesday from Samastipur, the land of Bharat Ratna and iconic OBC leader Karpoori Thakur, lashing out at Nitish Kumar saying people have "lost faith" in a Chief Minister who has "become a mute spectator".

Even as his son began the Statewide *yatra*, party chief Lalu Prasad ruled out Mr. Kumar's return to the *Mahagathbandhan* (Grand Alliance) saying, "If he doesn't want to come to this side, let it be...it is good."

"I am here to start the Karyakarta Samvad and to meet the party workers who are the real backbone of any political party. I will tour the entire State in due course and seek feedback from grassroots workers. Being a follower of Karpoori*ji*, I decided to start from Samastipur," said Mr. Yadav, the Leader of Opposition in Bihar, as he began the first phase of his march through Darbhanga, Madhubani and Muzaffarpur. The second phase will start after Durga Puja.

'Achievements made'

The march is intended not only at connecting with grassroots workers but also informing people about the achievements made during his 17 months as Deputy Chief Minister in the previous alliance government with Mr. Kumar's Janata Dal (United).

Mr. Yadav said the RJD has been consistently demanding a nationwide caste census and increasing the reservation quota to 65%. "To fulfil these demands, I need strong support from my party workers," he said.

Launching a scathing attack at the current National Democratic Alliance government in Bihar led by Mr. Kumar, the RJD leader said people's faith has been shaken by "murders in broad daylight, criminals entering homes and corruption in every government office".

Mr. Yadav focused his attack on the Chief Minister, whose party is also a crucial ally of the BJP at the Centre now. "He never interacts (with people). He only roams around with four to five persons and stays in a closed room," he said. "He is not saying a word on issues such as Waqf Board, creamy layer, reservation and lateral entry [in government]. The JD(U) is afraid, we are not."

ED files chargesheet in Valmiki scam, 'main accused is ex-Minister'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



B. Nagendra

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet in the alleged scam at Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Welfare Corporation Ltd., naming former Minister B. Nagendra as the prime accused. The chargesheet alleges that funds from the Corporation were diverted at Mr. Nagendra's behest. Basanagouda Daddal, Chairman of the Valmiki Corporation, has not been named as an accused in the chargesheet.

Scale of scam

The chargesheet estimates the scam at ₹89.62 crore, alleging that the funds were diverted to 18 fake accounts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. These funds were then layered through fake and shell accounts, with cash and bullion distributed among the accused, according to the ED. The chargesheet, comprising 140 pages of documents, outlines the money trail, sources said.

Of the diverted funds, the ED chargesheet alleges that Mr. Nagendra siphoned off ₹20.19 crore to finance the Lok Sabha election in his home district of Ballari. The chargesheet claims that the agency recovered incriminating material, including accounts and charts detailing the distribution of money to polling booths during the elections, from accused number 8, Abhishek Gowda, who served as Mr. Nagendra's personal assistant. The chargesheet says this money was part of the total funds diverted from the corporation.

Earlier in July, when Mr. Nagendra was arrested, the ED stated that they had "uncovered that a substantial amount of funds were utilised to procure a significant quantity of liquor just prior to the general elections".

The chargesheet also alleges that the Finance Department and the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department of the Government of Karnataka violated norms and guidelines by allowing the Valmiki Corporation to open a new bank account and transfer the corporation's funds to that account. CM Siddaramaiah holds charge of the Finance Department.

No question of 'friendly' fight among *Mahayuti* partners on any seat: NCP

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI



State BJP leaders are learnt to have told the top party leadership on the need for a "friendly fight" on at least 25 seats. FILE PHOTO

The Maharashtra president of the Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar), Sunil Tatkare, on Tuesday junked suggestions of a "friendly fight" among ruling *Mahayuti* partners on any of the Assembly seats and said winnability will be the only criteria during the distribution of tickets for the State poll.

"No proposal has been given on a friendly fight. We will fight unitedly on all 288 seats," he said when asked about seat-sharing talks with *Mahayuti* alliance partners BJP and the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The NCP leader's remarks came a day after Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah held closed-door meetings with allies in Mumbai.

According to sources, the State BJP leadership is learnt to have told Mr. Shah that there should be a "friendly fight" on at least 25 seats in view of a seat-sharing tussle.

'Not seeking CM's post'

The NCP leader also told *The Hindu* that his party has not sought the CM's position or a specific number of seats as their priority is to win the election slated for later in the year.

"Everybody will get a respectable number of seats. We will resolve the issue the right way. We are determined to get back in power. We will do it sensibly," he said.

Mr. Tatkare said preliminary discussions over seat sharing were held at Nagpur and the Chief Minister's residence. "We will now discuss it seat-by-seat," he added.

He said all three ruling partners will appoint three spokespersons to effectively communicate their stand on several issues in the run-up to the poll.

The leader claimed that the political situation in Maharashtra has changed after the Lok Sabha election and people will no longer vote for a "baseless narrative". "In the Lok Sabha election, issues were different as it was a national election. The narrative, which was set [by Opposition parties] was baseless. That definitely affected our tally. But I am sure people will not consider it anymore," he said.

Tension in U.P.'s Muzaffarnagar after Muslim man buys house in Hindu-majority neighbourhood

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

> There were allegations about people offering prayers in the open without permission etc. We are conducting a probe and keeping an eye. There is no law and order problem in the area at the moment
>
> **RUPALI RAO,** DSP (Nai Mandi)

Bharatiya Colony area under Nai Mandi police station limits in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh remained on edge on Tuesday after a Muslim man bought a house in the neighbourhood, with right-wing outfits allegedly warning that under no circumstances will Muslim families be allowed to settle in the predominantly Hindu locality.

Tension escalated in the area after Hindu organisations claimed that namaz was offered in the open by dozens of people and also alleged that an organisation named Awam-e-Hind is being run from the house. Amid the uproar, the house owner at the centre of controversy is reportedly planning to sell the property.

The owner, Nadeem, bought the property during an open auction by a bank following which several organisations claimed there was "no need for Muslim residents in the Hindu locality". The outfits also alleged that plans are afoot to establish a madrasa in the premises. The groups staged a protest, demanding the eviction of the family from the area.

The police in Muzaffarnagar said the incident was being probed and security personnel have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order. "An investigation is going on. There were allegations about people offering prayers in the open without permission etc. We are conducting a probe and keeping an eye. There is no law and order problem in the area at the moment," Rupali Rao, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Nai Mandi, Muzaffarnagar, told *The Hindu*.

Priyanka accuses U.P. govt. of being 'anti-youth'

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday targeted the Bharatiya Janata Party over the Uttar Pradesh teachers' recruitment 'scam', alleging that it was playing a "double game" with the youth from both reserved and unreserved categories.

While describing the State government as "anti-youth and anti-social justice", Ms. Vadra also accused it of delaying appointments. "First, the reservation scam took away the rights of hundreds of Dalits and backward candidates. And even now the BJP's intention is to delay and misdirect social justice. This injustice must stop," she said in a post on X.

Turning the tide, Odisha's tribal students quietly gain admission at leading medical colleges

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR



Conquering obstacles: Kalakar Pradhan, a tribal student who helps his parents by tending to their goats and cows, cracked the NEET on his third attempt. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Securing admission at a medical college in India has, arguably, never been harder. A surge in student suicides, driven by the pressure to crack the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET); a string of allegedly leaked question papers; and parents' clamour to secure a seat for their children by hook or by crook have cast a considerable pall over scores of candidates' prospects.

But a rising trend emerging from Odisha's remote Kandhamal district depicts a stark contrast: here, tribal students, ranging from a goat-herder to a patient of spinal deformity, have overcome both generational and personal obstacles to secure admission at the State's most prestigious medical colleges.

Nineteen-year-old Kalakar Pradhan, a member of the Kandh tribe, for instance, put formal education on hold after finishing school and returned to Saberanga, a village in Kandhamal, where he helped his parents by tending to cows and goats during the day and dedicating his nights to NEET preparation. Despite having no role model to draw on, Kalakar cracked the NEET with a score of 450 marks on his third attempt, and is now a student at SCB Medical College in Cuttack – one of the oldest and most prestigious colleges in eastern India.

"It feels incredible to have come this far," he says, adding that the real credit goes to his father, who sent him to a residential school in Bhubaneswar, over 250 km away, when he was just six years old.

"Over the past two years, it was my determination, with the help of the Internet, which helped me achieve my goal."

Restricted access

Securing admission to medical colleges is no small feat, especially given what overwhelming trends show: over 35.3% tribal boys drop out of school by the time they reach the secondary level, compared to 30.9% girls dropping out at the same stage. At the upper primary level, 9.8% tribal boys leave school, compared to a 7.7% for girls.

Sanatan Pradhan, hailing from the nearby village of Tadimaha, boasts a success story similar to that of Kalakar's. With his parents unable to afford further education following his graduation from Khalikote College in Behrampur, he had no option but to prepare for NEET from his remote village.

Accessing the Internet meant three kilometres of uphill trekking just to download study material, followed by another three-kilometre trek all the way down. Today, he is a student at the MKCG Medical College in Behrampur.

Sanatan will be joined at his college by Linsa Pradhan, 21, who despite a locomotor disability persisted in her attempts at cracking NEET after dropping out of her graduation course at a Bhubaneswar college. It was only two years ago that her village received Internet access, and with the help of borrowed books and online mock tests, Linsa overcame her circumstances to pursue her dream.

New milestones

This year, Mangala Muduli made history by becoming the first person from the Bonda tribe – a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) – to gain admission to a medical college. The Bondas, one of India's oldest tribes, lived in isolation with minimal contact with the rest of the world up until a few decades ago.

Nineteen-year-old Nabesh Sabar too broke ground for the Lanjia Soura community, another PVTG, by becoming the first from his tribe to enter the world of medical education. He is set to study at VSS Medical College in Burla.

In Gajapati district, Nira Mallick also cleared the NEET under difficult circumstances, having lost his father early on, with his brother having no choice but to work as a migrant labourer.

The success stories follow, in particular, after that of Krushnachandra Ataka's – the 33-year-old labourer from Rayagada who returned to education last year after a 15-year-gap.

He now studies at Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College and Hospital in Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi district.

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Govt. 'alarmingly lethargic' on Hema panel report: HC

Slamming Kerala for not taking action for four years on report, the court directs it to hand over the entire report to SIT and file an action-taken report; asks media not to pressure probe officers

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Slamming the State government for not taking any action for four years on the K. Hema Committee report on the problems faced by women in the Malayalam film industry, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday directed it to give the entire report to the special investigation team (SIT) and file an action-taken report before the court.

A Bench of Justices A.K. Jayasankaran Nambiar and C.S. Sudha passed the directive when a few PILs filed in connection with the committee's report came up for hearing.

"Although the report was submitted to the State government as early as on 31.12.2019, there was no action taken there on for well over four years, and even thereafter, it took litigation to spur the State into action, and that too only in respect of one of the many issues that were flagged by the Justice Hema Committee. While it may be a fact that the Committee was only in the nature of a fact-finding body for the State government, when we consider the public money spent for the effective functioning of the committee, and the high-profile nature of the committee itself, headed as it was by a retired Judge of the High Court, we are of the view that the bare minimum that was expected of the government was to take a prompt decision. Apparently, this was not done," the court said.

The Bench directed the SIT to go through the report and see whether any offence, cognisable or otherwise, has been made out at the instance of any person and proceed to take suitable action in accordance with the law by treating the contents of the report as "information" for the purposes of setting the law in motion.

The court also restrained the SIT members from giving press conferences or communicating with the media on any aspect of the investigation in connection with the report of the committee.

HC asks 38 media houses not to disclose details in Darshan case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday restrained 38 media houses, including 18 TV channels, 18 newspapers and two social media platforms, from publishing, printing, airing, and disseminating "confidential information" contained in the chargesheet filed against actor Darshan in the Renukaswamy murder case.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the interim order on a writ petition filed by the actor. The court also directed the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to communicate this order to the media houses.

It was brought to the court's notice directions issued by the Delhi and Bombay HCs in *State of NCT Delhi vs Union of India*, and *Nilesh Navalakha and others (Sushant Singh Rajput case) vs Union of India,* and a circular issued by the State government in 2021 restricting disclosure of details of probe etc to the media.

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Open Tender Notice No. NER-BSB0SnT-OT-23-2024
"Open Tenders" through Online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm)/ Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works: **Tender Notice No. and Description of Work: NER-BSB0SnT-OT-23-2024, Name of work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract of CEL Axle Counter (SSDAC) & Annual Repairing contract of CEL Axle Counter (HASSDAC & DUAL SSDAC) for 24 months (02 years) in BSB Division, **Details:- Approx. Value:** ₹ 63,92,356.80, **Earnest Money:** 1,27,900.00, **Cost of Tender Form:** ₹ 00.00, **Completion period:** 24 Months, **Tender Closing date & Time: 01.10.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Note: (1)** Tender Online will be submitted up to **15:00 Hrs** on date **01.10.2024**. **(2)** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian Railways i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**.
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E-Tender Notice
National Competitive Bidding
CMRL invites tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the work as detailed below:
Tender No: CMRL/PHASE-II/PP&D/TDR-CON-22/2024 - "Design & Construction of a G+1 Government School Building near Okkiyam Thoraipakkkam (Including Civil, Electrical, Plumbing and Misc Works)"
(i) Document available from: 13/09/2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 07/10/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.
For further details, please visit :
www.chennaimetrorail.org : For NIT
https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app : For Downloading Bid Documents
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (PP&D)
DIPR/3596/Tender/2024

झारखण्ड सरकार
स्कूली शिक्षा एवं साक्षरता विभाग
(माध्यमिक शिक्षा निदेशालय)
–: विज्ञप्ति :–
संख्या : **2595** राँची, दिनांक : **10.09.2024**
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि झारखण्ड राज्यान्तर्गत झारखण्ड प्रयोगशाला सहायक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा, 2023 (विज्ञापन संख्या–01/2023) के आधार पर झारखण्ड कर्मचारी चयन आयोग द्वारा प्राप्त करायी गयी मेधा सूची के अभ्यर्थियों की योग्यता एवं अहर्त्ता संबंधी सभी शैक्षणिक/जाति/आवासीय प्रमाण पत्रों/दिव्यांगता प्रमाण–पत्र आदि (अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा झारखण्ड कर्मचारी चयन आयोग को समर्पित किये गये मूल आवेदन–पत्र में अंकित अभ्युक्तियों एवं आवेदन–पत्र के साथ संलग्न किये गये वांछित सभी प्रमाण पत्रों की छायाप्रति के साथ) का मिलान करते हुए विषयवार सफल अभ्यर्थियों का निम्न कार्यक्रमानुसार काउन्सलिंग हेतु तिथि निर्धारित की जाती है :–

स्थान	समय	तिथि	विषय	पद का नाम
M.D.I. Building 1st Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi VSK	11:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से।	18.09.2024	भौतिक शास्त्र, रसायन शास्त्र एवं जीव विज्ञान	प्रयोगशाला सहायक (Lab Assistant)

अतः सफल अभ्यर्थियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि वे उक्त कार्यक्रमानुसार अपने योग्यता एवं अहर्त्ता संबंधी सभी शैक्षणिक/जाति/आवासीय प्रमाण पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ एवं तत्संबंधी सभी प्रमाण–पत्रों की स्वअभिप्रमाणित प्रति के साथ–साथ आवेदन पत्र में संलग्न किये गये पासपोर्ट साईज का फोटो की तीन स्वअभिप्रमाणित प्रतियों के साथ स्वयं उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें। जो अभ्यर्थी काउन्सलिंग में उपस्थित नहीं होंगे, उनका नियुक्ति पत्र निर्गत नहीं किया जायेगा। किसी भी परिस्थिति में अभ्यर्थी को स्वयं उपस्थित होना अनिवार्य होगा।
ह०/–
(उत्कर्ष गुप्ता)
निदेशक, माध्यमिक शिक्षा,झारखण्ड, राँची
PR 335294 School Education and Literacy(24-25).D

GOVT. OF BIHAR
BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
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UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (UGMAC)-2024 for MBBS/ BDS/ B.V.Sc. & A.H. in Govt. Medical / Dental / Veterinary Colleges and Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar
Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2024/07 Dated 10.09.2024 bceceboard.bihar.gov.in
1st Round Counselling से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना
MCC के सूचना Ref.-U-11011/01/2024-MEC दिनांक 09.09.2024 के आलोक में UGMAC-2024 से सम्बन्धित सभी अभ्यर्थियों, चिकित्सा संस्थानों एवं सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि;
1. वैसे अभ्यर्थी, जिन्हें AFMC, Pune में सीट आवंटित हुआ है एवं UGMAC-2024 के आधार पर बिहार राज्य के सरकारी/निजी संस्थानों में नामांकित हैं अथवा Round-1 में अपना Document Verification करा कर Upgradation का Option दिया है, **Round-1 की सीट बिना Security Deposit forfeiture के दिनांक 11.09.2024 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक Resign (Free Exit) कर सकते हैं।** ऐसे अभ्यर्थी नामांकित संस्थान में जाकर AFMC, Pune का Allotment Letter एवं सम्बन्धित संस्थान का नामांकन का रसीद के साथ आवेदन देगें। संस्थान BCECE Board के वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध Portal पर जाकर आवश्यक प्रक्रिया पूरी कर अभ्यर्थी का Resignation Letter Generate कर अभ्यर्थी को सौपेंगे एवं एक प्रति स्वयं रखेंगे। Resignation letter का Online generation अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा उनका Resignation null and void हो जायेगा। निर्धारित समय के बाद ऐसे अभ्यर्थी Round-2 के पार्ट माने जायेंगे तथा उन पर Round-2 के नियम लागू होंगे।
2. **उपरोक्त के आलोक में UGMAC-2024 से सम्बन्धित तिथियाँ निम्नवत् पुनर्निर्धारित किया जाता है;**
(i) Date of Resignation for those candidate who has been allotted seat in AFMC, Pune . : 10.09.2024 to 11.09.2024 (3.00 p.m.)
(ii) Publication of Provisional Seat Allotment Result for Round-2 : 16.09.2024
(iii) Downloading of Allotment Order : 16.09.2024 to 19.09.2024
(iv) **Round-2** Document Verification / Admission Date : 17.09.2024 to 19.09.2024
3. पूर्व प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-BCECEB(UGMAC)-2024/03 दिनांक 21.08.2024 एवं 2024/05 दिनांक 31.08.2024 की अन्य शर्तें / नियम / प्रक्रिया यथावत् रहेंगी।
परीक्षा नियंत्रक

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, सिमडेगा।
अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
(e-Procurement Call)
अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा सूचना संख्या – 14/R2/2024-25/RWD/SIMदिनांक – 09-09-2024
1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:मुख्यमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना (4515)

क्र० सं०	प्रखण्ड	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	टेंडर कॉल संख्या	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	सिमडेगा	RWD/SIM/14/R2/2024-25	कामातारा डीपाटोली से कामातारा भौरीकोना भाया पी0डब्लू0डी0 रोड तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (ल0– 3.000 कि0मी0)	344.23427 (तीन करोड चौवालीस लाख तेईस हजार चार सौ सताईस रूपये मात्र)	तृतीय	15 महिना

2. वेबसाइट में पुनर्निविदा निविदा प्रकोशन की तिथि – 10-09-2024
3. अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय – 18-09-2024 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
4. अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 20-09-2024 अपराह्न 11:30 बजे।
5. अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता – कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, सिमडेगा।
6. अति अल्पकालीन ई–पुनर्निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 06525-299956 एवं मोबाईल नम्बर 9973512046
7. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि विभागीय पत्रांक 3130 अनु0 दि0 09-10-2023 के निर्देशानुसार केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
8. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही निविदादाता की होगी।
9. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है। अग्रधन की राशि परिमाण विपत्र के अनुसार मान्य होगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, सिमडेगा।
PR 335257 (Simdega) 24-25 (D)

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पी.एम. श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, ए-7, सेक्टर 24 नॉएडा-201301 (उ.प्रदेश)
निविदा सूचना
प्रतिष्ठित पंजीकृत तथा अनुभवी फर्मों / सप्लायरों से वर्ष 2024-25 के लिये निम्नलिखित कार्यों के विभिन्न मदों व वस्तु उपकरण सप्लाई व खरीद के सम्बन्ध जिनके पास वैध GST आदि होना आवश्यक है । इच्छुक एवं अनुभवी कंपनियाँ से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य जानकारी विद्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकते है जिनमे (1) शामियना, लाइट एवं साउंड (किराये हेतु) (02) वाहन सुविधा (किराया हेतु) (3) फ्लेक्स, बैनर, बैजस, सनबोर्ड कार्य, परिचय पत्र एवं अन्य (4) मरम्मत एवम् रखरखाव कार्य (सिविल) (5) मरम्मत एवम् रखरखाव कार्य (इलेक्ट्रिकल एवं प्लुम्बिंग) (6) मुद्रण सामग्री एंव लेखन सामग्री (7) जलपान गृह हेतु (8) अन्य सेवाए आदि है। जिसको 15 दिन अंदर (जिसमे प्रकाशित दिवस भी शामिल है) प्राप्त एवं जमा किये जा सकते है।
नोट : उपरोक्त कार्यों को GEM द्वारा प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी ।
प्राचार्य

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
(E-Procurement Module)
The Executive Engineer, Tissa Division, HPPWD Tissa H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage Rate/Item Rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Class	Compl-etion period
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Construction of 4 No. Type-II Qtr for PWD Staff Tissa at Bhanjraru (SH: Building portion & W.S. & S.I.)	9678702.00	193574.00	2000.00	B & C	18 Months

2.KEY DATES:
1. Starting Date for downloading 09/09/2024 at 10.00 AM
2. Deadline for submission of Bid 20/09/2024 at 11.00 AM
3. Date of Technical bid opening 20/09/2024 at 11.30 AM
The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of.
The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in
Executive Engineer,
Tissa Division,
HPPWD Tissa
Email:-ee-tis-hp@gov.in
HP / 2027/24-25 **On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh**

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Telephone No. 01893-220098 E-mail :- hp-kan2@nic.in
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
The Superintending Engineer HPPWD 9th Circle Nurpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the lump sum 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. 1
Name of Work: Construction of Rajol Anuhi Jangal Bagga road Km. 0/0 to 1/300 including bridge over Dehar Khad (SH:- Formation Cutting, Retaining wall, Breast wall, Cross Drainage work, GSB, WBM-II, Road side Drains, Parapets, Cement Concrete Pavement and Construction of 102.50 Metre span prestressed concrete box girder bridge over Dehar Khad at RD. 0/240) including five year Routine Maintenance after completion of work) under NABARD RIDF-XXIX.
Estimated Cost (In lacs): 993.56, **Starting date for downloading Bid:** 19/09/2024 10.00 AM, **Earnest Money (In lacs):** 19.87, **Deadline for submission of Bid:** 02/10/2024 (5.00 PM), **Eligible Contractor:** 'A' Class.
The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website . www.hptenders.gov in. **Date of opening of tender is 03/10/2024 at 11.00 AM.**
Superintending Engineer,
9th Circle, HP.PWD., Nurpur.
Pin No. 176202.
Tel. No. 01893-220098.
e-mail:- hp-kan2@nic.in
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
HP / 2029/24-25 HIM LOK SAMPARK

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

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WANTED
Electronics Technology Parks-Kerala (TECHNOPARK), a Society fully owned by the Government of Kerala invites application from eligible candidates for the following posts to be appointed on contract basis.
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A ND-NDE

Soothing salvo

The GST Council has held out hope for some relief for insurance consumers

Meeting for the second time after the 2024 general election results, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Monday sought to calm some of the rising clamour against the 18% indirect tax levy on insurance premium payments. A new Group of Ministers is being formed to urgently recommend tax changes for life and health insurance policies, with an assurance the Council would meet again in November to take a call on its report. This marks a notable shift from last month, when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had staunchly defended the levy in Parliament, noting that States earn a large chunk of these revenues and Members of Parliament, who took on the Centre on the matter must flag it with States' Ministers as they are a party to the Council's decisions. It must be noted that a reconsideration of GST levies on insurance had come up at least three times under the Council's aegis, starting a year and a half since the GST's July 2017 launch, but the status quo was preferred each time.

What is plausibly different this time around is that the government's own have echoed the sentiment. While Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has averred that the GST levy on life insurance premium is tantamount to taxing the uncertainties of life, the BJP's now-critical allies such as the TDP and Jana Sena Party have also sought a rollback of the levies on health and life insurance. Perhaps not unrelated is the government's post-poll decision to desist from tom-tomming GST's buoyant monthly collections, perceived by many as a celebration of high levies on consumers. GST revenues just from health insurance premia rose over 54% between 2021-22 and 2023-24, yielding ₹8,262 crore last year. One hopes that any reduction in the GST on health covers considered by the Council is not selective or limited, for instance, to group policies or senior citizens or with a cap on the cover, and it is ensured they translate into real cuts in premia payments. After the COVID-19 pandemic, while awareness levels about health cover needs have risen, hospitalisation and insurance cover costs have spiked even faster. Given India's inadequate public health systems, a serious disease or malaise afflicting a single family member can push an average household into poverty. For life covers, the Council could take a more nuanced approach by extending most relief to pure term insurance policies that help families tide over shocks, rather than to myriad market-linked investment products offered by the industry in the guise of insurance. If, in the Council's wisdom, helicopter services availed on a 'shared seat' basis must attract only 5% GST, insurance policies surely deserve more benign taxation too.

Future, at last

Tennis gets a settled look with the rise of a new generation

One of the toughest tests for a modern-day tennis player is to maintain excellence all year round. The season starts in early January and ends only in mid-November, traversing continents, different time zones and a multitude of playing surfaces. The first and the last Grand Slam tournaments themselves are separated by roughly eight months, making success in both – even though they are similar hard-court Majors – one of the most impressive feats. Since the turn of the millennium, only Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic (thrice each) and Angelique Kerber had managed to win at Melbourne Park and Flushing Meadows in the same year. What Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka achieved in New York, of winning their maiden US Open singles titles to go with their Australian Open crowns from earlier in the season, is thus an ode to their fitness, consistency and all-round playing ability. For Sinner, the twin successes bookend a career-best year, the recent doping cloud he came under notwithstanding. He won the Masters 1000 trophies in Miami and Cincinnati, ATP 500s in Rotterdam and Halle, reached the semifinals at French Open, quarterfinals at Wimbledon and rose to No.1 in the world. Sabalenka, World No.2, has been just as prolific, winning Cincinnati, reaching the final at Madrid and Rome, and making the quarters at Roland-Garros.

While their triumphs will no doubt embellish their respective careers, the accomplishments will, in all probability, shape the future of tennis. Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have now split 2024's four Slams, and for the first time since 2002, there is no winner from the legendary trio of Federer, Rafael Nadal and Djokovic. Their ascent has also come at a time when tennis needed variety. Sinner's clinically efficient and workmanlike game, and Alcaraz's all-court dazzle and razzmatazz make the upper echelons of men's tennis an eclectic place instead of the one-dimensional hub it was threatening to turn into with the rise of players like Daniil Medvedev and Alexander Zverev. Meanwhile, Sabalenka's victory has made 2024 the first year since 2014 without a first-time women's singles champion at the Majors, a clear sign that the WTA Tour has finally settled down. Like Sinner-Alcaraz, there is the Sabalenka-Iga Swiatek duopoly, with the pair having secured seven of the past 11 Slams. While Sabalenka – also the Australian Open winner and US Open runner-up in 2023 – has been consistent, with seven semifinal or better finishes at her last eight Majors, Swiatek is a five-time Slam champion and the No.1 from April 2022 for all but eight weeks. All of which proves that tennis' brand-new era is well and truly here.

A panoramic view of the 2024 China-Africa summit



Rajiv Bhatia

Distinguished Fellow at Gateway House, a former Indian High Commissioner to South Africa, Kenya and Lesotho, and the author of 'India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons' (2022)

Africa figures prominently in China's worldview and in the conduct of its foreign policy in the 21st century. During the past 24 years, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has emerged as an all-encompassing and effective platform for dialogue, interaction and planning between the two sides. African countries, despite their reservations and grievances, have found it useful to enhance their proximity to China. Unlike the previous decade, African governments and institutions of multiple hues now find it increasingly more comfortable to deal with their Chinese counterparts. In this light, the outcomes of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC, which just concluded in Beijing, merit a dispassionate scrutiny.

As scholar George Yu noted in 1968, 'studying China in Africa is much like pursuing a dragon in the bush. The dragon is imposing, but the bush is dense'. In the latter half of the 20th century, especially in its last decade, China laid the foundations of a strong partnership with Africa. This has blossomed during the FOCAC era which began with the first summit held in Beijing in 2000. Since then, a total of five conferences took place in Beijing and one each in Ethiopia, Egypt, South Africa, and Senegal. The Beijing summit last week confirms China's consistency and steadfastness in pursuing its goals relating to Africa. They are economic, political and strategic in nature, reflecting Beijing's long-held view that Africa is vital to the world's future – therefore, it should be motivated to stand alongside China.

The main elements

A careful look at the 30-paragraph-long Beijing Declaration of the latest summit reveals its key elements.

First, the jointly negotiated document which bears predominantly the stamp of Chinese draftsmanship, has six sections, namely outlining the high-level 'China Africa Community with a Shared Future'; fostering 'synergy' between China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), AU's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 UN Agenda for sustainable development; the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI); and spelling out the review and outlook for FOCAC.

Second, both sides have committed themselves to expanding exchanges on governance, modernisation and poverty reduction so that modernisation based on 'the characteristics of their own civilisations' is promoted. Further, they favour 'mutually beneficial and inclusive economic globalization' that focuses on the concerns of African countries. China supports Africa in increasing Africa's influence and role in global governance. The declaration states: 'Africa appreciates it that China is the first country to support the AU in joining the G20.' Besides, the parties stand for an equal and orderly multipolar world, and for necessary reform and strengthening of the United Nations (UN), including its Security Council.

> With African governments finding it more comfortable to deal with China, the recent FOCAC conference needs objective scrutiny; there are takeaways for India

Third, there is little new in the goal to promote synergy involving Chinese, African and UN plans for development as this has been often articulated in the past. However, China has now hailed progress in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and expressed readiness to sign a framework agreement for economic partnership with Africa. On the issue of financing projects and businesses in Africa, the Chinese side astutely shifted responsibility by calling on international financial institutions and commercial creditors to participate in debt treatment for African countries.

Fourth, China's three flagship plans – GDI, GSI, and GCI – have been firmly embedded into the purportedly joint strategy to create a common path to all-round security and development paradigm. The declaration, for example, voices China's support for increased UN funding for Africa's independent peace operations, counterterrorism activities and maritime security challenges. Further, the document waxes eloquent in highlighting the need for joint action for deepening dialogue among cultures and civilisations.

Fifth, the concluding section points to the transfer of responsibility of Africa's FOCAC co-chair from Senegal to the Republic of the Congo and confirmation that the tenth conference will be held in 2027 in Congo.

Beneath the surface, a familiar template

The international media produced numerous headlines while covering Chinese President Xi Jinping's keynote address at the inauguration of the Beijing Summit, unaware that it sticks to a familiar template used on such occasions in the past. He presented the offer of new financing amounting to nearly $51 billion in soft loans, grants and investment promotion to African nations. He identified 10 partnership actions relating to trade connectivity, green development, industrial chain cooperation, and health, as he did in the past. On the surface, his big announcements such as provision of 60,000 training opportunities for women and youth, invitation to 1,000 members of African political parties to visit China, and training for 7,000 military and police personnel from Africa sound impressive, but opacity will prevail about the degree of their implementation in the future as it did in the past. What, however, is noteworthy on this occasion is China's decision to give all 33 African least developed countries zero tariff treatment for 100% tariff lines. When implemented, it could boost African exports to China.

Concerning the growing multi-dimensional cooperation between China and Africa, three principal perspectives should be factored in. First, the Chinese view is that a natural partnership exists between China, the largest developing country in the world, and Africa, the continent with the largest number of developing countries. With its own economic success, China has shown an alternative path to modernisation which is different from westernisation. The Chinese path is highly relevant to Africa, according to this school.

Second, a sober African view recognises the benefits and risks of close partnership with China, but as pointed out by Paul Nantulya of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, the FOCAC-centered process is still largely shaped by "a donor-recipient dynamic where African countries mostly take a back seat while China initiates most of the agenda".

Third, the prevalent American perception has been presented by Michael Schuman of the Atlantic Council who argues that China's interest in the developing world is shaped by Xi Jinping's anti-Americanism. He is of the opinion that the aim of Mr. Xi's strategy is to build a coalition of states within the Global South to act as 'a counter weight' to the U.S. global alliance. A more sophisticated viewpoint was articulated by a European foreign minister visiting India in 2019. He cautioned against interpreting the Chinese role in Africa 'in black and white terms'. It was doing some good as in the health and education fields and it was also expanding its power and influence on the continent, he noted.

The import for India

Finally, what are the takeaways for India from the latest FOCAC summit? At least three seem fairly obvious.

First, consistency in cultivation of Africa at the highest political levels is a must. After holding three India-Africa Forum Summits, India paused its Africa-centered conference diplomacy in 2015. Almost a decade has elapsed since then. Second, strong historical bonds, ideational contributions and stirring rhetoric are useful, but they must be backed by financial generosity. This demands substantial additional resources for fuelling India-Africa cooperation. Without them, our diplomatic and business initiatives would become handicapped. Third, Africa's place in the list of India's diplomatic priorities must be reviewed. If the continent enjoys a high priority, the Indian polity must be enabled and encouraged to act accordingly.

India's Africanists have presented a range of practical policy choices to the government. What is now needed is stronger political will.

UAE-India ties are rooted in affinity, trust and respect



Reem Al Hashimy

the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of State for International Cooperation and the UAE Special Envoy to the Republic of India

During the visit of Sheikh Khaled, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, to Delhi this week, there was one engagement that had emblematic significance for him and for the ties between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and India.

Visiting Rajghat, His Highness planted a tree in memory of Mahatma Gandhi, following the example of his father, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, in 2016, and his grandfather, the founding president of our country, Sheikh Zayed, in 1992.

The three trees, planted by three generations of the past, current and future leaders of our country, within the span of three decades, will stand side by side, a symbol of the deeply-rooted and growing ties between our two countries: embedded in the past but reaching towards the future. At first glance, our countries appear to be very different. India is almost 40 times larger than the UAE in size and is also the most populous country in the world. There are more than 1,000 Indian citizens for every Emirati citizen. Our economies too are founded on different strengths: agriculture is a key pillar of India's economy, for example, but only makes up less than 1% of the UAE's GDP. And while we both emerged as modern nations in the 20th century, our histories and governance are very different. Yet, the strongest ties between nations are those where common interests and values are enriched by complementary strengths and diversity, embracing difference rather than seeking to paper over it.

Deep connections, of people and progress

The secret of the success – and distinctiveness – of the UAE-India relationship is the way it is rooted in affinity, trust and respect, derived from generations of human connections. Just as trees depend on strong roots to draw the water and nutrients they need for growth and to hold them fast in tough times, partnerships between nations must have these qualities in order to thrive.

> Given their long history of connections, the two countries are determined to keep growing and innovating together

Ours has always been a relationship about people and progress. The first trade links between the Arabian Gulf and India go back thousands of years, as people, goods and ideas crossed back and forth across the ocean. Pottery discovered in recent archaeological excavations in Abu Dhabi shows connections to the Indus Valley civilisations of more than four millennia ago. In my parents' time, many Emiratis travelled to India for medical treatment, and when my children catch the typical colds and flus of childhood, I turn to Indian homoeopathic medicine first, before other remedies.

Strength of the expatriate community

The UAE is home to more than 3.5 million Indians, the largest expatriate community in our country. Our success is built on our leaders' far-sighted commitment to tolerance, inclusion and the empowerment of women and minorities, and we are grateful for the contribution Indian nationals make to the strength and vibrancy of our economy. The degree of connectivity between our countries can be seen in the simple fact that there are more than 1,500 flights between the UAE and India every single week.

When a relationship is founded on respect and a sincere inclination towards partnership and collaboration, there is no limit to what can be achieved. In February 2022, India became the first country with which the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Trade negotiations often take years, if not decades, and are sometimes abandoned due to insurmountable differences. We were able to agree our partnership agreement within six months, because of the trust and affinity at the heart of our relationship. In its first year of operation, our bilateral trade jumped by over 15%. We have signed billions of rupees of additional investment deals, and plan to go much further.

Sheikh Khaled recently attended the inauguration of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi Abu Dhabi, which is the first overseas branch of the prestigious university. We have exchanged agreements on topics including health innovation and renewable energy, crucial to our nations' and the world's future. During the Crown Prince's visit, further co-operation agreements will be signed, including on civil nuclear technology: a domestic success story for the Emirates, but one rooted in international co-operation. India's research into nuclear desalination to produce clean drinking water – which has obvious importance for a desert country such as the UAE – is one example of the many opportunities which our partnership can enable advances not just in green energy production but also in medical technology, scientific research, agriculture and industry.

Ties that will flourish

Like his grandfather, Sheikh Khaled planted an amaltas tree, *Cassia fistula*. His father, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, planted the moulsari tree (*Mimusops elengi*). Amaltas trees grow fast, embodying opportunity and renewal, while the slower-growing moulsari points us to the virtues of stability and patient trust. As the UAE and India continue to develop our comprehensive strategic partnership, these different qualities symbolise our approach. We can have confidence in our mutual affinity and respect and our long history of connection, but also be determined to keep growing and innovating together, renewing our partnership and finding new ways to flourish.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Levy on policies

It will be a great relief, especially for senior citizens and pensioners, if the new Group of Ministers is able to review the GST tax rate on health and life insurance policies (Page 1, September 10). The GST levy is a heavy burden that weighs down on the limited financial strength of the middle class and salaried sections, as well as senior citizen pensioners.

N. Visveswaran,
Chennai

The high premium for medical and health insurance is discouraging the common man from buying himself adequate medical coverage. The need for medical insurance for a considerable sum has become imperative given how expensive hospital bills have become. The current tax percentage is almost a fifth of the premium. The rule that once the sum assured is fixed, the policyholder cannot take coverage for a lesser sum when renewing the policy is perhaps a way to ensure that there is a flow of money to insurance companies. If taking medical and health insurance is to aid the policyholder, the government must be considerate.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Focus on race courses

Yesterday it was the iconic Ooty race course and earlier Hyderabad, Bangalore and Bombay. Now the spotlight is on the Madras Race Course, which is being subject to bureaucratic and political whims, without any thought being given to the heavy damage that it does to the entire economic ecology.

Land prices being what they are, no course can afford to pay the dues calculated by the revenue surplus generated. However these are more than made up by indirect and direct tax generation.

The large-scale unorganised employment generation is also no small matter. We are well aware of what forces will be at play once these lands go back to the government.

The media needs to make out a case for the retention of these spaces before they become concrete jungles.

Srinivas Gade,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

An editing error. The Kolkata rape and murder incident happened on August 9 and not August 5, as mentioned in a front page report, "SC asks West Bengal doctors to resume hospital duty today" (September 10, 2024).

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Montelukast: overused and dangerous



Lancelot Pinto

Consultant pulmonologist and epidemiologist at P.D. Hinduja National Hospital, Mumbai. Views are personal



Sanjitha Muneeswaran

Postgraduate student in the Department of Respiratory Medicine at P.D. Hinduja National Hospital, Mumbai. Views are personal

In February 2018, Harry Miller, a 14-year-old British teenager, died by suicide after struggling to cope with mental health issues for two years. Miller, who had been suffering from asthma, had been prescribed montelukast on an ongoing basis for those two years. A couple of years after this incident, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) added a 'black box warning' to montelukast and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, U.K. issued a health warning saying the drug could cause serious neuropsychiatric adverse effects. Several patient advocacy groups across the world have been lobbying for the restricted use of this drug. While caution is being exercised everywhere, the sale of this drug in India is unregulated, largely irrational, and seems to be increasing exponentially.

Montelukast, developed by Merck and Co., was approved by the FDA in 1998 and marketed under the brand name 'Singulair'. The oral medication was approved to be prescribed daily for long-term use as a "preventer" or "controller" of asthma and allergic rhinitis. There is universal consensus, based on multiple comparative studies, that as a treatment for asthma, the drug is inferior to inhaled corticosteroids, which are considered first-line therapy for the control of the disease. For allergic rhinitis, most guidelines across the world recommend intranasal corticosteroids and/or antihistamines; montelukast is not recommended first-line therapy.

Unrestricted use in India

Yet, it is widely prescribed in India. There are multiple reasons for this. Patients prefer short-term oral medication over long-term inhalers and topical nasal sprays. Inhalers are often thought to have an addictive potential and are considered unsafe. There is also stigma associated with the use of inhalers, and patients do not want to be seen by their family and peers as needing inhalers to breathe. In the treatment of children, parents are often concerned about the effect of inhaled corticosteroids on growth, and montelukast has been considered to be safe in comparison. This is despite the fact that poorly controlled asthma can have far more deleterious effects on growth and development than those caused by inhalers. There also appears to be widespread ignorance of the adverse effects of the drug in India, resulting in rampant over-the-counter use. Even among physicians, the adverse effects of the drug do not appear to be widely known, as evidenced by the cavalier prescribing practices. Most prescriptions even for the common cold appear to have the drug in combinations for short-term use.

While caution is being exercised everywhere, the sale of this drug in India is unregulated, largely irrational, and seems to be increasing exponentially

With antihistamines

What is especially worrying is the unrestricted use of the drug in combination with antihistamines. This is unscientific, as the drug is approved for use as a controller, and not as a short-term reliever medication, as is being widely marketed. A prescription of montelukast for 10 days is unscientific. Patients possibly benefit with time-tested antihistamines, such as levocetirizine, loratadine or fexofenadine, in combinations, while being exposed to the adverse effects of montelukast. Such combinations appear to be driven by profits – combining antihistamines with montelukast often triples the price of the drug. This is true, despite the patent on the drug expiring in 2012. Industry sources inform us that over 193 registered brands offer such combination treatment in India. The annual sales of montelukast were more than ₹2,400 crore during the April 2023-24 period. Less than 3% of these sales are potentially guideline-based, i.e. the sales of the drug alone; the rest are in irrational and unindicated combinations with antihistamines, oral bronchodilators, and mucolytics.

Concerns related to the drug are not a recent phenomenon. They were investigated as early as 2009, when an FDA review reported serious post-marketing concerns regarding the neuropsychiatric adverse effects. There is growing recognition that the drug can cause aggression, nightmares, depression, and cognitive impairment. It has been associated with deaths by suicide. A study from the University of Oxford, published in JAMA in 2022, concluded a much higher risk of anxiety and insomnia, among other neuropsychiatric adverse effects, from this drug. Large studies in Denmark, the U.S., Korea, and the U.K. have suggested a strong association between the use of the drug and serious mental health issues.

As pulmonologists, we notice a trend of aggressive marketing of montelukast in combinations by the pharmaceutical industry. Every major pharmaceutical company markets the drug in combination with an assortment of quick-acting, reliever medications. Our ENT colleagues have experienced a similar trend. This possibly explains the 25% growth in sales over the past year (industry sources).

Time for regulators to step in

Regulators need to step in to ensure that the abuse of this drug stops, and that these health concerns are amplified among both physicians and patients. Not only will this protect citizens from a harmful drug, but it will also ensure that patients are prescribed inexpensive and time-tested options for short-term use, and better ones for long-term use. In a country where post-marketing surveillance tends to be limited, and mental health issues are largely under-reported and stigmatised, we need to raise awareness and prevent an epidemic of neuropsychiatric adverse effects, especially in young children.

Steering through troubled waters

Questions on the Yettinahole Project continue to haunt the government

STATE OF PLAY

Sathish G.T.
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The Congress government in Karnataka, which has been struggling to deal with controversies raised by the Opposition as well as its own internal squabbles over leadership, got a much-needed break from bad press when it inaugurated the ambitious Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project last week. The project aims to harness 24.01 tmcft of water from the catchment area of the Nethravathi River, which originates in the Western Ghats and flows through the hilly Malnad districts and coastal area, to provide water to seven arid districts of southern Karnataka.

However, the project, which is being implemented at an estimated cost of ₹23,251 crore, has been controversial since its inception. It has its genesis in a report submitted by Dr. G.S. Paramashivaiah, who retired as Superintendent Engineer with the State government, on providing permanent irrigation facilities for arid districts by diverting excess water from west-flowing rivers. The Yettinahole project is part of what he had initially recommended in his report.

Paramashivaiah himself was unhappy with the way the project was being planned, arguing that it should be implemented in its entirety. The people of the Malnad and coastal regions too have been opposing the project, alleging that it would affect both the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot, and the people who depend on the Nethravathi in the downstream. Despite these protests, in 2012, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, led by D.V. Sadanada Gowda, gave administrative approval for the project.

Activists then moved the National Green Tribunal (NGT) opposing the project. They maintained that the government was implementing it without obtaining forest and environmental clearances. However, their petitions were quashed by the principal bench of the NGT in 2019, which upheld the government's argument that the project was meant to provide drinking water in arid areas.

The Congress government, led by Siddaramaiah, laid the foundation stone for the project in Chikkaballapur in 2014. The first stage has now been inaugurated. The Water Resources Department assessed that 24.01 tmcft of water could be lifted by diverting streams of the Nethravathi – Yettinahole, Kerihole, Hongadahalla, and Kadumane Holla – at eight locations. When completed, the project will benefit the Tumakuru, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Hassan, and Chikkamagaluru districts.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, gave special attention to clearing the hurdles involved in executing the project in the last one year. At the inaugural ceremony, the Chief Minister and he said that they would clear the remaining hurdles in acquiring land required for the gravity canal and feeder canals, and ensure that the project is completed by March 2027.

However, this won't be an easy task, as people in the Malnad and coastal areas continue to oppose the project. The residents of Kolar and Chikkaballapur have raised doubts about whether they will get the water assured by the government, given the yield.

Some experts who have assessed the availability of water in the project area say that there could be only 9.55 tmcft of water available and not 24.01 tmcft, as projected by the government. Mr. Siddaramaiah has instructed officers to conduct a survey to tap water from a few more streams further below the project area, while arguing that shortage is no more than 5 tmcft. However, his statement has caused more worry among environmentalists. Kishor Kumar, one of the petitioners before the NGT, has said that such a move will damage the forests further.

During heavy rains in July this year, several landslips were reported in parts of Sakaleshpur taluk in Hassan district. Some of the locations were close to the places where the Yettinahole project work had been executed. The residents of these areas blamed the project for the tragedy, while officers of Visveswaraya Jala Nigam Limited, which is executing the project, argued that the project had nothing to do with the landslips.

While the people in drought-prone areas need long-term solutions to the drinking water crisis that haunts them every summer, the multiple issues surrounding the Yettinahole project show how hard it is to find them in a sustainable and amicable way.

Explaining the close contests in swing States

Battleground States have middling urbanisation and college graduate numbers, and a diverse mix of racial and religiously non-affiliated voters

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani
Jasmin Nihalani

An earlier Data Point focussed on the importance of swing States in deciding the outcome of the 2024 U.S. presidential polls. Here, we explain why these States are battlegrounds by looking at the background variables of voters, such as demography, religion, geographical type, and college education.

Urban voters largely favour the Democrats, while rural voters largely favour the Republicans. Voters who identify themselves as religiously unaffiliated tend to prefer the Democrats, while Protestants and evangelical voters prefer the Republicans. Voters of the Black/African American community distinctively favour the Democrats. College-educated white voters are largely Democratic voters, while non-college educated white voters are overwhelmingly Republican.

When these variables are broken down State-wise, we find that States with higher urban populations (with exceptions) tend to favour the Democrats, while those with higher rural populations vote Republican. Swing States have middling urbanisation (measured as an index by *538.com*), i.e. they have a mix of rural, suburban, and urban voters. That is why they are competitive with near equal numbers of Democratic and Republican voters. They also fall somewhere in the middle when we look at the share of the population who are college graduates.

States such as Georgia have a relatively higher number of voters who identify themselves as Christian, but Georgia has a relatively higher share of Black voters, which makes it competitive. States such as Pennsylvania and Michigan have a lower share of racial minority voters, but also a relatively high share of religiously unaffiliated voters, and so they are competitive.

Swing States are not typical

The data for the charts were sourced from Pew Research and FiveThirtyEight.com (which also provided the urbanisation index). Swing States include Pennsylvania (PA), Michigan (MI), Wisconsin (WI), Arizona (AZ), Nevada (NV), Georgia (GA), and North Carolina (NC)

Chart 1: Democratic and Republican voters in 2020 and 2022 elections (%)

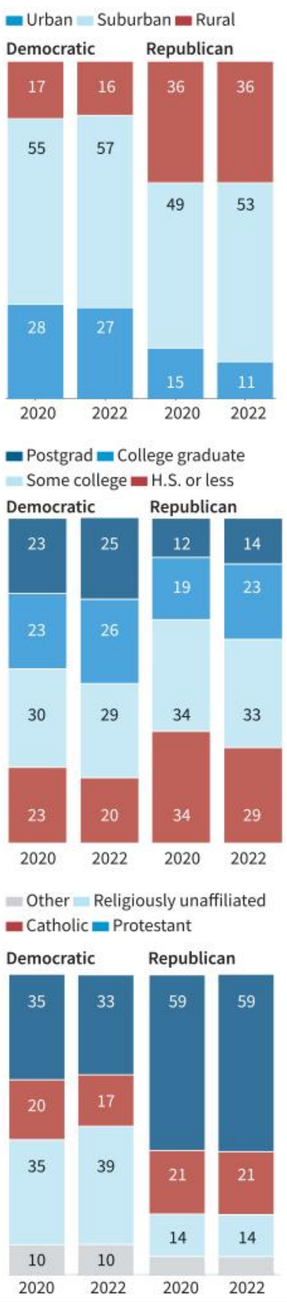




Chart 2: Urbanisation index is plotted against difference in vote shares (Dems.' minus Reps.') for States

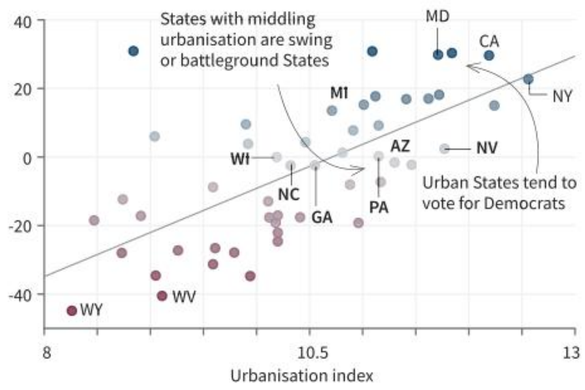


Chart 3: % of people in States affiliated to Christian denominations plotted against the difference in vote shares

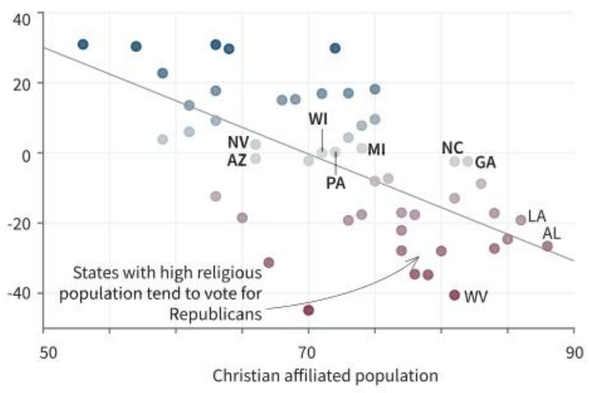


Chart 4: The chart plots the share of non-white population of States against the difference in vote shares

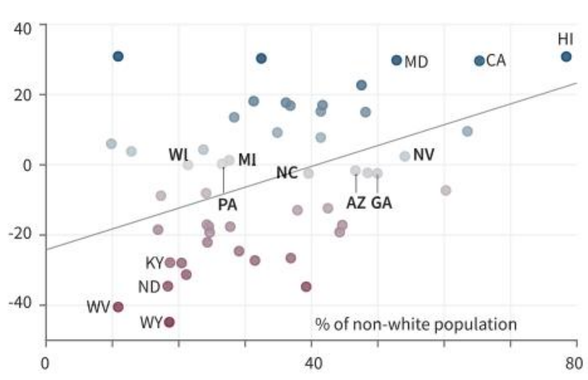
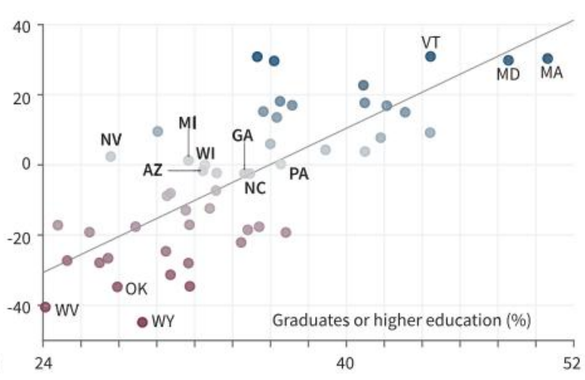


Chart 5: Share of graduates (or higher degree) in States is plotted against the difference in vote shares



With inputs from Pranav Bhaskar who is interning with The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 11, 1974

Nuclear plants: German help to Pak. likely

London, Sept. 10: According to press reports here, the West German Government is assisting Pakistan in conducting a study to determine the feasibility of setting up a chain of nuclear plants of 50 mw capacity to be located even in distant corners of Pakistan. The Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Khan said these plants would be in addition to the 600 mw nuclear station now being built near Chasma Barrage. Plans were also being worked out for building a nuclear complex near Karachi to meet most of Pakistan's nuclear requirements locally. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission wanted the country to be self-sufficient in its nuclear need and wanted to manufacture nuclear components in Pakistan. Dr. Khan said Pakistan was in touch with "certain friendly countries to start joint production of nuclear plants. Although he did not name the friendly countries, it is widely assumed that he could be referring to China and possibly the United States.

Dr. Khan said Pakistan had to build itself up as a modern technological society not for the sake of facing India and protecting national integrity but for the "sake of the entire Muslim world which so heavily depends upon Pakistan."

Dr. Khan hoped that except for very large and heavy components and highly sophisticated systems "we will be able to make most of the nuclear power plants ourselves."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 11, 1924

Assam Cooly exodus.

Calcutta, Sept. 10: The "Foreward's" Nowgong correspondent wires that about 700 coolies arrived at Jakhlabandha on foot from Jerhat (in Assam), a distance of about 150 miles. A Magistrate with the police is attending them and the Commissioner of Assam Valley is also present. They are extremely helpless and are being fed by the public. Some European planters are trying to persuade them to return to their gardens. But the coolies are determined not to return. No steps have yet been taken to repatriate them. Many are suffering, some have already succumbed, several cases of delivery occurred on the way. The local people with some Congress workers are taking great interest and rendering every possible help.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of people who died in the Vietnam storm

87 Typhoon Yagi and subsequent heavy rains have triggered floods and landslides in the country injuring more than a 100 people. At least 70 people were reported missing. Typhoon Yagi was the strongest typhoon to hit Vietnam in decades. AP

The Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip since October 7

41,020 The toll includes 32 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the health ministry in Gaza. At least 94,925 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip since the war started. AFP

The fine to be paid by Google in the antitrust shopping case

2.7 In $ billion. Google lost its final legal challenge on Tuesday against a European Union penalty for giving its shopping recommendations an illegal advantage over rivals in search results, ending a long-running antitrust case. AP

Number of days for which Internet will be suspended in Manipur

5 The State government suspended internet services from September 10 to 15 amid intensified agitation by students. The State Home department said that the decision was taken to curb the use of social media for transmission of hate speech and hate videos. PTI

Number of CRPF personnel deployed to the State of Manipur

2,000 The Centre has directed deployment of two fresh CRPF battalions in Manipur. This comes after the withdrawal of two Assam Rifles battalions from the State. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On ANI's defamation suit against Wikipedia

Why has the news agency *Asian News International* filed a lawsuit against the Wikimedia Foundation? What has the Delhi High Court asked the Foundation to reveal? Who can make and edit pages on the Wikipedia site? Will Wikipedia be blocked in India?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:
The news agency *ANI* sued Wikipedia parent Wikimedia Foundation last month for defamation, due to a description of the news agency as a propagator of government propaganda on the website. Last week, a Delhi High Court judge threatened to order the government to block Wikipedia if the Foundation didn't provide details of the users who made these edits.

What does the page on ANI say?
When Wikipedia's page for the news agency *Asian News International* started reflecting new reporting scrutinising the firm's record in 2020, a back-and-forth edit war ensued among users – seasoned editors on one side, and largely new accounts that only edited the ANI page, according to public logs of changes made to the entry – for months. The agency, which largely syndicates video and text feeds from around the country to news channels and other outlets (including to *The Hindu*), was described as "running [a] pro India fake news network aimed at influencing European think tank [sic] against Pakistan," a version of the article then read. Over time, this rough sentence in the page's introduction was smoothed out, annotated, and crystallised into what it says today: that the agency is "accused of having served as a propaganda tool for the incumbent central government, distributing materials from a vast network of fake news websites, and misreporting events on multiple occasions." *ANI* found the description, along with a longer section detailing these descriptions, defamatory. They sued the Wikimedia Foundation, which runs Wikipedia, in the Delhi High Court earlier this year, seeking ₹2 crore in damages.

In statements to *The Hindu*, the Wikimedia Foundation has stood by the ANI page, saying that the descriptions in that entry are borne out by reliable sources (which include *The Diplomat*, the EU DisinfoLab, and *The Caravan* magazine). Users who have made more than 300 edits and have an account that is at least a month old are free to "improve" the page, the Foundation said.

What has the Delhi High Court ordered in the case so far?
At the second hearing on August 20, Justice Navin Chawla ordered the company to serve three of its users with a summons to appear in the case, and provide "details" about these users. The demand appeared to be aimed at unmasking the individual editors who made these changes, something that the Foundation has historically not done outside the U.S. Even as the non-profit communicated with *ANI*'s lawyers shortly before the subsequent hearing on Thursday, the latter filed a contempt application. At the Thursday hearing, Mr. Chawla issued a verbal threat to order the Indian government to block Wikipedia if it did not comply. An "authorised representative" of the non-profit was directed to be personally present at the next hearing on October 25.

Does Wikipedia face lawsuits and censorship threats elsewhere?
Wikipedia has faced bans and lawsuits from around the world by individuals and organisations that have been aggrieved by descriptions of them. In Russia, Wikipedia editors have been targeted with arrests and intimidation since the beginning of that country's invasion of Ukraine. In 2019, a German court ordered the Foundation to remove records of an older version of an article about academic Alex Waibel; in the U.S., the firm routinely faces lawsuits, and nearly all cases have either been withdrawn or found in the non-profit's favour, due to the country's ironclad protections for web platforms.

The encyclopedia allows nearly anyone to edit posts, even without being logged in. However, some posts on contentious topics are restricted (sometimes for a long duration) to registered users with a track record of making contributions that have been upheld by other users. Norms on the site are decided by the community, and may be enforced unevenly, with articles on less notable subjects suffering from issues like advertising-like language.

Does Wikipedia content have an ideological bias?
The current policies followed by Wikipedia users do not have an explicit ideological flavour. These include guidelines such as having a "neutral point of view," only including "notable" information and having reliable sources decided by the community. However, the site is often accused of a progressive, liberal bias, something that a few studies have also attested to.

Conservative grievances with Wikipedia users' editorial slant have invariably become part of the discourse around the *ANI*-Wikipedia case. *OpIndia*, a right wing news portal that has covered the *ANI* lawsuit closely, has accused Wikipedia editors of propagating liberal "propaganda" on the site; has previously revealed the identity of an individual editor who started and contributed to the entry on the 2020 Delhi riots; and has criticised the site's description of the riots for allegedly downplaying attacks by Muslim rioters. The portal's editor on Sunday vowed to put out a detailed "dossier" outlining these allegations. Wikipedia's volunteer editors have had a general prohibition on *OpIndia* articles since 2009, with the site being described by a Wikipedia policy page on reliable sources by/for editors as "considered generally unreliable due to its poor reputation for fact-checking and accuracy".

Has Wikipedia faced criticism for content vandalism in India before?
Wikipedia has faced the Union government's ire at least once in the past due to vandalism. The cricketer Arshdeep Singh's page was briefly vandalised last year, and then-Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the vandalism was inconsistent with the government's principles for the Indian internet. The site's volunteers had quickly addressed the vandalism and restricted the page to experienced editors.

The site also suffers from a weakness under Indian law – unlike social media companies, it has no procedure in place to block access to articles after receiving a court order. In 2019, the Wikimedia Foundation termed a prior draft of the IT Rules, 2021, which enable such blocking orders, as having "the potential to limit free expression rights for internet users across the country".

Can Wikipedia be blocked?
However, Wikipedia may not be completely immune from arm-twisting or blocking. China, for instance, has had the site blocked for years. While Russia has not blocked the site, it has arrested volunteer editors of Russian-language Wikipedia, and told search engines to mark the site as a violator of Russian laws. Since Wikipedia content is licenced under what is called Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike Licence 4.0, its pages can be legally mirrored to a "fork" setup that can edit and censor its content as per government demands or individual biases. Ruwiki is an example of such a fork, which complies with Russian authorities' narratives on the Russia-Ukraine war.

Wikipedia and some key numbers

In August this year, India recorded the fifth highest number of Wikipedia users — 78 crore — with United States leading the list followed by Japan, Great Britain and Germany . The "free encyclopedia" includes articles in all but two (Bodo and Dogri) of the 22 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Among them, the highest number of articles were in Urdu, at 2 lakh, followed by Tamil, at 1.5 lakh. Zooming out, globally, the English language had the highest number of articles, closely followed by Cebuano, a regional language spoken in the Phillippines.
By **The Hindu Data Team**

Chart 1: The chart shows the countries with the largest number of Wikipedia users in August 2024

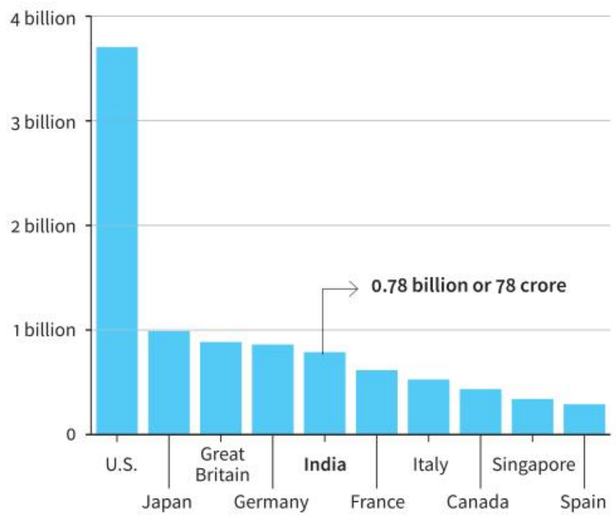


Chart 2: The chart lists the 23 languages spoken in India — including those in the Eighth Schedule — in which Wikipedia articles are available. The bigger the size of the rectangle, the more the number of articles

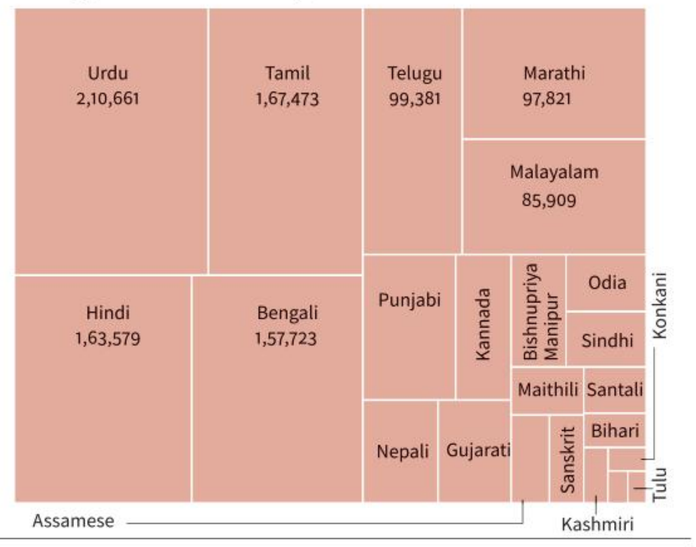
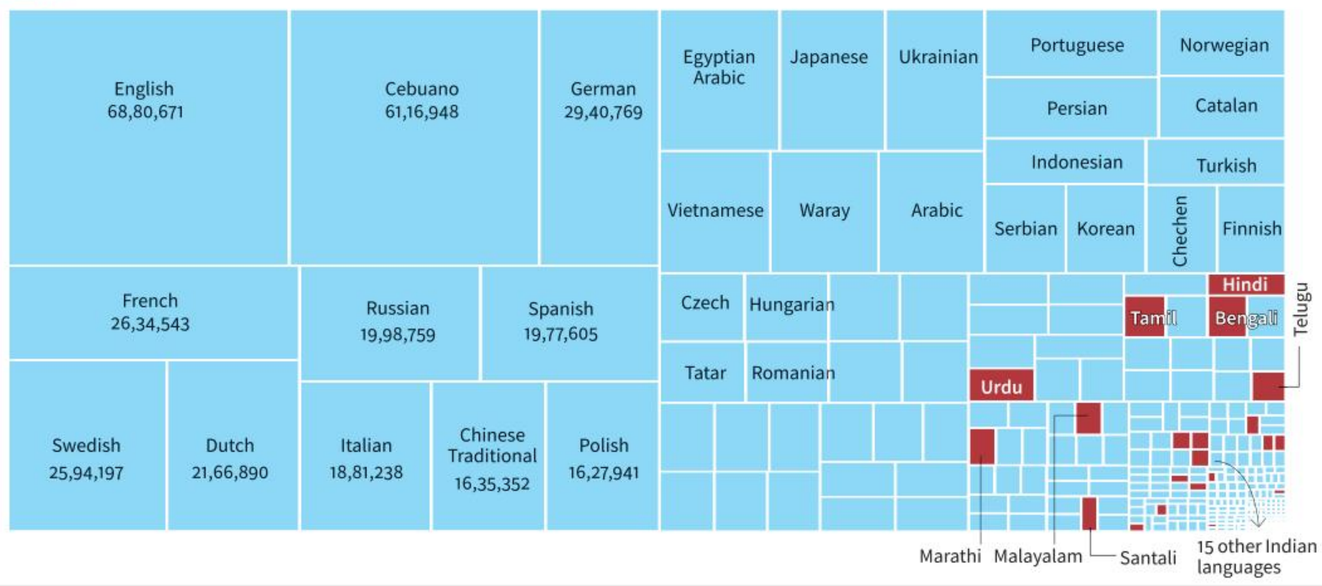


Chart 3: The chart lists the 320 languages in which Wikipedia articles are available. The bigger the size of the rectangle, the more the articles



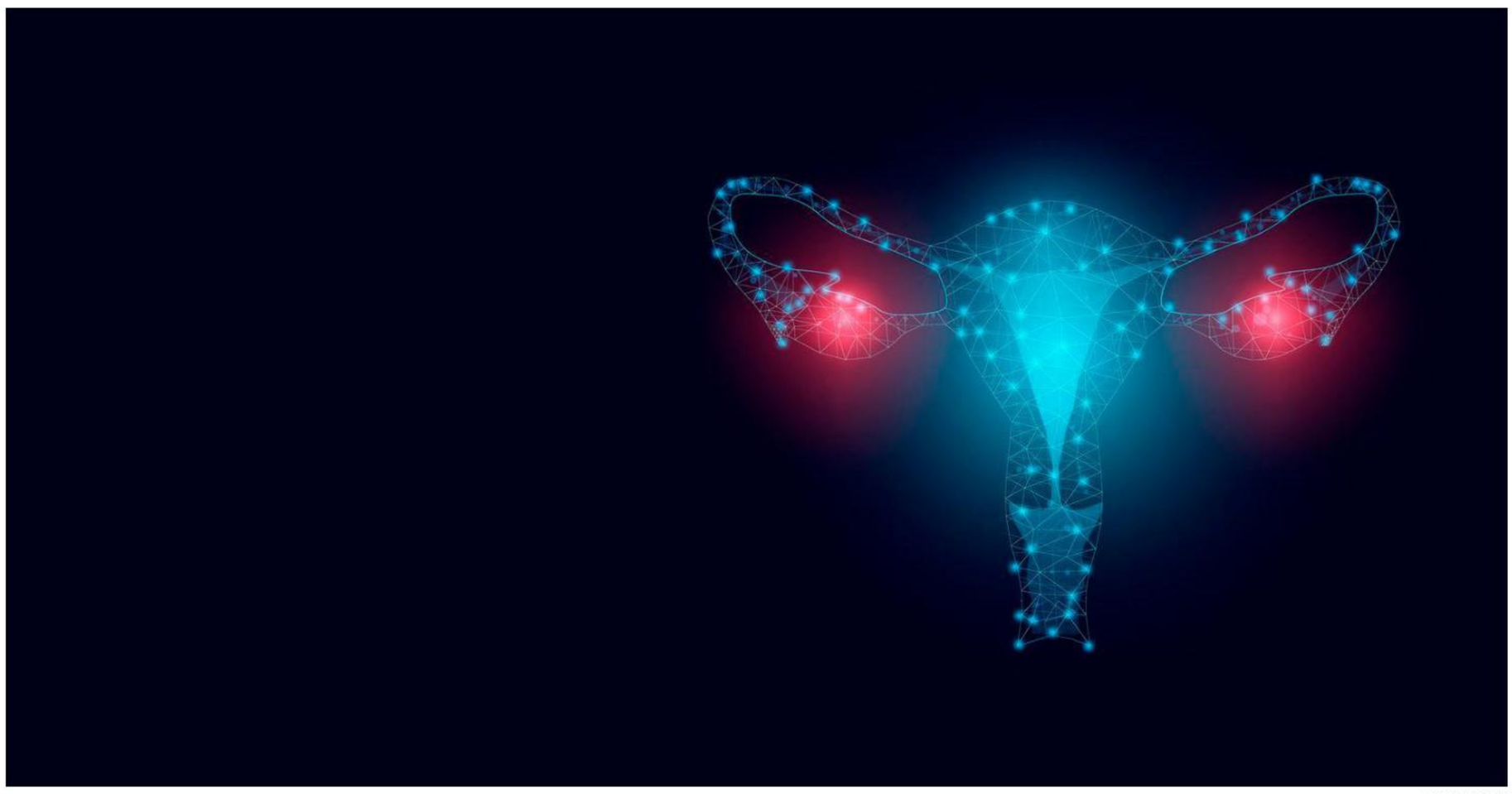
THE GIST

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PULSE-CHECK



GETTY IMAGES

Understanding ovarian cancer: its causes, symptoms, and screening methods

This September, during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, understanding the cancer's lesser-known facts — from subtle symptoms to genetic and lifestyle risks — can lead to earlier detection, personalised treatment, and preventive strategies

Anup Rawool
Vid Karmarkar

Note: The information in this article is provided as such and is not intended as medical advice. If you have any concerns, please consult your physician.

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynecological malignancy. It is often called a "silent killer" because its symptoms are non-specific and mimic less serious conditions that lead to late diagnosis and a poor prognosis. In India, ovarian cancer ranks among the top three cancers, contributing to 6.6% of all women's cancers.

In 2022, India reported 47,333 new ovarian cancer cases and 32,978 deaths. These alarming figures highlight the gravity of the disease. Understanding lesser-known aspects of ovarian cancer can enhance prevention, early detection, and treatment efforts, offering hope to patients and healthcare providers.

Unlike other cancers, ovarian cancer presents vague symptoms such as bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, loss of appetite, feeling full quickly, and an urgent or frequent need to urinate. Other signs include indigestion, constipation, back pain, persistent fatigue, weight loss, and postmenopausal vaginal bleeding. These symptoms are often mistaken for common ailments, leading to late diagnosis. A 2004 study reported women with (malignant) ovarian cancer typically experience these symptoms 20 to 30 times a month, and which are more severe than those without the disease. Unfortunately, because of the overlapping nature of these symptoms with other common ailments, they can be dismissed until the cancer has advanced. Healthcare providers must be vigilant when women report persistent symptoms.

Cancer subtypes and screening

Ovarian cancer is not a uniform disease. It has two main subtypes: type I and type II. Type I tumours are less common, typically diagnosed at an early stage, and have a better prognosis. Type II tumours are more common, more aggressive, usually diagnosed at an advanced stage, and are responsible for most deaths due to ovarian cancer.

The survival rate for patients with ovarian cancer depends on the stage of detection and access to appropriate treatment. Researchers reported in September 2022 that around 20% of patients with advanced ovarian cancer who receive optimal surgery and platinum-based chemotherapy could be disease-free at 10 years and might be considered potentially cured.

Unlike breast or cervical cancer, there are no effective screening tests for ovarian cancer. The CA125 blood test, often included in cancer screening packages, is not recommended for routine screening in women at average risk due to its limited specificity. While CA125 is useful to monitor ovarian cancer after diagnosis, it is less effective at screening asymptomatic women as it can lead to false positives and unnecessary further testing, anxiety, and potentially over-treatment.

Due to the absence of a reliable screening tool, awareness of risk factors and symptoms becomes crucial. Regular consultations with healthcare providers and discussions about family history can lead to earlier detection and better management of ovarian cancer.

Genes and endometriosis

While it's possible to develop ovarian cancer even without a family history of breast or ovarian cancer, it's the most heritable of all cancers: 65-85% of hereditary ovarian cancer cases involve mutations in the BRCA1 or the BRCA2 genes. Women with these mutations have a significantly higher risk of developing ovarian cancer – up to 50% for BRCA1 and around 15% for BRCA2. Some other genes have also been associated with hereditary ovarian cancer.

Genetic testing allows for personalised risk management, including tailored clinical surveillance, chemoprevention, and prophylactic surgeries, which can reduce the risk of developing ovarian cancer in high-risk women. Endometriosis, a condition where uterine-like tissue grows outside the uterus, has been linked to an increased risk of certain types of ovarian cancer, particularly endometrioid and clear-cell cancers. This said, endometriosis-linked ovarian cancer risk is low and radical measures, such as a bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy, to prevent ovarian cancer alone are rarely justified.

Lifestyle factors

Certain lifestyle factors are linked to ovarian cancer risk. For example, the use of talcum powder in the genital area has long been debated, with mixed evidence about its potential link to ovarian cancer. In the past, some talc products contained asbestos, a known carcinogen, but the evidence regarding modern, asbestos-free talc is still inconclusive. Experts including the American Cancer Society have called for more research to settle these questions. Another emerging area of concern is the use of chemical hair products. Some studies have shown a possible link between the prolonged use of hair dyes and an increased risk of ovarian cancer.

Additionally, frequent use of hair straighteners, relaxers or pressing products that release formaldehyde gas – a known carcinogen – may elevate the risk of developing ovarian cancer. Again, more research is required.

HRT, menopause, and genetic counselling

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT), commonly used to alleviate menopausal symptoms, has been linked to a higher risk of ovarian cancer even when used for less than five years. Postmenopausal women considering HRT should weigh this risk against the benefits and explore alternatives with their healthcare provider to make informed decisions.

For women with a family history of ovarian or breast cancer, genetic counselling is a valuable tool. This process helps identify individuals at risk for hereditary cancers and provides tailored guidance on preventive measures and potential treatments. Through personalised risk management strategies, genetic counselling can improve outcomes and help reduce the likelihood of developing ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer may be elusive, but knowledge is power. This September, during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, understanding its lesser-known facts – from subtle symptoms to genetic and lifestyle risks – can lead to earlier detection, personalised treatment, and preventive strategies. Empower yourself and others with this knowledge – it can save lives.

Anup Rawool is a Clinical and Cancer Geneticist and the founder of Sahaj Genetics Clinic, Comprehensive Medical Genetics & Counseling Center. Vid Karmarkar is the founder and CEO of Canseva Foundation.

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

The September 11 attacks, commonly known as 9/11, were coordinated terrorist suicide attacks carried out by the al-Qaeda against the U.S. in 2001. A quiz on that fateful day

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
On the morning of September 11, 19 terrorists hijacked how many commercial airliners scheduled to travel from the East Coast to California?

QUESTION 2
The hijackers crashed the first two planes into the Twin Towers of the WTC, and the third team succeeded in striking the Pentagon. Where did the fourth plane crash?

QUESTION 3
What is the term for the global counter terrorist military campaign initiated by the United States following the September 11 attacks of 2001?

QUESTION 4
The U.S. invoked which article of the NATO to call upon allies to fight the al-Qaeda? How many times has the U.S. invoked this article?

QUESTION 5
Regarding the 9/11 attack, one of the sites is termed Ground Zero. Which is it?



Visual question:
This image is credited to which photographer? What is the photograph called?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This country topped the medals table with 220 medals in the Paris Paralympics. **Ans: China**
2. These two Indian athletes became two-time gold medal winners at the Paris Games. **Ans: Shooter Avani Lekhara and shot putter Sumit Antil**
3. India recorded a one-two in athletics for the first time in this event. **Ans: Men's club throw F51 event**
4. This athlete became the first Indian to win medals at three consecutive Paralympics. **Ans: Mariyappan Thangavelu (High jump T42 class)**
5. India's youngest Paralympic medallist. **Ans: Armless archer Sheetal Devi**
6. The reason Dutch cyclist Caroline Groot and Iranian powerlifter Ahmad Aminzadeh made news. **Ans: First and last of the 549 gold medal winners at the Games**
Visual: Name this neutral athlete. **Ans: Ihar Boki**
Early Birds: Varghese Joseph| Tamal Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| Kevin Toms Skaria



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
Upendran

"Had a good night's sleep?"
"Oh yes. In fact, I fell asleep as soon as I hit the sack.'"
"Went out like a light, did you?"
"No, there was no power failure at our place yesterday."
"Power failure?"
"Didn't you say something about the lights going out?"
"Lights going out? Oh, yes. I asked you if you went out like a light. Do you know what it means?"
"No."
"If someone goes out like a light, he/she falls asleep or becomes unconscious suddenly."
"Well, I didn't become unconscious. I merely fell asleep. Went out like a light as you said."
"Good. How's your grandfather? Is he still mad at your father for not taking his advice?"
"No, he has cooled down."
"That's good. So, does he sit watching the goggle box all day?"
"Goggle box?"
"Yes, goggle box is an informal word for television."
"T.V. is called the goggle box? I didn't know that. I know it is called the idiot box, but why goggle box?"
"Before I answer that, let me tell you how the word is pronounced. The 'o' sounds like the 'o' in 'hot', 'got' and 'not'."
"So it's goggle. Goggle box."
"Do you know what goggle means?"
"Doesn't it mean to stare at something with your eyes wide open?"
"Yes, that's part of the meaning. You see when you goggle at someone, you stare at him/her with your eyes open because you are surprised by what you see. I can say 'I goggled at the new shirt he was wearing'."
"I think I understand now why T.V. is called the goggle box. Most people who watch it have their eyes wide open."
"And many of them have their mouth wide open too!"
"And while we're on the subject of television, I'd like to know why so many women are particular about what their nose looks like."
"What are your talking about?"
"I watch a lot of foreign programmes. Every now and then some woman says 'You must excuse me. I'd like to powder my nose'... Why are you laughing?"
"I'm sorry. Please continue."
"Why do they keep powdering their nose so often?"
"Well, some time ago, we talked about asking for the bathroom in a direct and indirect manner. Do you remember?"
"Of course, I remember. That's when you talked about something called euphemism."
"That's right."
"But what's the connection between powdering one's nose and going to the bathroom?"
"If a lady says I'd like to powder my nose, it means she wants to use the bathroom. It's an indirect way of asking you where the bathroom is. 'Powder-room' or 'powdering-room' is a women's cloakroom or lavatory in a public building."
"That's very interesting."
Published in The Hindu on May 4, 1993.

Word of the day

Sodden:
wet through and through; thoroughly wet

Synonym: soppy

Usage: *The playing fields were sodden after the rains.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/soddenpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈsɒ.dən/

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

From Page One

Students in Imphal defy curfew, clash with police

The Imphal East district administration issued a similar curfew order while prohibitory orders under Section 162 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita were clamped in Thoubal district.

The State's Home Department also issued an order suspending mobile Internet, leased line, broadband, and VPN services in five districts of the Imphal Valley for five days from 3 p.m. on Tuesday "to thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements, maintain peace and communal harmony and prevent any loss of life or danger to public/private property".

The Education Department also said schools and other educational institutions would remain closed till Thursday.

Manipur Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, who held a meeting with the representatives of students and women groups around 6 p.m., called for peace.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for promising to do in 15 months what the Congress could not in 15 years.

"Indeed. Within 15 months of getting a decisive mandate from all sections of Manipur's society, he allowed the State to go up in flames. It is still burning with no respite in sight," he said.

Officials said the conflict had taken a serious turn with extremist groups now using drones to deliver bombs and firing long-range rockets.

Inspector General of Police (Operations), I.K. Muivah, confirmed the involvement of "foreign elements" in the drone attacks over the past few days on the periphery of the Imphal Valley.

Kolkata doctors resume protests despite appeal

They added that they will continue with their peaceful sit-in protests in front of the Health Department headquarters.

The five-point demands of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front are finding and punishing all possible culprits involved in the rape and murder as well as alleged tampering of evidence; disciplinary action against former R.G. Kar principal Sandip Kumar Ghosh; resignation of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal; increased security for healthcare workers; and an end to the alleged 'threat culture' in hospitals and medical colleges across West Bengal.

The resident doctors' official statement on Monday said, "We demand the removal of the Health Secretary, DME, and DHS, and that they also be brought under the CBI investigation. We also want to know the Health Minister's stance on this massive corruption in the Health Department; we have yet to hear any statement from them."

Rahul's speech in the U.S. triggers a storm

"What the RSS is basically saying is that certain States are inferior to other States. Certain languages are inferior to other languages. Certain religions are inferior to other religions. Certain communities are inferior to other communities. This is what the fight is about," he said on Monday.

On Monday, he had also said that people no longer fear the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the election results had destroyed "the idea of Modi being a person with 56-inch chest".

Responding to such comments on Tuesday, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri addressed a press conference at the BJP headquarters to condemn Mr. Gandhi's remarks and said," if there has been one time in our history when as a community we [Mr. Puri being a Sikh] have felt anxiety, a sense of insecurity and existential threat, it has been the times when Rahul Gandhi's family has been in the seats of power."

Anti-Sikh riots

Referring to the anti-Sikh riots following the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Mr. Puri said, "In 1984, a pogrom was carried out against Sikh community, when Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister. As many as 3,000 innocent people were killed. People were dragged out of their homes, tyres put around them and burnt alive".

Claiming that the Congress leader, of late, had been making statements on sensitive issues, "involving our national identity, unity, the strength of our unity and diversity," Mr. Puri said, "I think he is trying to set a new kind of narrative which I think is a dangerous narrative".

Hitting back at the BJP criticism, Congress general secretary in-charge of organisation, K.C. Venugopal said the BJP ecosystem was "nervous" because Mr. Gandhi had spoken the plain truth.

"It is also doubly hypocritical for the BJP to complain about statements made by Rahul *ji* in the U.S. when the PM does not miss a single chance to repeat his hackneyed 'nothing happened in the 60 years before 2014' line which is truly an insult to the collective efforts of multiple generations of Indians who made our country great," Mr. Venugopal said in a post on X.

Countering Mr. Gandhi's attack on the Sangh Parivar in the U.S., the BJP's retaliatory fire included calling him a person "with an anti-reservation mindset". The ruling party's accusation came after the Congress leader told the students at the Georgetown University that the Congress would think of scrapping reservations when "India is a fair place", which, he said, "is not the case now".

'India has a four-point principle to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict'

In Berlin, External Affairs Minister says there could be no solutions in the battlefield, that this should be a time for peace, that Russia must be at the table for a dialogue and that New Delhi is engaged in trying to find a way to resolve the conflict

Suhasini Haidar
BERLIN

India has a four-point principle towards the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

He said that "suggestions have been made" for India to host a peace conference on the issue, but made no commitment on whether India would in fact forward any peace proposal of its own.

Responding to a question from *The Hindu* about the possibility of India hosting the conference, and playing a role as peacemaker, Mr. Jaishankar said that India believes in the four principles: that this should be a time of peace; that there would be no solutions to the war on the battlefield; that Russia must be at the table for any successful peace process; and that India is "concerned and engaged" in trying to find a way to resolve the conflict.

"We don't believe disputes can be settled through war," said Mr. Jaishankar, referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Moscow and Kyiv in the past two months.

"When there is a discussion, we believe Russia has to be in it," he said, adding that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is in Russia this week, an indication of India's consistent engagement.

Mr. Jaishankar spoke to the media after a bilateral meeting with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock to prepare for a visit to New Delhi by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on October 24-25. Mr. Jaishankar said they had discussed "the state of the world", including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Gaza conflict as well as coordinating their agendas ahead of the UN Summit of the Future later this month, particularly India and Germany's joint pitch for the expansion of the UN Security Council.

"Germany is in an intensive discussion with India and other countries about our different roles in bringing about peace," Ms. Baerbock said, adding that despite "differences" in Indian and German positions on the conflict thus far, they had maintained regular discussions on the issues.



Friendly ties: S. Jaishankar with Annalena Baerbock after the talks at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on Tuesday. AP

Ms. Baerbock's comments follow a series of statements by Western coalition countries that have urged India, China and other countries to step up peace efforts between Russia and Ukraine, two-and-a-half years into the war. If India was to play a mediatory role, it would be significant shift from its previous position where it had called the war "Europe's problem", and not something connected to India's "geography". India has not so far accepted requests by Germany and other European countries including Ukraine to cut its oil imports from Russia, or as Mr. Zelenskyy said for India to "change its attitude" towards Russia.

Ties with China

Addressing German diplomats at an "Ambassadors's conference" earlier in the day, Mr. Jaishankar was also asked about economic ties with China, given the four-year-old military stand-off between the two countries that has led to many restrictions on Chinese companies and investment.

"We are not closed to business from China," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that, "The issue is, which sectors do you do business and what terms do you do business? It's far more complicated than a black-and-white binary answer."

During bilateral talks, Mr. Jaishankar and Ms. Baerbock discussed broadening the India-Germany migration and mobility partnership to bring in more skilled Indian workers to Germany. According to Ms. Baerbock, about 1,25,000 Indian nationals are now working and 50,000 students are studying in Germany.

They also spoke about building their military partnership after holding their first-ever joint air force exercises this year, and upcoming naval exercises in Goa in October.

In an effort to increase annual bilateral trade levels of $30 billion and about $25 billion in investment from Germany, New Delhi will be the venue for the Asia Pacific Conference of German Business next month.

SC stays proceedings against Shashi Tharoor

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed criminal defamation proceedings against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor for the "scorpion sitting on a Shivling" remark about Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Eventually, it [scorpion sitting on a Shivling] is a metaphor... The metaphor may refer to the invincibility of the person who is being spoken about... 'Scorpion on a Shivling' – can the metaphor not be understood as something pointing to the invincibility of the person? A metaphor is a figure of speech... A metaphor is capable of telling the truth or the view of the author of the metaphor by occupying the least space... Like a picture can take the place of 1,000 words, if good enough a metaphor can substitute 1,000 words... Don't know why somebody has taken objection here," Justice Hrishikesh Roy observed.

The relief from the top court spared Mr. Tharoor from appearing before a trial court on September 10. The defamation case is based on a complaint filed by BJP leader Rajiv Babbar in November 2018.

'T.N. already applies aspects of NEP through own policies'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi on Tuesday reiterated that the State's objections to the National Education Policy 2020 pertained to specific elements of the policy such as the three-language formula and changes to the curriculum.

Responding to the questions posed by the Union Minister for Education, he said, "Tamil Nadu has already been implementing aspects of the NET-2020 through its own initiatives. Linking the release of Samagra Shiksha funds to compliance with the NEP infringes upon the State's constitutional autonomy in education."

Six Indians enlisted with Russian Army released

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

At least six Indians enlisted with the Russian Army have been released from their camps on Russia-Ukraine border, months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue "personally" with President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Moscow in July.

Mohammad Sufiyan, 24, a resident of Telangana who was released from a Russian camp, told *The Hindu* on phone from Moscow that he and five others were waiting to return to India after the completion of paperwork at the Indian Embassy.

Vikramjit Sahney, Rajya Sabha member, however, said 15 Indian youth, including four from Punjab, were being repatriated from Russia after being released from the Army.



To freedom: Six Indians who were discharged from the Russian Army. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar informed the Lok Sabha on August 9 that of the 91 Indians recruited in the Russian Army in the past nine months, eight were killed and 69 awaited release.

"We were in the red zone, two km from the battlefield on Ukraine border. Our job was to ferry the bodies," said Mr. Sufiyan, who was allegedly tricked into joining the Russian Army after being offered the job of a security helper in that country.

The others who were discharged are Sameer Ahmad, Abdul Nayeem, Syed Ilyas Hussain from Kalaburgi in Karnataka, Azad Yousuf Kumar from Jammu and Kashmir and Kamal Singh from Punjab.

Mamata is lying, was offered money, says mother of victim

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Family members of the deceased doctor of Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital stuck to their stand that the West Bengal government had offered money as compensation after the death of their daughter on August 9.

Refuting the claims made by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who said on Monday that no money was offered to the family, the mother of the doctor accused Ms. Banerjee of "lying".

"My daughter is not going to return. Would I lie in her name? She (the CM) told us that we would receive money and suggested that we create something in our daughter's memory. I responded that I would collect the money once my daughter gets justice," the mother told news agency ANI.



Mamata Banerjee

'Lies being spread'

The Chief Minister on Monday said lies were being spread and the government did not offer any money to the family. Ms. Banerjee said she had told the family that if they wanted any memorial for their daughter, the State government would help.

The family members, including the parents, have alleged that the Deputy Commissioner, North Division, of the Kolkata Police had offered the family money even when the body had not been cremated.

On the Chief Minister's remark of "joining the festivities and shunning the protest", the mother said Durga Puja would never be celebrated in their household. "Durga Puja was celebrated in my house too. My daughter used to handle it herself. But Durga Puja will never be celebrated in my house again. The light in my home is out. How can I ask people to return to the festival?" she said.

Amid the ongoing protests, Governor C.V. Ananda Bose requested the Chief Minister to comply with Article 167(c) of the Constitution which says that the Chief Minister must inform the Governor of all decisions of the Council of Ministers and legislative proposals.

Earlier, the Governor had suggested that the Chief Minister hold a Cabinet meeting to decide on the people's demand of removing the Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal.

The former principal of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, Sandip Ghosh, was sent to judicial custody till September 23 by a special CBI court in a case of financial irregularities.

Top U.S. diplomat Donald Lu to visit India, Bangladesh

Sriram Lakshman

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu will be in India and Bangladesh from September 10-16, the U.S. State Department has said.

Mr. Lu will be in India for the U.S.-India "2+2" Foreign and Defence Ministries' intersessional dialogue.

A top U.S. Defence Department officer for Indo-Pacific strategy, Jedidiah P. Royal, will represent the Department of Defence at the talks in New Delhi.

The sixth annual 2+2 dialogue is expected to be held in Washington DC this year, led by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the Indian side and their counterparts, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on the U.S. side.

"The [Intersessional] Dialogue will identify opportunities to enhance the U.S.-India bilateral partnership, including defence cooperation, and expand U.S.-India collaboration in the Indo-Pacific and beyond," the State Department said. The talks come 10 days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. for a summit level meeting of the Quad (a group comprising India, the U.S., Australia and Japan), hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden in Delaware and the "Summit of the Future" organised by the United Nations.



Donald Lu

In Bangladesh, Mr. Lu will join an economic dialogue with the interim government of Bangladesh, reportedly on September 14 and 15. This is being led by the U.S. Treasury Department but will include delegates from the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The aim is to discuss U.S. support to Bangladesh's economic growth, development and financial stability, the State Department said.

The visit to Bangladesh represents a change in tone from the relationship that the U.S. had with the administration of former Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, who has been in exile in India since August. Ms. Hasina had blamed the U.S. for playing a role in ousting her. The State Department had denied having any role in the events.

Yechury is in critical condition, says CPI(M)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, who is undergoing treatment for acute respiratory tract infection at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, is in a "critical condition", the Polit Bureau said in a statement on Tuesday.

The 72-year-old leader was admitted to AIIMS on August 19 for the treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection.

"Comrade Sitaram Yechury is in the intensive care unit of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, being treated for an acute respiratory tract infection. He is on respiratory support. A multi-disciplinary team of doctors is closely monitoring his condition, which is critical at this time," the Polit Bureau said.

APPEAL



I am Muhammed Shabeeb 22 years old suffering from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy which has taken a toll of fifty percent of my body. I am in urgent need of an electric wheel chair to gain mobility. This wheelchair costs around Rs,1,00,000/- only. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer/Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13. N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Muhammed Shabeeb

BJP drops six MLAs in second list for Haryana election

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday released the second list of 21 candidates for the Haryana Assembly election, dropping six MLAs, including two Ministers.

The party's Pehowa candidate, Sardar Kamaljeet Singh Ajrana, was replaced after he expressed inability to contest the poll on party ticket citing opposition from local leaders.

The ruling party has so far declared candidates for 87 of the 90 Assembly constituencies in the State.

Muslim leaders

Two Muslim leaders, Naseem Ahmed and Aizaz Khan, have been fielded from Ferozepur Jhirka and Punhana, respectively. Minister of State for Environment Sanjay Singh, who is the MLA for Sohna, has been named for Nuh.

The BJP has dropped Bawal MLA Banwari Lal and Badkhal MLA Seema Trikha, both Ministers, from the list.

It has fielded former Minister Krishna Gahlawat from Rai in Sonipat district after the Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli, the sitting MLA from this seat, informed the party that he did not want to contest.

Sardar Baldev Singh has been named for the Dabwali constituency after the party's Sirsa president, Aditya Devi Lal, joined the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in protest after his name did not feature in the first list of candidates released on September 4.

Former Minister Manish Grover has again been fielded from Rohtak.

Haryana CM Saini files nomination from Ladwa

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini on Tuesday filed his nomination from the Ladwa Assembly constituency. He said that his only mission was to take Haryana forward on the path of development.

Countering the Congress allegations that he could not find a "safe" seat for him, Mr. Saini, who had contested a byelection from Karnal earlier, said that he was contesting from all the 90 constituencies of the State. He challenged former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda to step out of his traditional bastion Rohtak and his Assembly constituency Garhi Sampla-Kiloi before making allegations against him. Mr. Saini is pitted against Congress' MLA Mewa Ram.

Cong. reposes faith in sitting MLAs from Haryana's Nuh

All the three Congress candidates for Muslim-dominated district file their nominations; they were accompanied by Bhupinder Singh Hooda who addressed a gathering highlighting party promises

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

All three Congress candidates and MLAs from the Meo Muslim-dominated Nuh district in Haryana – Aftab Ahmed, Mamman Khan and Mohammad Ilyas – on Tuesday filed their nominations for the Assembly election scheduled for October 5.

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda accompanied the three leaders and addressed a gathering of their supporters on the occasion.

A former Transport Minister and two-time MLA, Mr. Ahmed, addressing a gathering of his supporters before filing the nominations, said it was time for the people to rise above party politics and make decisions keeping in mind the larger interests of this region.



Show of strength: Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda being welcomed at a meeting for the party candidate in Mewat. PTI

Public meeting

Mr. Hooda, who joined the public meeting on his way back from Hodal, said the Congress during its 10-year rule carried out many development activities in Nuh, but the BJP did nothing for the development of the area over the past decade. He said the Congress was returning to power in the State. He repeated his party's poll promises of two lakh regular jobs, 300 units of free power, and ₹6,000 old-age pension.

Mr. Khan and Mr. Ilyas, accused in the Nuh violence case, too filed their nominations from Ferozepur Jhirka and Punhana, respectively.

Nuh, one of the most backward districts of Haryana, witnessed communal violence during the Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad last year.

Sharing its boundary with the IT hub and Haryana's financial capital Gurugram, it lacks basic amenities such as drinking and irrigation water and adequate health and education infrastructure.

AAP names 20 more candidates for Haryana polls

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday released its second list of nine candidates and third list with 11 names. It has fielded former Minister Chhatarpal Singh, who had quit the BJP a day ago, from the Barwala Assembly constituency.

The party has so far announced 40 candidates for the election. The party also announced its candidates for Sadhaura, Thanesar, Indri, Ratia, Adampur, Bawal, Faridabad and Tigaon.

BJP Election Management Committee member and actor Rajkumar Rao's brother-in-law Sunil Rao, and former Rewari Zila Parishad chairman Satish Yadav, also a BJP leader, joined the AAP in the presence of Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh.

Punia moves HC against suspension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Wrestler Bajrang Punia has approached the Delhi High Court challenging his suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency ahead of the Senior World Wrestling Championships to be held in Albania in October.

Mr. Punia has claimed that the conduct of the agency is in violation of his fundamental rights to practice a profession and earn a livelihood under the Constitution of India. "The petitioner will be forced to retire from wrestling due to the arbitrary actions of the respondent," his plea said.

SEBI chief's firm paid by listed firms: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Alleging a conflict of interest, the Congress on Tuesday said Dhaval Buch, husband of Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, received ₹4.78 crore between 2019 and 2021 from Mahindra and Mahindra when the stock market regulator was adjudicating its cases.

The party said Agora Advisory Private Ltd., a consultancy firm in which Ms. Buch had a 99% stake, received fees from listed companies such as M&M.

The Mahindra Group, in a filing to stock exchanges, called the charges "false and misleading". Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on X, alleged that SEBI's institutional integrity as a robust market regulator had been "tarnished" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to save his "crony friends".

His party colleague, Jairam Ramesh, in another post, asked, "Is the Prime Minister aware that Madhabi Buch owns 99 per cent of Agora Advisory Private Limited and is receiving significant fees from listed entities, including Mahindra & Mahindra?"

Earlier, Congress leader Pawan Khera addressed a press conference in which he referred to the recent Hindenburg report that alleged Ms. Buch held 99% shares in Agora.



Madhabi Puri Buch

Although, in her response, Madhabi Buch had said the two consulting firms set up by her in Singapore and India – one of which is Agora – became "immediately dormant on her appointment with SEBI", the reality was that as of March 31, 2024, she still owned 99% stake in the Indian entity which had been actively providing advisory/consultancy services till date, he said. In 2016-17, 2019-20 and 2023-24, she received a total of ₹2.95 crore through Agora, even when she was a wholetime SEBI member and later its Chairperson, he said.

He said the companies that took consultancy service from Agora included M&M, Dr. Reddy's, Pidilite, ICICI, Sembcorp and Visu Leasing and Finance.

"Strangely, of the total ₹2.95 crore received by Agora Advisory Private Limited, ₹2.59 crore has come from one entity alone – the Mahindra & Mahindra Group," Mr. Khera alleged.

He said the payments to Mr. Dhaval Buch came at a time when his wife, as a whole-time member of SEBI, was adjudicating cases of the same group. "The year of settlements [of cases] and the year of receipt of income by Dhaval Buch serendipitously coincide," Mr. Khera said.

Allegation refuted

Refuting the Congress allegation about obtaining favourable SEBI orders, the Mahindra Group said "three out of the five approvals or orders of SEBI do not pertain to it or any of its subsidiaries". "One was a fast-track rights issue, which did not require any approval from the SEBI and one was an order issued in March 2018, well before Mr. Dhaval started working with the Mahindra Group," it added.

BJP MP objects to call for SEBI chief to depose before PAC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) setting the agenda to review the performance of "regulatory bodies established by Acts of Parliament", its member and Trinamool Congress MP, Saugata Roy, at the committee's meeting on Tuesday, demanded that SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, who faces allegations of conflict of interest, be called in to depose.

According to sources, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey objected to Mr. Roy's demand, saying the PAC rules did not permit such an investigation.

Mr. Dubey argued at the meeting that the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) could not audit SEBI without the mandate of the Centre, hence the PAC too could not summon officials of regulators without evidence of "flaws" in finances provided by the government.

He said that even for the PAC to take *suo motu* cognisance, there should be evidence of wrongdoing.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, (PROJECT) PHED REGION CHURU (RAJ.)
Email : ace.chu.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
S. No. : 816-858 Dated : 06.09.2024
Notice Inviting Bid No. 02/2024-25
Bids for Work of Augmentation and Retofitting work 108 Villages of block Sri Dungargarh and Loonkaransar and Sri Dungargarh Town Water Supply Project under JJM District Bikaner (Package-1) are invited from interested bidders upto 18.00 hrs 07.10.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website https://phed.raj.nic.in. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 233.65 Crore. UBN No. PHE2425WLOB04415
(Rammurti)
DIPR/C/8429/2024 Additional Chief Engineer (Project), PHED, Churu

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-55525
E-Tender Enq. No. 565/P-3/EMP-12806 dated: 10.09.2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_126962_1 for the work of Breakdown/Preventive Maintenance of Boiler, Airpreheaters and their auxiliaries of 4X210 M.W Unit-III to VI (Stage-II & III) at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dtd. 10.09.24/ 01:00 PM onwards.
Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP - 108/24 76155/12/3429/2023/37538

कार्यालय उप वन संरक्षक (वन्यजीव) मुकन्दरा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, कोटा
रावतभाटा रोड़, राजस्थान तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय के समाने, कोटा (राज.) पिन-324010
Phone No. 0744-2470723 E-mail:- dcfmnp.kot.forest@rajasthan.gov.in
कमांक: एफ ( )/उवस/ मु.रा.उ./2024-25 दिनांक-
Notice Inviting Bid No.:-08/2024-25
Bids for construction of pucca boundary wall 16 km 1.85 mtr height at Range Kolipura approx Amount 635.00 lacs invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM (Time) 28.09.2024 (Date). Other particulars of the Bid may be Visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the State and **http://forest.rajasthan.gov.in**
UBN no. - FOR2425WLOB00880
NIBNo. FOR2425A0678
(मुथु एस.)
उप वन संरक्षक (वन्यजीव)
मुकन्दरा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान कोटा
DIPR/C/8446/2024

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Head Office: 10-152/1, Ashoknagar, Bandar Road, Vijayawada-520 007
Lr.No.Mktg.M6/RG Dall/Tenders/2024 Date:10.09.2024
TENDER NOTICE (2nd Call)
BIDS ARE INVITED FROM THE ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF 22,500 MTs (± 25%) OF RG DALL IN 1 KG PACKET FORM WITH SECONDARY PACKING IN 50 KG PP BAGS TO ALL THE 251 MLS POINTS OF APSCSCL IN TWENTY SIX(26) DISTRICTS ACROSS THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER PDS /ICDS/ THR SCHEMES THROUGH THE AP E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL.
Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of 22,500MTs (± 25%)RG Dall in 1KG packet form with secondary packaging in 50 Kg PP bags under PDS/ICDS/THR schemes to 251 MLS points in twenty six (26) Districts in Andhra Pradesh State.
All the interested RG Dall suppliers in All Over India may visit www.apscscl.in & www.apeprocurement.gov.in to view and download tender documents free of cost.
The interested tenderers to submit bids should be registered in website www.apeprocurement.gov.in and should also obtain Digital Signature Certificates from any Certifying Authority in India. The details and procedure for obtaining Digital Signature Certificates are mentioned in the website www.apeprocurement.gov.in or contact the helpdesk of e-procurement portal Phone: 9154383633 / 9154383634 / 7337318402.
Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall be up to **17.09.2024 at 5.00P.M** and the tentative date of online e-reverse auction through ap e-procurement platform would be **20.09.2024 at 02.00 P.M** onwards.
Sd/- G.Veerapandian
VC & Managing Director

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
सं.शारःसीएमजी सिविलः अनुरक्षणः ई–जन निविदा / **No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-08/24-25** तिथि/ **Date. 09.09.2024**
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"एसडीएससी शार के कोथाचेनु स्थित कैं.औ.सु.ब. बैराक में विविध सिविल कार्य"** (टी/सी-24-035, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 14.61 लाख) हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को 18.09.2024 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Misc civil works @ CISF Barrack, Kothachenu, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-035, Est. cost ₹ 14.61 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to 18.09.2024, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP-Portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works:
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Name of the work	Amount put to tender EMD
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/3439/2024-25	**Date: 03-09-2024**
1) Providing and laying 230 mm dia SW line at 2nd main to 8th main and 4th cross to 11th cross Poornprajna layout surrounding area coming under PP layout Service Station of AEE SW-5 Sub-division.	Rs.166.59 Lakhs / Rs.2.50 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/3435/2024-25	**Date: 03-09-2024**
2) Providing and laying of 230mm dia SW line 300mm dia RCC pipe line at 29th, 30th, 35th, 36th, 38th main and 40th to 51st cross Poorna Pragna layout coming under PP layout Service Station of AEE SW-5 Sub-division	Rs.210.24 Lakhs / Rs.3.15 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/3431/2024-25	**Date: 03-09-2024**
3) Providing and laying of 230mm dia SW line 300mm dia. RCC pipe line from 24th to 38th cross Poorna Pragna layout park-1 surrounding area coming under PP layout Service Station of AEE SW-5 Sub-division.	Rs.215.09 Lakhs / Rs.3.23 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/3430/2024-25	**Date: 03-09-2024**
4) Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP-3 pipe and 225mm dia SW at 2nd main from 37th cross to 44th cross, 37th A, 37th, 39th, 41st & 43rd cross 8th Block Jayanagar coming under Devagiri Service Station of AEE SW-4 Sub-division	Rs.188.97 Lakhs / Rs.2.83 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/3426/2024-25	**Date: 03-09-2024**
5) Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC NP3 in place of 150mm dia and 225 mm dia at Chikkalasandra and surround area of PNB Service Station of AEE SW-5 Sub-division	Rs.208.06 Lakhs / Rs.3.12 Lakhs

For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **25.09.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.** The tenders will be opened on **27.09.2024 after 16:00 hrs.**
Sd/- Chief Engineer (South)
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during the working hours.
DIPR/CP/BCPL/1921/2024-25

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029
DNB FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – OCTOBER 2024
NOTICE
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next DNB Final Theory Examinations on **16th, 17th, 18th and 19th October 2024.**
Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	7th September 2024 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	7th September 2024 (3PM Onwards) to 27th September 2024 (Till 11:55PM)
Date of Examination	16th, 17th ,18th and 19th October 2024

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
- **Helpline Portal on applicant login page**
- **Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website**

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/64 -2024-25
The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Item	Estimated Amount (in Rs.) / Tender Fee in (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0520/0924 [RFX No. 5000001280] [3rd Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of 315MVA, 400/220/33kV, 3-ϕ(01 No.); 200MVA, 400/220/20kV, 1-ϕ (02 Nos.) & 167MVA, 400/220/33kV, 1-ϕ ICT (16 Nos.) along with New Uninhibited High Grade Mineral Insulating Oil for Augmentation Scheme under Karad; Nashik; Pune & Vashi Zone [Including 9x167MVA, 400/220/33kV, 1-ϕ ICTs Tendered against SP/T-0502/0124 (RFx 5000001184)] 1 st Call: SP/T-0508/0324 (RFx 5000001219) 2 nd Call: SP/ T-0515/0724 (RFx 5000001261).	Rs.16550.81 / Rs.25000.00 (excluding taxes)	24.09.2024 Up to 16:00 Hrs. / 24.09.2024 at 16:15 Hrs.
Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue	**Date:**13.09.2024 **Time:** 14:30 Hrs. **Venue:** 8th Floor, MSETCL C.O. 'Prakashganga' Plot No. C-19, E-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East,Mumbai, Maharashtra 400051	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)
Tel. No.022- 69852717/ Cell no:-8329909813
Email:ceom@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp5@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in**
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

INBRIEF



Tensions in Dehradun over harassment by shopkeeper

Communal tensions prevailed in Dehradun over the past two days after a student alleged misbehaviour by a shopkeeper belonging to a minority community. Right-wing groups kept the city's biggest market shut on Tuesday and the police detained over 120 shopkeepers to verify their credentials. According to the police, the girl informed that an employee working in the Paltan market misbehaved with her on September 7.

IAF officer booked for sexual assault on woman colleague

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have registered a case against a Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force after a woman Flying Officer lodged a complaint of sexual assault against him. The incident happened at the New Year party on December 31, 2023, the complaint said. Both are posted at the Air Force Station in Srinagar. The FIR was filed at the Budgam police station on September 8 under Section 376 (2) of the IPC, which was in force at the time of the alleged incident. The woman officer also accused the senior officers at the station of not taking her complaint seriously. Her complaint records that it took two months for the station to assemble an Internal Committee. The probe ended on May 15 as the committee said it was "inconclusive that the incident happened or not" because of "lack of eyewitness", the complaint added.

Congress flags Adani investments in China

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Flagging the Adani Group's new China subsidiary for providing project management services, the Congress on Tuesday renewed its attack on the Centre for its "grossly inadequate" economic policy towards India's neighbour. India faced the risk of "uncontrolled Chinese imports, investments and immigration, it added.

In a statement, party leader Jairam Ramesh said the risk was that "the conglomerate's investments in China would add national security and territorial sovereignty to the growing list of sacrifices" that India had made at the altar of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "special friendships". He alleged that "the non-biological PM's clean chit to China on June 19, 2020" was one of the most damaging statements ever made by an Indian Prime Minister. He branded the Prime Minister's policy towards China as "grossly inadequate".

He said that the past few years had seen a pattern of Adani's overseas investments often "undermining our national interest and contributing to bad outcomes for India".

Will deploy 5,000 cybercommandos in five years, says Shah

They will assist States and Central agencies in securing the digital space, says Shah; 'no institution can keep cyberspace secured single-handedly'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said cybersecurity was linked to national security and in the next five years, nearly 5,000 cybercommandos would be trained and deployed across the States to counter such threats.

"Trained cybercommandos will assist States and Central agencies in securing the digital space," Mr. Shah said.

Mr. Shah addressed the first Foundation Day programme of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and launched the Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC), Samanvay platform (Joint Cyber Crime Investigation Facility System), and Cyber Suspect Registry.

He said no institution could keep cyberspace secured single-handedly. This is possible only when many stakeholders come on the same platform and move forward on the same method and path.



Taking a step: Union Minister Amit Shah during the first Foundation Day celebration of I4C in New Delhi on Tuesday.. ANI

Rajesh Kumar, CEO, I4C, said the cybercrime helpline portal received 67,000 calls every day and the security agencies identified 1,500-2,000 mule accounts that are used to defraud people on a daily basis.

Mr. Shah said in a vast country like India, "a separate Cyber Suspect Registry for each State would not serve any purpose because States have boundaries but not cyber criminals".

He said that it was the need of the hour to create a suspect registry at the national level and connect States with it to create a common platform to fight cybercrime.

Single platform

He said the CFMC had been inaugurated with the idea of bringing banks, financial institutions, telecom companies, Internet service providers, and the police on a single platform.

He said the number of Internet users in the country was 25 crores on March 31, 2014 and in 2024 it was 95 crores.

Five pilgrims killed as boulder falls on them on Kedarnath route



Bad fate: Police personnel inspect the site of the debris after a landslide on the Kedarnath route in Uttarakhand on Tuesday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Five pilgrims, three of them women, were killed after a boulder fell on them during a landslip on the Kedarnath-Gaurikund route in Uttarakhand on Monday night.

The State Disaster Response Force said a group of pilgrims were returning on foot from the Kedarnath temple around 7 p.m, when they were caught in the landslip.

The SDRF and the National Disaster Response Force launched a rescue operation immediately, but it had to be suspended following bad weather and as boulders kept falling from the hill intermittently.

The route was opened just a few days ago. A portion of the road had been damaged due to landslips in July.

While one body was recovered on Monday night, four more were taken out of the debris on Tuesday.

"Three injured were also rescued from the spot," officials from the Rudraprayag district administration said.

They urged pilgrims to avoid travelling on foot after sunset.

The deceased were identified as Gopal, 50, from Dhar in Madhya Pradesh; Durgabai Khapar, 50, from Ghat district of Madhya Pradesh; Titli Devi, 70, from Vaidehi village of Nepal's Dhanwa district; Saman Bai, 50, from Dhar in Madhya Pradesh; and Bharat Bhai Niralal, 52, from Surat in Gujarat.

Access to electricity in rural areas had differential benefits, says study

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Access to electricity benefited larger, populous villages disproportionately more than hamlets with fewer households, shows an analysis of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana, a programme launched in 2005 to provide and improve electricity access to roughly four lakh villages in India.

Villages with fewer than 300 people saw limited benefits as opposed to those with 1,000 but the gains jumped dramatically in villages that had 2,000 or more people, says the analysis by researchers at the University of Chicago and the University of Maryland.

Per-capita monthly expenditure in villages of about 300 people barely changed. However, larger villages (about 2,000 people), saw a doubling of per-capita expenditure due to full electrification, an increase of about ₹1,428 a month, says the study which relied on statistical analysis of public data.



Villages with fewer than 300 people saw limited benefits as opposed to those with 1,000.

"It's clear that electricity access boosts GDP at the national level, but does it necessarily improve the lives of those living in small communities? We found the answer to be 'no'," said co-author Fiona Burlig, an assistant professor at the Chicago university's Harris School of Public Policy, in a statement.

"While we see large benefits to larger villages, bringing electricity access to the smallest, remote villages is expensive, and it doesn't necessarily lift them out of poverty. It may well be much more cost-effective to do smaller solar home systems or minigrids in small, remote locations and expand the grid to the larger villages," she said.

In computing the economic gains from electricity access, the researchers relied on data on consumption as well as the number of industrial outlets and employment in villages.

Smaller 300-person villages experience "zero return" from electrification after 20 years and full electrification had less than a 27% chance of generating economic benefits that exceed upfront costs. The 1,000-person villages experience a 13% return, just barely exceeding the benchmark for cost effectiveness. But as the village size increases to 2,000 people, there was a 33% return, far exceeding the cost-effectiveness benchmark. These villages have a 90% change of generating economic benefits that exceed upfront costs, says the study published in the *Journal of Political Economy* this month.

In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that all villages in India were electrified though the current government's commitment to provide 24/7 power to all villages is still a work in progress.

The analysis is based on Census data of 2011, the last comprehensive source of official data in India as no census has been conducted since.

PM Modi convenes first meeting of National Research Fund board

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday convened the first meeting of the Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

During the meeting, Mr. Modi said that a new beginning had been made, according to an official statement. The Prime Minister stressed the need to identify and remove obstacles in the country's research ecosystem. There was a need to set big targets, focus on attaining them, and on doing path-breaking research. Mr. Modi said that research ought to be focused on finding new solutions to existing problems.

He emphasised that problems might be global in nature but their solutions must be localised in accordance with Indian needs.



Setting targets: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the first meeting of the newly formed ANRF in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

During the meeting, the governing body decided to launch a programme in the 'hub and spoke model' by pairing universities where research is at nascent stage with top-tier established institutions in mentorship mode.

They also discussed several areas of strategic interventions by the ANRF, which include the global positioning of India in key sectors, aligning R&D with national priorities, promoting inclusive growth, capacity building, driving scientific advances and innovation ecosystems, as well as bridging the gap between academic research and industrial applications through industry-aligned translational research.

A funding body

The ANRF was conceived as a funding body to galvanise science and engineering research in the country.

It was conceived as a step-up over existing funding arrangements and meant to encourage research funding to State universities, and to have private industry participate more actively in funding basic research and development.

The ANRF aims to establish a ₹50,000 crore corpus with ₹36,000 crore of it coming in from non-government sources. For the current financial year, the ANRF has been earmarked ₹2,000 crore in the Union Budget.

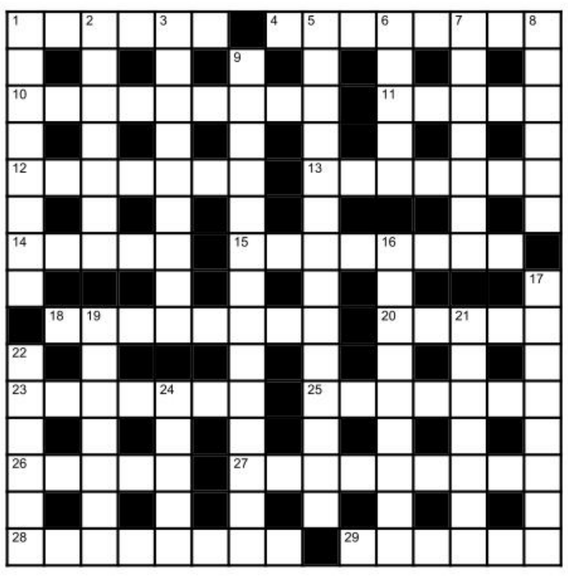
The 15-member Governing Board, as notified by the Ministry of Science and Technology, has only one industrialist – Romesh Wadhwani, an American billionaire of Indian origin and former CEO and chairperson of the Symphony Technology Group.

TH CROSSWORD + 14277

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 At opening of chamber, sign admitting one inside? (4,2)
4 Romeo in love, essentially passionate - it is all-consuming! (8)
10 Spoil date going around bad French city (9)
11 Piece of lovely, rich poem (5)
12 Fellows enthralled by moving lines, cry softly (7)
13 Problem about following this comic strip (7)
14 The short, appropriate beat (5)
15 Accompany girl in rickety tonga (3,5)
18 Model train having engine at the back, or in the front (8)
20 Single regularly in high spirits (5)
23 Electronic devices intrinsically useful at chess (7)
25 Indian state's rush for growth (7)
26 Amount of liquid in mineral mostly (5)
27 Ever undo a wrong? Try! (9)
28 Animal starting to easily help hurt soldier (8)
29 Highly rated player to consume cocaine, ecstasy and withdraw (6)

Down

1 Landed outside park ground - it's a holiday spot (8)
2 Man and dog heading off, more cheerful (7)
3 Fantastic, fine story, beyond words (9)
5 Spooner's welcoming banks arriving at common points of agreement (7,7)
6 One bag having large opening (5)
7 Legendary captain, after retirement, recruits a disheartened rebellious crew (7)
8 Free from cold? Then work! (6)
9 Scientist from East Berlin made money describing energy (6,8)
16 At war, get allies to draft laws (9)
17 Stop extremely intimate undergarments (8)
19 Doctor can't sue lunatic (7)
21 Home without walls overwhelmed by sound that's offensive (7)
22 Exclusive group with measure of intelligence to probe evidence (6)
24 Opening plot (5)

SUDOKU

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

No.SS6277 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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



FAITH

Universe is body of the Lord

Pillai Perumal Kavi's Ashta Prabhandham narrates stories of child Krishna stealing butter, and records one instance. Krishna, attracted to elaichi-flavoured milk in a house, tries to steal it and is caught in the act. The gopi picks a cane and hits Him. However, the pain was felt by her and all the other sentient and non-sentient beings. This incident has deep philosophical significance and practical application, said Thirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

Why is a blow delivered on Krishna felt by all? Acharyas say the entire universe is the body of Bhagavan as He pervades everything. Jivatmas are also His body. If He is hit, then everything in the universe will naturally feel the pain. This truth reverberates through many Holy scriptures. The central theme in all scriptures is that jivatmas are all part of paramatma. Is this philosophy applicable to practical life? Yes, If we understand that we are all Bhagavan's body and God is within you and within me, then we will comprehend the modern day concept of universal brotherhood. The joys and sorrows of one jivatma should be felt by all jivatmas. Similar to how one part of our body does not wish to harm another part, no jivatma should harm another jivatma, as God is within us as well. When we see a string of beads, we do not see the thread, similarly, God is invisible but he is the thread connecting all of us.

INBRIEF



Sundaram Home Finance eyes ₹225-cr. loan disbursals in M.P

Sundaram Home Finance Ltd. (SHFL) said it is aiming at a 50% increase in home loan disbursals in M.P. during the current fiscal. The company inaugurated the Indore branch on Tuesday. Last fiscal, SHFL disbursed ₹150 crore in M.P. and is targeting disbursements of ₹225 crore, a growth of 50% this year, said MD D. Lakshminarayanan. He said the move to open new branches in Maharashtra and Rajasthan recently was aimed at increasing SHFL's presence outside South India.

Western Carriers (India) fixes IPO price band at ₹163-172

Logistics firm Western Carriers (India) Ltd. has announced to open its initial public offering (IPO) on September 13, in the price band of ₹ 163 to ₹ 172 per share. The IPO will close on September 18. The offering includes a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹400 crore and an offer for sale worth ₹93 crore by promoter Rajendra Sethia. Bids can be made for a minimum of 87 equity shares and in multiples of 87 shares thereafter, the company said.

SMFG India Credit targets ₹600 bn in AUM by FY25

SMFG India Credit, a non-banking financial company (NBFC), announced the opening of its 1,000th branch in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. "Our aim is to expand our reach through our distribution network which will help us to multiply customer relationships and create a life-changing impact on the underbanked communities. As we aim to surpass ₹600 billion in AUM by FY25, our efforts to serve the communities where we operate have compounded," said MD & CEO Shantanu Mitra.

'Growth of credit outpacing deposits can tighten liquidity'

Raising deposits to maintain pace with the loan growth is high on lenders' agenda, a survey by FICCI-IBA carried out across public sector and private banks between January and June shows

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's banking system could face liquidity challenges if credit growth continues to outpace deposits and raising deposits to keep the credit costs low remains bankers' top agenda, a survey by FICCI-IBA shows.

The findings of the survey, carried out between January and June, show that long-term credit demand has seen continued growth for sectors such as infrastructure, metals and engineering. Infrastructure is witnessing an increase in credit flow with 77% of the respondents indicating an increase in long-term loans.

Deposit crunch

Raising lower-cost CASA deposits to keep the credit costs low remains bankers' top agenda, a survey by FICCI-IBA shows

- Infrastructure seeing higher credit flow with 77% respondents indicating an increase in long-term loans
- 62% of participating banks expect non-food industry credit growth to exceed 12%
- More than two-thirds respondent banks reported a decrease in the share of CASA deposits in total deposits



"This could be attributable to the government's capital expenditure push for infrastructure," FICCI-IBA said in a statement.

"The survey suggests that the outlook on expectation for growth of non-food industry credit over next six months is optimistic with 62% of the participating banks expecting non-food industry credit growth to be above 12%," it added.

The findings show customers' preference for higher-yielding investments and the ability to lock those rates for longer has led to a shift to high-cost deposits. More than two-thirds of respondent banks (67%) reported a decrease in the share of CASA deposits in total deposits.



Mutual fund net inflows slid 43% in August: AMFI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mutual fund (MF) inflows shrank 43% month-on-month to ₹1.08 lakh crore in August, according to the data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). The number was ₹1.89 lakh crore in July.

MF Assets under Management (AUM) grew 2.7% on a month-on-month basis to ₹66.7 lakh crore in the month of August.

This was the slowest pace of AUM growth since March when the metric shrank 2.1%.

Equity MFs continued to dominate AUMs but the growth pace at 2% in the reporting month was the slowest since the 8% growth logged in June.

Debt MF AUM growth, too, slowed to 3.6% in August from 9.3% in July, the second month of growth since June when the debt MF AUM contracted 6.5%.

"MF investors, who are becoming increasingly mature, continue to express confidence in the economy and capital markets," said Deepak Ramaraju, Senior Fund Manager, Shriram Asset Management Company Ltd.

'Carlyle to write off SpiceJet's $40 mn dues'

Reuters
BENGALURU

SpiceJet on Tuesday said that Carlyle Group's commercial aviation investment and servicing unit will write off $40.2 million of the airline's lease arrears and convert $30 million of its arrears into equity.

The conversion, at ₹100 rupees ($1.19) per share of SpiceJet, is a 56% premium to its close on Monday.

The conversion will "significantly increase" Carlyle Aviation's stake in the carrier, SpiceJet said.

'IT services to log 4-6% muted revenue rise'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian IT services industry is likely to register a second consecutive year of muted revenue growth, estimated at 4-6% in FY2025, but the operating profit margin is expected to be healthy, according to ICRA.

Persisting challenges and tepid topline growth notwithstanding, ICRA has forecast the industry's operating profit margin (OPM) at a healthy about 22% in FY2025, with attrition levels having declined considerably and seen stabilising over the near term.



Despite expectations of continued subdued growth, ICRA maintained its 'stable outlook' on Indian IT services industry, led by a well-established business position, expectation of healthy earnings and cash flow generation and strong balance sheets of sector players.

'MSMEs got ₹999 cr. from NSIC Venture Capital till July'

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) had received ₹999 crore investments till July this year from the NSIC Venture Capital Fund, which has a corpus of ₹10,000 crore as 'mother fund'.

P. Ravi Kumar, chief general manager of the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), said as part of the Self-Reliant India Funds, the MSME Ministry had earmarked ₹10,000 crore to the NSIC.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,921	0.44
US Dollar	83.98	-0.03
Gold	74,100	0.81
Brent oil	69.08	-3.57

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2986.40	22.25
Adani Ports	1453.40	17.50
Apollo Hosp	6921.55	60.85
Asian Paints	3295.05	14.30
Axis Bank	1187.20	16.35
Bajaj Auto	10987.75	140.15
Bajaj Finserv	1824.50	-35.95
Bajaj Finance	7241.85	-105.60
Bharti Airtel	1577.85	35.20
BPCL	345.95	-1.85
Britannia Ind	5969.90	30.45
Cipla	1632.00	11.85
Coal India	491.10	6.65
Divis Lab	5426.45	252.95
Dr Reddys Lab	6650.40	-5.50
Eicher Motors	4737.20	-10.15
Grasim Ind	2702.55	-7.80
HCL Tech	1779.10	32.35
HDFC Bank	1650.35	3.85
HDFC Life	702.90	-32.90
Hero MotoCorp	5669.70	-75.60
Hindalco	659.50	0.95
Hind Unilever	2898.60	-23.20
ICICI Bank	1237.30	2.30
IndusInd Bank	1435.55	7.45
Infosys	1912.30	17.65
ITC	513.60	1.85
JSW Steel	938.75	4.50
Kotak Bank	1791.60	1.45
L&T	3596.15	17.85
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6343.35	196.75
M&M	2690.00	-18.85
Maruti Suzuki	12263.40	117.65
NestleIndia	2535.50	18.75
NTPC	396.30	6.45
ONGC	295.60	-3.30
PowerGrid Corp	334.15	5.60
Reliance Ind	2923.05	-1.85
SBI Life	1853.45	-48.30
State Bank	782.65	-1.60
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3260.05	-55.65
Sun Pharma	1836.35	14.50
TataConsumerProduct	1204.15	12.10
Tata Motors	1035.80	-2.90
Tata Steel	149.42	-0.05
TCS	4507.85	58.30
Tech Mahindra	1607.40	28.20
Titan	3727.40	42.85
UltraTech Cement	11541.05	46.70
Wipro	525.75	10.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.78	84.10
Euro	92.41	92.76
British Pound	109.64	110.07
Japanese Yen (100)	58.54	58.76
Chinese Yuan	11.77	11.81
Swiss Franc	98.83	99.22
Singapore Dollar	64.18	64.44
Canadian Dollar	61.72	61.96
Malaysian Ringitt	19.28	19.37
Australian Dollar	55.83	56.05

Source:Indian Bank

Even as unemployment 'halves' in Haryana, its youth seek jobs abroad

JOB SCENARIO

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM



Data in doubt: Many question the official numbers showing a halving of urban unemployment among those aged 15 and over. AP

The high unemployment rate in the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled Haryana, reflected even in Union government surveys, has been a major weapon in the hands of the Opposition to attack the State government, even more so as the State goes to the polls in a few weeks from now.

But the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the January-March quarter in FY24, shows that the unemployment rate among those above 15 years of age as per current weekly status in urban areas has more than halved to 4.1% from 8.8% since the corresponding quarter in the year before, dropping below the national average of 6.7%.

Sharp contrast

This is in sharp contrast to the annual PLFS results for FY22 that showed that Haryana with an unemployment rate of 9%, more than double the national rate of 4.1%, had fared poorly compared with its neighbours including Uttar Pradesh (2.9%), Himachal Pradesh (4%), Rajasthan (4.7%) and Punjab (6.4%).

Attributing the high unemployment rate in FY22 in the State to the global post-Covid economic slowdown in sectors such as hospitality and civil aviation, Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Rajesh Khullar told *The Hindu* that job creation both in public and private sector had been the government's top priority. He said the government was on a "job offering spree" in the past few months to fill government posts.

"Around 30,000 regular government jobs, including in Group C and D, have been filled this year so far with the Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini handing over appointment letters to 7,500 trained graduate teachers on July 30. The government aims to give 50,000 regular jobs before the Assembly polls on October 5, but some of these appointments have been delayed as the Model Code of Conduct came into force on August 16, " he added.

'Mission 60,000'

His predecessor Manohar Lal had in January announced "Mission 60,000" for youth employment for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families by engaging them as "Van Mitras", "E-Sewa Mitras" and "Kisan Mitras" and imparting training to 10,000 youth to become contractors, said Mr. Khullar.

The proposed manufacturing plants of Maurti Suzuki and Suzuki Motorcycle at Industrial Model Township at Kharkhoda in Sonipat district to be commissioned next year are likely to generate about 15,000 direct jobs, he said, adding these efforts by the government were getting reflected in the recent job survey reports.

Dismissing official job statistics as mere "jugglery of data", Naveen Jaihind, president of Jai Hind Sena, a social organisation said not enough government jobs had been filled in the past few years. Protesting in a unique way against unemployment in the agrarian State, Mr. Jaihind, led a "Berozgaro Ki Baraat" (wedding procession of unemployed) in Rohtak in January last year, to highlight the socio-economic implications of high unemployment among the youth.

Mr. Jaihind, who is also former Haryana AAP president, said the State's skewed sex ratio, coupled with high unemployment rate had led to rising number of young men forced to remain single in rural Haryana pushing them into drug-addiction and crime. A resident of Rohtak's Meham, Shankar Dayal Sharma, a Masters in Physiotherapy, said though every hospital and health care centre needs a physiotherapist, the government had advertised only eight vacancies a decade ago. Working part-time at a nearby clinic for a paltry ₹9,000 per month, Mr. Sharma, 30, said he was tired of waiting for a physiotherapist's job and was ready to work in a Group-D government job if the opportunity arose. "A couple of relatives are teaching at private schools. They hold PhD degrees. Yet, they are willing to work Group-D jobs as the government has failed to offer them jobs as per their qualifications," Mr. Sharma added.

Former Congress Chief Minister and opposition leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who is critical of the government's efforts in jobs creation, said it is instead sending workers to war-torn Israel. Mr. Khattar's government facilitated 10,000 people to be recruited in Israel's construction sector amid a labour shortage there. He said the government had not filled more than two lakh posts across departments, and was instead recruiting non-Haryanvi residents to higher positions.

'Going abroad'

A Jind-based travel agent, seeking anonymity, spoke of a growing trend among youth from Haryana's districts bordering Punjab emigrating legally or illegally for some years now, in search of better opportunities. "Government jobs still remain the top preference for the youth as they look for stability," said the agent. "But there have not been enough appointments in the past few years, more so under the present government. The youth have begun going abroad. They are inspired by their friends who have gone abroad and who present a rosy picture of their lives on social media."



GENEVA

Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan convicted of rape in Switzerland



AFP

Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan has been convicted of rape by a Geneva appeals court and sentenced to jail. After being acquitted last year, a Geneva appeals court said on Tuesday it found the 62-year-old former Oxford University professor "guilty of rape and sexual coercion" of a woman in a Geneva hotel 16 years ago. AFP

HANOI

Vietnam evacuates 59,000 as toll from typhoon floods climbs to 82



AFP

Tens of thousands were forced to flee their homes on Tuesday as massive floods inundated northern Vietnam in the wake of Typhoon Yagi, and the death toll climbed to 82. More than 59,000 people have been forced to evacuate their homes in Yen Bai province, after the floodwaters engulfed almost 18,000 homes. AFP

MOSCOW

Ukrainian drone strike kills woman near Moscow, says Russia



AFP

A wave of Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia overnight killed a woman near Moscow, the first time someone has been killed in a Ukrainian attack near the capital since Russia's military offensive began in 2022. Russia said it had downed 144 Ukrainian drones from a barrage that disrupted air traffic at Moscow's airports. AFP

LONDON

EU court rejects Google's appeal, orders it to pay €2.4 billion in fine



REUTERS

Google lost its last bid to overturn a EU antitrust penalty, after the bloc's top court ruled against it on Tuesday in a case that came with a whopping fine. The court rejected Google's appeal against the €2.4 billion penalty from the European Commission for violating antitrust rules with its comparison shopping service. AP

Israel Minister hints at interim truce, but does not commit to ending war

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant says Israel should achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages; he refrains from committing to Hamas's demand of a complete end to Tel Aviv's Gaza operations

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Israel's Defence Minister says the window is closing on an opportunity to reach a temporary cease-fire deal with the Hamas militant group that he believes could also bring calm to the country's volatile northern border with Lebanon.

Speaking to reporters, Yoav Gallant said that conditions are ripe for at least a six-week pause in fighting that would include the release of many of the hostages held in Gaza. However, he would not commit to a permanent end to the fighting, as Hamas has demanded, raising questions about the feasibility of a deal.



Multi-pronged attack: Israeli military operates during a raid in Tulkarm in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Tuesday. REUTERS

"Israel should achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages," he said. After that period, he said, "we maintain the right to operate and achieve our goals – including the destruction of Hamas."

A main area of disagreement in the truce talks has been Hamas's demand for an end to the nearly year-old war and a full withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip.

Sore point

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has raised a new sticking point in recent weeks, saying that Israel must remain stationed in a strategic corridor along Gaza's border with Egypt indefinitely.

Mr. Gallant has been quoted in Israeli media as saying that Israel could withdraw from the corridor for six weeks – to allow hostages to go free without risking Israel's security. The two men reportedly got into a heated shouting match at a recent Cabinet meeting where ministers overwhelmingly sided with Mr. Netanyahu.

During Monday's meeting with foreign journalists, Mr. Gallant was asked about his relationship with the Prime Minister.

"As Defence Minister, my first priority is the state of Israel and those who protect her, and then everything else," he said.

Germany, France, U.K. slam Iran over 'missiles for Russia'

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Germany, France and Britain on Tuesday condemned what they said was Iran's delivery of ballistic missiles to Russia for use in the Ukraine war and declared new sanctions targeting air transport.

"We will be taking immediate steps to cancel bilateral air services agreements with Iran," the three European countries said in a joint statement, adding that they would also "work towards imposing sanctions on Iran Air".

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken earlier had said, on a visit to London, that Russia had received shipments of the ballistic missiles and "will likely use them within weeks in its Ukraine operation".



Fresh allegations: The three European countries said they had proof about Iran sending missiles to Russia. REUTERS

London, Paris and Berlin said that, despite their warnings of "new and significant measures against Iran" in case it sent missiles, "we now have confirmation that Iran has made these transfers".

"This is a further escalation of Iran's military support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and will see Iranian missiles reaching European soil, increasing the suffering of the Ukrainian people," they said.

"This act is an escalation by both Iran and Russia, and is a direct threat to European security."

Maldives Ministers resign after jibe against Indian PM

Agence France-Presse
MALÉ

Sources said the resignations came ahead of a potential visit by Mr. Muizzu to New Delhi

Two Maldivian Ministers resigned on Tuesday, the government said, months after their suspension following a furious spat with neighbouring powerhouse India for alleged "derogatory remarks" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu, who suspended three Ministers in January for their derogatory remarks against Mr. Modi, is seeking to rebuild ties with New Delhi.

Known as a luxury holiday destination, the atoll nation has also become a geopolitical hotspot, with New Delhi suspicious of Beijing's influence in Male.

India's government has traditionally considered the Maldives, home to around half a million people, within its sphere of influence.

A government official said both had resigned citing "personal reasons".

Official sources said the resignations came ahead of a potential visit by Mr. Muizzu to New Delhi. They also follow a visit last month by India's Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar.

SpaceX mission launches all-civilian crew for first private spacewalk in orbit

Agence France-Presse
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

SpaceX launched its daring Polaris Dawn mission on Tuesday, a multi-day orbital expedition carrying a four-member civilian crew for the first spacewalk by non-professional astronauts.

The crew, led by Shift4 Payments CEO Jared Isaacman, is also aiming to fly deeper into space than any other manned mission in more than half a century, reaching a peak altitude of 1,400 km.

"Liftoff of Polaris Dawn!" SpaceX said on X, alongside a photo of the take-off.

The highlight of the mission will be the first spacewalk composed entirely of non-professionals, who are wearing sleek, newly developed SpaceX extravehicular activity (EVA) suits outfitted with heads-up displays, helmet cameras and an advanced joint mobility system.



New frontier: SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Falcon 9 rocket blasts off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. GETTY IMAGES

Applause broke out across the mission control centre as the Dragon capsule separated successfully from the main engine and the first glimpses of earth came into view. "The Polaris Dawn crew is now in Zero-G!" SpaceX wrote on X minutes later, as the crew experienced zero-gravity.

On the first day of their mission, the craft will travel so high that it will briefly enter the Van Allen radiation belt, a region teeming with high-energy charged particles that can pose health risks to humans over extended periods.

Multiple delays

The mission was delayed several times, initially due to a technical issue with the launch tower and then because of weather constraints.

The Crew Dragon capsule will not dock with the International Space Station, which is why the weather had to be favourable during both the launch and splashdown phase, around six days after liftoff.

Russia captures a town, three villages in eastern Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia's Defence Ministry on Tuesday said it had captured the town of Krasnogorivka in eastern Ukraine as well as three villages in different parts of the Donetsk region.

The Ministry said Russian troops had "liberated" the town and the villages of Grygorivka, Galytsynivka and Vodiane.

The Ministry statement used the Russian names for all four settlements.

Key stronghold

Krasnogorivka, which had a population before the conflict of 16,000, is in an area where the front line has remained relatively unchanged for weeks.

The town lies some 20 km west of Russian-held Donetsk and had served as a key stronghold for Kyiv.

It became more vulnerable after the fall of nearby Marinka in December 2023 and Avdiivka in February 2024.

Russian troops have been advancing steadily in the Donetsk region in recent weeks and are closing in on the town of Pokrovsk, a vital logistics and transport hub for Ukrainian forces.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week that seizing the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland which includes the Donetsk region, was Russia's "primary objective".

राजस्थान स्कूल शिक्षा परिषद्, जयपुर
शिक्षा संकुल, ब्लॉक नम्बर-5, द्वितीय तल, जयपुर।
क्रमांक :- रा.स्कू.शि.प./जय/लेखा/यूनिफॉर्म/2024-25/3148 दिनांक :- 07/09/2024

ई-बोली आमंत्रण सूचना /2024-25

राजस्थान स्कूल शिक्षा परिषद् द्वारा राजकीय विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत कक्षा 6 से 8 तक के समस्त विद्यार्थियों एवं कक्षा 9 से 12 तक की समस्त छात्राओं को यूनिफॉर्म उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए यूनिफॉर्म का कपड़ा (Fabric) आपूर्ति करने हेतु इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं से दिनांक 26/09/2024 को सायं 6:00 बजे तक ई–बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है।

विस्तृत आमंत्रण सूचना एवं दस्तावेज वेबसाईट **"http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in" & "http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"** तथा विभागीय पोर्टल **www.rajsmsa.nic.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। UBN - RSE2425GLOB01070, Est.cost : राशि रू. 22304.00 लाख (GST सहित)

राज.संवाद/सी/24/5022 राज्य परियोजना निदेशक

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LTD.
NOTICE INVITING BIDS NO. 07 & 08 (2024-25)

RVPN invites competitive BIDS for following Civil works from experienced, reputed contractors registered in appropriate class with RRVPNL & A or AA class in Central/ State Government Department and their undertakings and registered in GST department. The Tender/bid shall only be submitted through online tendering system of http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in The interested bidders shall have to be enrolled/ registered with portal of **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for participating in the bidding process. S. No. 01 to 15 (NIB No. 07 (2024-25) & 01 to 07 (NIB No. 08 (2024-25) UBN No. (VPN2425WSOB01329) to (VPN2425WSOB01334), (VPN2425WSOB01336) to (VPN2425WSOB01342), (VPN2425WSOB01348) to (VPN2425WSOB01349), (VPN2425WSOB01357) to (VPN2425WSOB01362), (VPN2425WSOB01364)

Superintending Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5029 RRVPN/TR-6348/2024 (Civil), Jodhpur

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Request for Proposals

e-Tender-cum-e-Reverse Auction No.: **WBSEDCL/PT&P/e-NIT/03(RPO)/2024**, **Date: 11.09.2024** is invited by the **Chief Engineer (PT&P)**, **WBSEDCL**, Vidyut Bhavan, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091, for purchase of power from renewable sources for meeting RPO (non-solar) from **21st September, 2024** to **31st March, 2025,** through Traders/Licensees/Bidders. Interested parties may download the tender documents from the website https://www.mstcecommerce.com directly with the help of DSC from **11:00 hrs.** of **11.09.2024** and submit the same on or before **17:00 hrs.** of **16.09.2024**. Details will be available on the Company's website: **www.wbsedcl.in**. ICA- T16218(3)/2024

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Kankaria Lake Front Department,
Kankaria Lake, Gate no. 3, Vyayamshala-380008

EOI for Modernization and Upgradation of Kids City with new-age, tangible activities for Kids to learn & enjoy - 2024 (Re-Invite)
E-Notice/EOI Notice No.2/2024-25 Kankaria Lake Front

AMC through the **Kankaria Lake Front Department** intends to invite expressions of interest (EOI) for Modernization and Up gradation of Kids City with new-age, tangible activities for Kids to learn & enjoy. Reputed firms/management agencies/participants with registered firms can submit concept notes for Kid City in Kankaria Lake Front. The bidders shall propose various inside building and outside building activities. Reputed parties with the necessary qualifications and capabilities, with supporting documentary evidence are requested to participate. Interested parties may download the EOI document from www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in and http://tender.nprocure.com from Dt. 11/09/2024 to 18/09/2024 up to 12:00 hrs and submit their applications through e-tendering on http://tender.nprocure.com by 18:00 hrs. Dt. 18/09/2024 and through hard copies at office of the tender officer central record department, mezzanine floor AMC Danapith on/by 20/09/2024 by 14:00 hrs. The opening of tender will be on 20/09/2024 by 15:00 hrs.

Deputy Municipal Commissioner (KLF/SZ)

PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
पाण्डिच्चेरी विश्वविद्यालय புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
A Central University
Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Administrative Building, R.V. Nagar, Kalapet, Puducherry - 605014
Recruitment Cell

Advt.No: PU/RC/2024/47 **Dated: 20.08.2024**

RECRUITMENT OF STATUTORY POSITION

Online Applications are invited from Indian citizens who are highly qualified and dedicated with proven leadership qualities for the post of

• Registrar

For details of the post, Minimum Eligibility Criteria, Experience, General instructions, terms & conditions etc., visit the University website: **recruitment.pondiuni.edu.in.**

The Last date for submission of online applications is **20.09.2024** at 5.00 PM (IST). The Last date for receipt of print out of Hard copy is **27.09.2024.**

Off-line applications will not be entertained under any circumstances.

REGISTRAR (i/c)

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/63 -2024-25

The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0637/0924 [3rd Call] [RFX No.7000033223] (Two Bid System) SITC of capacitor banks of voltage ratings of 100kV & 220kV – 325MVAR in Phase –VI [6.6] at various EHV substations under Vashi Zone in MSETCL.	2868.05 Lakhs / 25000.00	24.09.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. 24.09.2024 at 17:15 Hrs.

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)
No.022-69852711/ Cell No.8329909813
Email: eegrp6@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

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MENTALITY

Kohli is an Australian in thought and action: Steve Smith



FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

Steve Smith opened up on his bond with Virat Kohli, revealing that they often exchange text messages and pointed out reason why his Indian counterpart is an "Australian". "The way he gets into it at all the way, gets into the challenge, and tries to get on top of the opposition. He is probably most Australian of the Indian players, I would say."

SPIN THEN, PACE NOW

Jayasuriya compares The Oval wins as player and head coach



GETTY IMAGES

Sanath Jayasuriya compared Sri Lanka's two Test wins against England. During the famous win at The Oval in 1998, Jayasuriya was the architect , scoring 213 in the first innings, while Muralitharan picked up 16 wickets in the match. In the recent third Test, pacers Fernando, Rathnayake, Fernando and Kumara did the job.

MAKING THE GRADE

Sable to join Neeraj at the Diamond League finale in Brussels



AP

3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable will run in his maiden Diamond League Final in Brussels, joining star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra in the season-ending event, as he is listed among 12 participants for the winner-takes-all race on Friday. Sable's event is scheduled for September 13, while Neeraj will be in action on September 14.

AIMING HIGH

Newey targets championship glory after joining Aston Martin



GETTY IMAGES

Adrian Newey is plotting to turn Aston Martin into world champions after he was named managing technical partner on Tuesday. "They (the team) have all the key pieces of infrastructure needed to make Aston Martin a world championship-winning team and I am very much looking forward to helping reach that goal."

Arjun and Harika to spearhead India's challenge at Olympiad

The Gukesh-Ding contest expected to attract eyeballs ahead of their World championship clash; Caruana to lead USA's campaign in the absence of Nakamura; the women start as one of the favourites for the crown even without Humpy

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Koneru Humpy is not part of the Indian women's team for the Chess Olympiad.

She is not just the country's best female player by some distance but one of the strongest in the history of the women's game as well. She is ranked No. 6 in the world.

Even in her absence, India starts as one of the favourites for the women's title in the ultimate team competition in chess, which was inaugurated at Budapest on Tuesday.

India is, in fact, the top seed.

Humpy had led her team to the bronze medal at the last Olympiad, at Mamallapuram, near Chennai, in 2022.

The Indian men didn't disappoint, either. India-2 won the bronze in the open section. As the host, India had fielded three teams each in either section.



Stars on show: India, a mix of youth and experience, is expected to mount a stiff challenge. CHESS.COM

Jumbo field

There is no such luxury in the mammoth tournament - teams from 197 countries are in the fray - this time around, but both the men and the women from India will be in focus. The men are seeded second.

The United States - even without the World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura - is the top seed, with an average Elo rating of 2757.

The World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana will spearhead the US challenge.

India's average rating is 2753.

Exciting talents

The team is built around three of the most exciting young talents in world chess - Arjun Erigaisi, D. Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa, ranked fourth, seventh and 12th in the world respectively.

Vidit Gujrathi, who has authored one of the most fascinating turnaround stories in chess of late, and the vastly experienced P. Harikrishna complete the team. China (2724 Elo points) is the third seed.

The biggest attraction in that team is Ding Liren, the World champion, though he may not be in the best form.

His potential match-up with Gukesh could be the most anticipated game of this Olympiad: the duo will be meeting for the World championship match in Singapore starting on November 23.

Like India, Uzbekistan – seeded fourth – has some extremely talented youngsters.

The European teams like Norway, led by the World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, Germany and the Netherlands too are pretty strong.

In the women's event, India's main challengers should be Georgia, Poland, China and Ukraine.

D. Harika is India's strongest player and she could expect solid support from R. Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal and Tania Sachdev.

The opening round will be played on Wednesday. There will be a total of 11 rounds.

India's squads

Men: Arjun Erigaisi, D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi and P. Harikrishna

Women: D. Harika, R. Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal and Tania Sachdev

The Indian men are seeded second in the tournament, behind United States

The Indian women are the top seeds

No play again; the venue comes under the scanner



Sorry sight: Groundsmen covering the pitch on the second day of the Test. R.V. MOORTHY

AFG VS NZ

Shayan Acharya
GREATER NOIDA

There was more disappointment for the Afghanistan and New Zealand camps as play was called off due to a wet outfield for the second successive day in the one-off Test at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium on Tuesday. The opening day's play had been abandoned for the same reason.

After a heavy downpour on Monday evening, the groundstaff struggled to get the ground in shape.

Even though it remained sunny throughout the day, parts of the outfield were so soggy that the groundsmen used two fans to dry a spot on the offside. Play was called off at 3 p.m.

Questions are being raised on why the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) chose Greater Noida as its home venue. "The BCCI offered us three venues: Greater Noida, Kanpur and Bengaluru. We chose this one as it was convenient in terms of logistics. It was closer to Delhi and connectivity from Kabul was also better," said Menhajuddin Naz, ACB's international cricket manager.

"This has always been our home venue and we have hosted teams here since 2016. During our discussions with the BCCI, this venue was offered and it was the logistical one for us," said Naz, who revealed that ACB and New Zealand Cricket (NZC) had done a "recce" of the ground before the Test.

Players bat for DRS in domestic competitions

Abhishek Saini
ANANTAPUR

The use of DRS during the ongoing Duleep Trophy has been lauded by the players who are advocating its use on a full-time basis in other domestic competitions as well.

"It is a great initiative. I have been playing domestic cricket since the last 10 years and there have been a lot of instances where I have been given out wrongly. As a batter, it is hard. You get one chance and then you are given out by a wrong decision. Both teams have an added advantage. We are using technology for the betterment of the game," said Ricky Bhui of India-D after the first round match against India-C.

Manav Suthar, who claimed a seven-wicket haul in the second innings and benefited from DRS on two occasions, said the technology gives something more for the bowlers. Suthar reviewed the umpire's decisions on two occasions – against Devdutt Padikkal and Bhui – and was successful in overturning the call both times.

"On the Padikkal wicket, I was not very sure. But wicketkeeper Abishek Porel was certain there was glove involved. We were able to convince our captain and ended up getting the wicket. So, in those kinds of situations it helps," said Suthar.



Bring it on: In the India-C vs India-D match, the DRS was used 13 times but the decisions were overturned only thrice. X@BCCI

During India-C's match against India-D, the DRS was put to use 13 times, with the decisions being overturned only three times.

In the game in Bengaluru, between India-A and India-B, the system was used 15 times and only two decisions were changed.

In particular, the use of the no-ball tracking, in control of the third umpire, brought forth the frequent overstepping by bowlers in both games. Akash Deep of India-A and Saransh Jain of India-D were caught overstepping repeatedly in the two games.

The India-A versus India-B match saw as many as 19 no balls over the four innings.

Umpire B.K. Ravi, who has officiated in the Ranji Trophy in the past, agreed that the third umpire checking for no-ball removes the scope of human error.

"Sometimes, we miss it. Wherever it is touch and go, we give it in favour of the bowler.

"If the batter is dismissed they can always go back and check it. But if I call a no-ball and it turns out to be a legal delivery that would be unfair because the bowler does not have an option to check that. That's why it is better to wait for it [third umpire's call].

The use of full-time DRS has been requested by teams and coaches in the past too. The technology was first brought to domestic games during the 2019/20 season, though its use has been mostly restricted to televised, big-ticket games.

"Definitely, it will be good from the umpires' and players' point of view. Earlier, players used to complain, pinning the blame on the umpire. Now, it can provide clarity," said Ravi.



Taking charge: Mayank will helm India-A in the absence of Gill. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Mayank named India-A skipper for the second round

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The BCCI men's selection committee on Tuesday announced changes for the second round of the Duleep Trophy to be played at Anantapur from September 12.

Captain Shubman Gill, K.L. Rahul, Dhruv Jurel, Kuldeep Yadav, and Akash Deep from India-A have been named in India's Test squad for the series against Bangladesh. Mayank Agarwal has been named the captain.

The updated squads: India-A: Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra (wk), Shashwat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar (wk), Shaik Rasheed, Shams Mulani, and Aaqib Khan.

India-B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (Capt.), Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R. Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N. Jagadeesan (wk), Suyash Prabhudessai, Rinku Singh, and Himanshu Mantri (wk).

India-C (unchanged): Ruturaj Gaikwad (Capt.), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (wk), B. Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (wk), and Sandeep Warrier.

India-D: Shreyas Iyer (Capt.), Atharva Taide, Yash Dubey, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, K.S. Bharat (wk), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (wk), Nishant Sindhu, and Vidwath Kaverappa.

Hyderabad on the cusp of Buchi Babu glory

S. Dipak Ragav
DINDIGUL

Hyderabad has one hand on the Buchi Babu tournament trophy after taking the crucial first-innings lead against Chhattisgarh and setting a target of 518 for an outright victory on the penultimate day of the summit clash at the NPR College ground here on Tuesday.

Resuming at 145 for eight, Chhattisgarh was bowled out for 181. Gagandeep Singh (59 not out) top-scored for his side which conceded a 236-run lead.

Rahul on song

The southern team's batters then bullied the Chhattisgarh bowlers in the second innings, led by skipper Rahul Singh (68, 87b, 8x4, 2x6), who slammed a breezy half-century to take his side to 111 for one at lunch.

The cushion of a huge lead allowed the batters to play freely, and Rahul looked sublime while taking on the bowlers. He cut, went inside out, and reverse-swept the spinners to find the boundaries regularly.

The captain and opener M. Abhirath Reddy (39) added 95 runs for the second wicket off just 101 balls.

However, in the session after tea, Jeevesh Butte (six for 56) ran through the Hyderabad line-up, taking four wickets in quick time to complete a five-for.



Silver lining: For Chhattisgarh, off-spinner Butte's six-wicket haul provided the only cheer on day three. G. MOORTHY

The off-spinner first removed Rohit Rayudu, caught behind and then accounted for Hima Teja, who top-edged a sweep to the wicketkeeper.

In pursuit of quick runs, the Hyderabad middle-order batters holed out in the deep before being bowled out for 281 at the stroke of stumps.

Chhattisgarh needs a miracle from its batters on the final day to chase down the huge target and pry the cup out of Hyderabad's hands.

The scores:
Hyderabad 417 & 281 in 70.2 overs (Rahul Singh 68, Rahul Radesh 41, Jeevesh Butte 6/56) vs Chhattisgarh 181 in 70.2 overs (Gagandeep Singh 59 n.o., Aniket Reddy 4/56).



Champion bunch: The Paralympics medallists with Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at the felicitation function on Tuesday. ANI

Big cash bonanza for Paralympics medallists

Seven winners get ₹75 lakh while silver, bronze and mixed-event medallists receive ₹50, ₹30, and ₹22.5 lakh each respectively

GENERAL

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The last batch of athletes returned from the Paris Paralympics on Tuesday and were felicitated by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya at an event here with the sports minister also announcing cash prizes for medallists and assuring them of greater support to prepare for the 2028 Games.

The government declared ₹75 lakh each for every gold medallist, ₹50 lakh for silver and ₹30 lakh for the bronze medallists. Medallists in mixed team events would be awarded ₹22.5 lakh each.

With 50 of the 84 participants supported through TOPS, Mandaviya highlighted the government's role in India's progress at the Paralympics, going from 19 medals at Tokyo in 2021 to 29 this time and pledged full support and facilities.

"The country is rising in para sports, from four medals in 2016 to 29 in Paris, finishing 18," he said.

Present on the occasion were 17 medallists including para athletics gold medallists Navdeep, Dharambir, Sumit Antil and Praveen Kumar, silver medallists Yogesh Kathuniya, Nishad Kumar, Sharad Kumar, Ajeet Singh, Sachin Khilari, bronze medallists Preeti Pal, Mariyappan, Hokato Sema, Sundar Singh Gurjar and Simran Sharma, para archers Harvinder Singh and Sheetal Devi, and para judoka Kapil Parmar.

While Sheetal was expectedly the most recognisable, the ones most in demand were javelin thrower Navdeep Singh, who won India's seventh gold in a dramatic fashion, and double gold medallist Sumit, who also set a new Asian Games record.

"My coach Naval Singh has worked a lot with me. He has trained me for almost seven years and played a big role in my career.

"All credit for my technique and performance goes to him," Navdeep said.

Sumit, meanwhile, only craved tea.

"I have not had tea for a few days, that's what I want to have with my family. But it feels good. I will now try to break the 75m mark soon," said Sumit.

A fierce competition on the cards

GOLF

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hitaashee Bakshi and Sneha Singh will spearhead a strong field in the 11th leg of the Hero Women's Pro golf tour at the Delhi Golf Club on Wednesday.

Other leading Indian players like Tvesa Malik, Amandeep Drall, Ridhima Dilawari, Neha Tripathi and Seher Atwal will look to grab their share of the prize purse of ₹14 lakh. Top players like Diksha Dagar, Pranavi Urs and Vani Kapoor have opted to prepare for the European Tour later in the month.

There will be nine amateurs in the fray, led by Zara Anand who was tied 10th in the recent Junior Asia Pacific championship in Manila. Mannat Brar, the women's amateurs champion, had done well to qualify for the semifinals of the R&A Juniors event in United Kingdom.

The competition is expected to be strong as the top performers of the domestic tour will get a chance to compete in the Hero women's Indian Open scheduled next month.

SNAPSHOTS

Hashika swims to a new mark in women's 400m freestyle

MANGALURU: Karnataka's Hashika Ramachandra created a new National women's 400m freestyle record at the 77th senior National aquatics on Tuesday. Hashika's 4:24.70s broke Richa Mishra's mark of 4:25.76s in 2011.

Jasmine beats Iram in the pre-quarters

FARIDABAD: Jasmine Rawat beat Iram Zaidi 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 in the pre-quarterfinals of the Chamunda ₹1,00,000 AITA women's tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The results (pre-quarters): Aditi Rawat bt Samriti Punyani 6-1, 7-5; Divya Sharma bt Manya Sharma 6-2, 6-2; Aditi Tyagi bt Eva Raj Sah 6-2, 6-1; Snigdha Patibandla bt Manshi Singh 6-4, 6-2; Prisha Prasad bt Kashish Bhatia 3-3 (conceded); Shefali Arora bt Bhumika Dahiya 6-0, 7-6(2); Jasmine Rawat bt Iram Zaidi 6-1, 2-6, 6-2; Riya Sachdeva bt Mahi Trivedi 6-0, 6-2.

LIVE TELECAST

Tennis: Davis Cup final (Group stage): Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 8.30 a.m. onwards

Afghanistan vs New Zealand: Only Test, day 3, Eurosport & FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

Hockey: Asian Champions Trophy: Sony Sports Ten 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11 a.m.; Malaysia vs India, 1.15 p.m. & 3.30 p.m.

England vs Australia: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 11 p.m.

AIFF suspends Anwar for four months

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The AIFF on Tuesday imposed a four-month suspension on India International Anwar Ali after finding the defender "guilty" of illegally terminating his four-year contract with Mohun Bagan, which is also eligible for a huge compensation of ₹12.90 crore.

Anwar's parent club Delhi FC and East Bengal, with whom the defender had entered into a five-year deal, have been banned from registering players for two transfer windows – 2024-25 winter and 2025-26 summer.

Anwar's transfer to East Bengal from Mohun Bagan had sparked a controversy in the Kolkata Maidan.

Ikram set to continue as FIH president

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Incumbent Mohammad Tayyab Ikram is all set to continue as the International Hockey Federation (FIH) president for another term, being the lone candidate in the fray after completion of the scrutiny and approval of nominations.

The nomination period ended on August 31 and the Elections Oversight Panel (EOP) determined that all nominations submitted met the required standards and criteria, the FIH said in a statement.

The Pakistan-born Ikram had taken over for a two-year period in 2022 following Narinder Batra's resignation midway through his tenure. The current one will be his first full four-year term.



Tayyab Ikram.
FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

There are three candidates for each of the two Executive Board member spots (male and female), elections to which will be held at the 49th FIH Congress in Muscat on November 9.

Qualifier Rishab bows out in first round of Guangzhou Challenger

Sports Bureau

James McCabe of Australa beat qualifier Rishab Agarwal 6-2, 6-4 in the first round of the $133,250 Challenger tennis tournament in Guangzhou on Tuesday.

Other results: $25,000 ITF men, Bali: First round: Tanguy Genier (Sui) bt Sai Karteek Reddy 7-5, 6-3; Mathieu Scaglia (Fra) bt Yuvan Nandal 7-5, 6-4; Andre Ilagani (USA) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(3); Sidharth Rawat bt Claudio Lumanau (Ina) 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Bogdan Bobrov & Sai Karteek Reddy bt Abhinav Shanmugam & Freek Van Donselaar (Ned) 7-6(1), 6-1; Ali Habib (GBR) & Yuvan Nandal bt Sicheng Li (Chn) & Ethan Terblanche (RSA) 6-4, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Tehran: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): S.D. Prajwal Dev & Dev Javia bt Amir Adabjou & Yunes Talavar (Iri) 6-2, 6-0; Raghav Jaisinghani & Arthav Neema bt Parth Aggarwal & Jagmeet Singh 7-6(14), 6-7(5), [12-10].

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Maximus Jones (Tha) & Karan Singh bt Alfredo Casso (Mex) & Ricardo Rodriguez-Pace (Ven) 6-1, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF men, Singapore: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Yuttana Charoenphon & Natthayut Nithithananont (Tha) bt Shivank Bhatnagar & Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 4-6, 6-3, [10-5].

ITF women: First round: Rutuja Bhosale bt Akanksha Nitture 6-3, 6-2.

$60,000 ITF women, Perth: First round: Ayano Shimizu (Jpn) bt Ankita Raina 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Talia Gibson & Maddison Inglis (Aus) bt Haruna Arakawa (Jpn) & Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-1, 7-6(4).

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ashmitha Easwaramurthi & Kanna Soeda (Jpn) bt Sophie Chua (Sgp) & Madeleine Jessup (Tpe) 6-1, 7-5; Viera Deeperm (Tha) & Elina Nepliy bt Akanksha Nitture & Soha Sadiq 7-6(6), 5-7, [10-4]; Kang Na Hyun & Shin Jiho (Kor) bt Riya Bhatia & Zhang Ying (Chn 7-6(6), 6-2.



Shubhi Gupta — a ray of hope at a time when there are few women chess 'superstars'

It has been a smooth ride on the 64 squares for the girl from Ghaziabad, UP, after learning the game from her father six years ago; what started as a hobby turned competitive a year later, and has now become a family affair



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

P.K. Ajith Kumar

India boasts a stellar line-up of young male chess talents. D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin are now familiar names, even to those who aren't the most ardent of chess followers.

Divya Deshmukh sits atop the ranking list of the world's best junior girls. She is the reigning World junior girls' champion – she won the title in convincing style at Ahmedabad a couple of months ago. But, there aren't many young Indian girls who are in the same class.

In such a scenario, Shubhi Gupta offers hope.

She was, in fact, the best performing Indian at that World juniors after Divya. She had finished fourth – after beginning her campaign as the 39th seed. Even more importantly, she was only 13 then. Mind you, this was a tournament for the players up to the age of 20.

She turned 14 on August 27, the last day of the National chess championship at Gurugram. It is India's most prestigious domestic chess tournament, where some of the country's finest players compete. Since chess knows no gender or age, anyone can compete in the Nationals.

Shubhi was just one of the several women players who travelled to Gurugram, which was reeling under heavy rains then, with most of the roads turning into waterways.

She may not have set the RPS International School – which played host to the 340-odd competitors – on fire, but she put up a strong challenge. She was one of the very few players who could bother the top seed Surya Shekhar Ganguly, who remained unbeaten (though he had to be content with the runner-up spot behind champion Karthik Venkataraman with whom he had tied on points).

She even had an opportunity to draw with Ganguly, a six-time National champion, before she missed a vital move. "Yes, I could have drawn that game if I had made the right king move," she told *The Hindu* at Gurugram a few hours after the tournament concluded. "It was perhaps my best game from the championship. The first half was good for me, but in the second half I made some mistakes."

She has not been making mistakes that often over the last couple of years, though. She won the National Under-19 championship last year, and had claimed the World Under-12 girls' title in 2022.

It has indeed been a smooth ride on the 64 squares for the girl from the city of Ghaziabad, UP, after learning the game from her father six years ago. "I started it as a hobby and then I began playing in tournaments a year later," she said. "Then Covid came, but I played in a lot of online tournaments. My mother also helped me with my training, after she learnt chess. All of us play a lot of chess at home."

The hard work helped. "I scored some 300 Elo points from two tournaments," says Shubhi. "And I also finished third in the National Under-16 championship when I was 11."

Career high

Then came her superb show at the National Under-19 championship. "That was certainly one of my career-best performances," she says. "I had begun as the 15th seed and I won the championship by winning my last four games."

She has high ambitions. "I want to play at the Chess Olympiad and win a medal for India," she says. "And I want to become a Grandmaster."

Only three Indian women have been able to achieve it so far – Koneru Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali. And Humpy, a former World women's rapid champion, has been an idol for her.

"What Humpy has done for Indian women's chess is remarkable," says Shubhi. "I had an opportunity to work with her during a camp, and it felt great. Judit Polgar is also a player I admire greatly. Among the male players, I like Magnus Carlsen and Anish Giri. I admire our own Arjun Erigaisi as well."

She is proud that Arjun's contemporary, D. Gukesh, will be contesting this year's World title match with Ding Liren. "I was following the Candidates tournament that Gukesh won to earn that spot in the World championship final, though I was playing a tournament at the same time," says Shubhi, who is trained by Prasenjit Dutta. "It will be great for Indian chess if he wins the World championship. I think it is going to be an exciting match. I am very much looking forward to it."

Shubhi believes women's chess needs to be promoted better. "The prize money should also be better for women in chess," she says.

Shortly after the closing ceremony of the Nationals in Gurugram, Shubhi travelled to the New Delhi airport to catch a flight to Sri Lanka, to play in the Commonwealth championship. At Waskaduwa, she won the Under-16 girls' title, as well as the bronze in the Under-20 girls' event.

THE GIST

- Shubhi was the best performing Indian at the World juniors after Divya Deshmukh. She finished fourth — after beginning her campaign as the 39th seed — when she was just 13 years old
- She put up a strong fight against Surya Shekhar Ganguly at the National chess championship at Gurugram
- Shubhi has high ambitions — she wants to play at the Chess Olympiad and win a medal for India, and become a Grandmaster

With a new coach and captain, Japan hopes to get back to winning ways

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

- The Azlan Shah Cup in May was the first outing for Fujishima as the captain
- With five members from Tokyo Olympics in the ranks, including the then captain Yamashita, Fujishima is aware of lack of experience
- With a new coach in Anai, Japan is looking to rebuild with an eye on LA 2028 with the 2026 Asian Games at home being the first big stop

Raiki Fujishima took over as captain of the Japan men's hockey team only four months ago but the 24-year old has his task cut out.

Japan hockey hit a high when it won the 2018 Asian Games against all expectations but since then, the team has languished in the 14-18 bracket in the FIH rankings. Hosting the next edition of the continental games, Japan is hoping to come full circle, starting with the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy in Hulunbuir, China.

Young team

"We are a young team. Every match for us is like a step forward in growing up. It's a good experience here and we have positive comments after every game, we are preparing well with a positive mindset," Fujishima told *The Hindu* in an interaction.

The Azlan Shah Cup in May was the first outing for Fujishima as the captain, taking over from veteran Masaki Ohashi who stepped down after a disappointing outing at the Olympic Qualifiers in January. With five members from the Tokyo Olympics in the ranks, including the then captain Manabu Yamashita, Fujishima is aware of his team's lack of experience.

"The difference between the team from 2018-21 and after Tokyo is that the former had a lot of camps and matches to prepare, which showed on the field. Since then, however, we have had very few chances. Those who were not part of the Tokyo cycle did not have enough opportunities to grow. But our target here is to first reach the final and then win it," he insisted.

With a new coach in 36-year old Yoshihiro Anai, Japan is looking to rebuild with an eye on LA 2028 with the 2026 Asian Games at home being the first big stop.

"There are a lot of areas to work on for us in the next two years – positioning, attacking, thinking about every zone on the field and risk management while selecting the players and the gameplan for the day being some of them. Strategic decision-making and tightening the defence to delay the opposition attacks are the main objectives," Anai said.

He also did a SWOT analysis of his team.

"Our strength is our discipline but we are not ranked very high, so playing against higher ranked sides with an inexperienced side will be a challenge. At the ACT, all teams barring India are in a similar situation with new staff and less experienced players so there is little difference between us and that is an opportunity to get some crucial ranking points. At the same time, we haven't seen them play after the Azlan Shah Cup so we don't have information on their development, which is a concern," Anai explained.

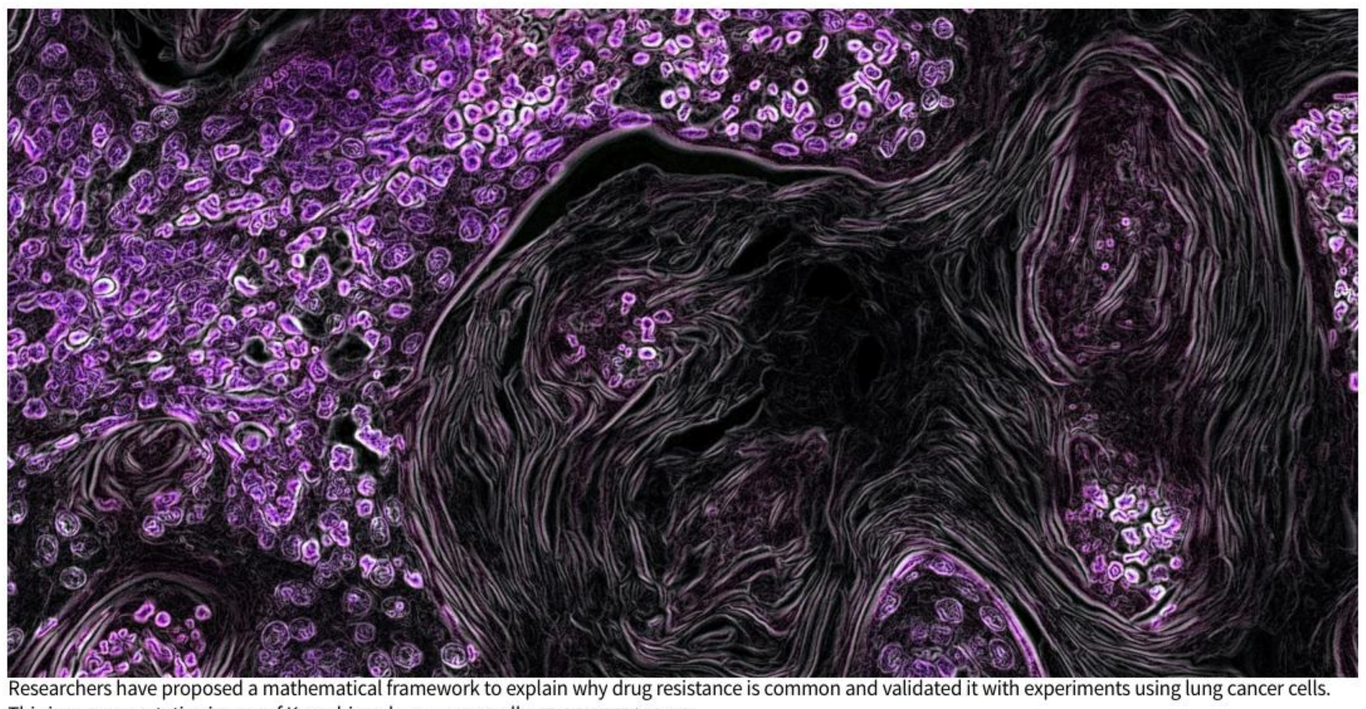


Tough assignment: Fujishima, left, has his task cut out in rebuilding the side. FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

With their ancestors' help, weak cancer cells can form tough tumours

In past studies, scientists have tried to understand drug resistance by separating the corresponding cells from a larger population, making copies of them in the lab, and investigating them. The researchers behind a new study realised this approach removes an important bit of context that could affect the cells' prospects

Joel P. Joseph



Researchers have proposed a mathematical framework to explain why drug resistance is common and validated it with experiments using lung cancer cells. This is a representative image of Kras-driven lung cancer cells. ERIC SNYDER/U.S. NCI

THE GIST

Researchers have shown that even in the absence of a drug, drug-resistant mutant cells undergo large changes in growth rate. This was attributed to the environment in which the cells existed

When cultured alone, drug-resistant cells grew more slowly than the cells from which they were 'descended.' But when these cells and their ancestors were cultured together, the former grew much faster

If this phenomenon is general, future treatments may be developed to disrupt the ecological interactions themselves, leading to higher cure rates

Scientists have cracked the mystery of how some cancer cells that ought not to survive could actually take help from their "neighbours" to succeed and form drug-resistant tumours instead.

Drug resistance is one of the world's major crises of the 21st century. When a pathogen that causes an infection or disease becomes drug-resistant, drugs that could cure these conditions become less effective. Pathogens acquire this ability in the form of certain genetic mutations, although some non-genetic factors are also in play.

When a cancer takes root in a person's body, the cancer cells can also become drug-resistant in the same way. Simple logic dictates that when the person takes a drug to destroy these cells, the drug-resistant cells will proliferate while the non-resistant cells won't. However, the genetic changes that conferred drug-resistance to the cells will also have undermined their overall 'fitness'. When the person isn't taking a drug to treat the cancer, the drug-resistant cells should thus have a harder time surviving than their non-resistant peers. They are said to suffer a 'growth penalty'.

How the evolutionarily less-fit cells survive such conditions is a puzzle scientists have been trying to solve for years.

A complex ecosystem

In past studies, scientists have tried to understand drug resistance by separating the corresponding cells from a larger population, making copies of them in the lab, and investigating them further. The researchers behind the new study realised this approach removes an important bit of context that could affect the cells' prospects: the influence of other cells in their surroundings, especially the ancestors from whom they "deviated" by accumulating genetic changes.

Jeff Maltas, a postdoctoral research fellow at Cleveland Clinic and the lead author of the study, said scientists have appreciated the idea of tumours as a complex ecological system. He said his team's idea came from multiple disciplines plus previous reports of high mutation rates within a tumour that had changes in pH and oxygen levels, among other conditions.

In a study published in 2022, for example, some members of the same team of researchers and others showed that even in the absence of a drug, drug-resistant mutant cells undergo large changes in growth rate. The authors attributed this to the environment in which the cells existed.

A surprise in a model

Conventionally, mutated cells have a certain growth rate in the presence of a drug and a lower one in its absence. In the new study, the researchers built a mathematical model based on the idea that these growth rates depend on the presence of a drug and on the cells' environment. When cultured alone, drug-resistant cells grew more slowly than the cells from which they were "descended." But when these cells and their ancestors were cultured together, the former grew much faster.

The model also revealed that the more ancestral cells there are in the same culture, the drug-resistant daughter cells also proliferated faster – so much so that the growth penalty vanished. The resulting tumour would be resistant to the drugs to come.

The researchers also found that even when there is no drug, the interactions between the evolving drug-resistant cells in the tumour's environment still promoted drug resistance. The implication is that drug-resistant cells could be present in larger numbers, perhaps more than a clinician or medical researcher might expect, even before treatment begins.

The authors wrote in their paper that their work "both complements and builds off of recent studies from a wide range of disciplines, ranging from theoretical population genetics and ecology to clinical trials across several biological kingdoms."

> Drug resistance is one of the major crises of the 21st century. When a pathogen that causes an infection or disease becomes drug-resistant, drugs that could cure these conditions become less effective.

The ancestral advantage

The researchers proposed a mathematical framework to explain why drug resistance is common and validated it with experiments using lung cancer cells.

First, they engineered three drug-resistant mutations in lung cancer cells in the lab and grew them together with different amounts of drug-sensitive ancestor cells. Then they observed how the different abundances of mutations in the cells affected their growth rate.

The mutations they picked to engineer are commonly seen in lung cancer patients. They found that all the drug-resistant cells grew slower than their ancestors when grown in isolation. But when grown with their ancestors, they built up faster. The researchers also grew two types of drug-resistant cells together without the ancestor, and their growth rate didn't increase. That is, interactions between evolutionarily different cells didn't provide any growth advantage. Only interactions with ancestral cells did.

The idea that a mutation's frequency or relative abundance dictates how fit the cells that have it are is not new, but experts said the current study emphasises this idea in the context of cancer cells accumulating drug-resistant mutations.

Clue to a new treatment

"A key conclusion... is that the ecological environment can greatly impact the phenotype of the mutant being studied. Removing that mutant from the ecology leads to an incomplete scientific picture," Maltas said.

Mohit Kumar Jolly, an associate professor of bioengineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, said, "Most, if not all, current therapies in the clinic do not consider the impact of these interactions, and this study reveals how considering this important dimension can help potentially design more effective therapies."

The researchers also said their findings could be extendable to any evolving system, including viruses that mutate and bacteria that acquire resistance to antibiotics.

The study also indicated a potential new target for developing drugs to fight cancer and infectious diseases. "If this phenomenon is as general as we think," Maltas said, "future treatments may be developed to disrupt the ecological interactions themselves, leading to higher cure rates."The study was conducted by scientists from Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland. The findings were published in the journal *PRX Life* in June 2024.

(Joel P. Joseph is a freelance science journalist and researcher. joelpjoseph2009@gmail.com)

BIG SHOT



Solar panels under construction on the sea in Binzhou, in eastern China's Shandong province on September 8. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

The kindest cuts

Q: Why doesn't cutting hair hurt?
A: Hair is made of dead epithelial cells strengthened by a protein called keratin. The epidermis — the upper layer of the skin — descends into the dermis, the inner layer, to form flask-shaped structures. These structures, called hair follicles, have a group of epithelial cells that form a bulb.

Below this bulb is the hair papilla, which consists of connective tissues supplied richly with blood vessels and connected by nerves. This region supplies nourishment to the hair's root cells.

The epidermal cells of the hair root divide rapidly. As new cells form, the old cells are pushed upwards in the form of hair.

Beyond the bulb region, the cells die and become horny with the addition of keratin. As the dead cells continue to add up rapidly in the root, the shaft grows in length and pierces through the epidermal layer and projects out as hair. Hair normally grows about 18 cm in a year.

Thus the root is the only living part of the hair. When hair above the skin is cut, it doesn't hurt. If the hair is pulled out, the sensory nerves in the hair papilla trigger a pain sensation.



The root is the only living part of the hair. When hair above the skin is cut, it doesn't hurt. If the hair is pulled out, the sensory nerves in the hair papilla trigger a pain sensation GETTY IMAGES

For feedback and suggestions
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