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**ACHIEVEMENT**

## PM MODI LAUNCHES COUNTRY'S MAIDEN RAPID RAIL CORRIDOR

RRTS project is developed in line with the PM's vision to transform regional link.

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor at Uttar Pradesh's Sahibabad RapidX station—a state-of-the-art regional mobility solution aimed to transform regional connectivity in the country through construction of new world class transport infrastructure.

The Prime Minister also flagged off the RapidX train connecting Sahibabad to Duhai depot, marking the launch of RRTS in India. This is India's first RapidX train which will be known as "Namo Bharat".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off the RapidX train between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot, in Ghaziabad on Friday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is also seen. ANI

The 17 km priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor will connect Sahibabad to Duhai depot with stations at Ghaziabad, Guldhar and Duhai on the way. The foundation stone for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor was laid by the Prime Minister on March 8,

2019. With the train service operational, the travel time between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot will be 12 minutes, which would usually take around 30-35 minutes by road.

The RRTS project is developed in line with the Prime Minister's vision to trans-



Ghaziabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with metro staff at the Regional Rapid Train Namo Bharat, in Ghaziabad on Friday. ANI

form regional connectivity in the country through construction of new world class transport infrastructure. The RRTS is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system.

With a design speed of 180 kmph, RRTS is a transfor-

mational, regional development initiative, which is designed to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes, which can go up to a frequency of every 5 minutes as per requirement.

A total of eight RRTS **P5**

**WAR AGAINST TERROR**

## Israel strikes hundreds of operational Hamas targets

**TDG NETWORK**  
TEL AVIV

Israel Air Force (IAF) struck hundreds of operational targets of the Hamas terrorist group and killed one terrorist in the Gaza Strip as it continues its retaliation against the attack launched by the terrorist group on October 7.

In a post on X, Israeli Air Force said, "During the night, the IDF attacked over a hundred operational targets of the terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip; a terrorist who participated in the murderous raids in the Gaza Strip was eliminated." According to the Israeli Air Force, during the operation, the Israeli fighter jets attacked and destroyed tunnel shafts, munitions warehouses and dozens of operational headquarters.

The Israel Air Force said, "As part of the attacks, terrorist infrastructure and weapons were destroyed located in a mosque in the Jablia

## ISRAEL, OTHER COUNTRIES CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

TEL AVIV: Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs Eli Cohen and 22 ambassadors and diplomats from countries whose citizens have been abducted have called for the immediate release of the abductees and to permit visits by the International Red Cross.

Cohen said the release of the abductees is Israel's "foremost priority."

The Israeli military said on Thursday that nearly 30 of some 200 hostages held by Hamas in Gaza are children. More than 10 are over the age of 60, a statement by the Israeli military said adding that authorities have no information about the location of more than 100 missing Israelis.

Cohen held a meeting with dozens of foreign ambassadors whose citizens have been held by Hamas in Gaza and asked to pressurise Hamas to ensure their smooth release. Ambassadors from Peru, Tanzania, Russia, Romania, Portugal, Argentina, Philippines, Georgia, Sri Lanka, France, Mexico, Denmark, Hungary, Austria, Ethiopia, **P5**

neighbourhood, which was used, among other things, as an observation post and as a gathering ground for terrorists associated with the terrorist organization Hamas."

It also shared that a Hamas Naval force terrorist was killed by the IDF and Shin

Bet who was responsible for murderous terrorist operations in Gaza Strip.

According to the IDF, "During the attacks, the IDF and Shin Bet eliminated a terrorist who was in the naval force of the terrorist orga-

nization. **P5**

**TOP OF THE DAY**

### MAN ARRESTED IN GUJARAT FOR SPYING FOR PAK

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Police Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Friday arrested a man for allegedly sending sensitive information to Pakistan using a messaging platform. As per the ATS officials, the espionage attempt has been targeted at the family of Indian Army personnel. The accused has been identified as Labhshankar Maheshwari from Tarapur town of Gujarat's Anand district. The ATS officials further informed that the accused has been a Pakistani citizen who later got Indian citizenship. SP, Gujarat ATS, Om Prakash Jat while speaking at a press conference regarding the arrest informed that the ATS received inputs from Military intelligence that a Pakistan agent was using Remote Access Trojan (RAT) malware to access phones and steal sensitive information. He further said that the accused has been working on the instruction of a person associated with the Pakistan Embassy. "Gujarat ATS received input from the military intelligence that a Pakistani army or a Pakistan agent is using WhatsApp on an Indian SIM Card. He was using Remote Access Trojan (RAT) malware to access phones and steal sensitive information. The SIM Card was issued under the name Muhammad Saklain Thaim from Jamnagar. It was activated on the mobile belonging to Azgar Hajibhai. After activation, the SIM card was delivered in Anand, Tarapur to a person named Labhshankar Maheshwari on the instructions of a person associated with the Pakistan Embassy," SP Om Prakash Jat said.

**TURN OF EVENTS**

## Canada shuts consulate office in Chandigarh amid controversy

**TARUNI GANDHI**  
CHANDIGARH

Amid growing diplomatic tensions between Canada and India, the Consulate General of Canada office in Chandigarh has temporarily halted its services, starting from Friday, as confirmed by official sources. They have redirected these services to the High Commission of Canada office in Delhi. **P5**

### NO DEFIANCE OF INT'L LAW IN ASKING CANADA TO WITHDRAW DIPLOMATS: MEA

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said no international norms were violated in India seeking parity in the mutual diplomatic presence in New Delhi and Ottawa. "We reject any attempt to portray the implementation of parity as a violation of international norms," the external affairs ministry said. The MEA statement noted that the state of the ties between India and Canada as well as Ottawa's continued presence in India's internal affairs warrant a "parity" in mutual diplomatic presence in New Delhi and Ottawa. "We have seen the Statement by the Government of Canada on October 19 re- **P5**

**BATTLE OF IMAGE**

## LITMUS TEST FOR KCR, RAHUL, PRIYANKA IN TELANGANA POLLS

**RAJAT RAKESH TANDON**  
NEW DELHI

Telangana is one of the states going to the polls along with four others. While leaders from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh dominate the headlines, similar is not the case with Telangana. The



election in this southern state will determine the fate of the sitting Chief Minister, KCR, and serve as a litmus



test for Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, who have been actively campaigning in the **P5**

**WARNING**

## Delayed disposal of cases will erode litigants' trust in judiciary: Apex court

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued directions, including a few to the high courts, for ensuring speedy trial and disposal of old cases, observing that litigants may become disillusioned if the legal process moves at a snail's pace.

A bench comprising jus-

tices S Ravindra Bhat and Aravind Kumar referred to the country-wide data of the National Judicial Data Grid on pendency of cases and said joint efforts by the bar and bench were needed to tackle the issue.

The bench stated, "Litigants may become disillusioned when the legal process moves at a snail's pace. We have expressed our an-

guish where some litigations are pending for 50 years as per NJDG," and referred to some old cases which have not been decided for over 65 years in states like West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Justice Kumar stated, "Litigants will lose confidence in the judicial system when the delay continues."

The bench stated that liti-

gants should be circumspect about seeking frequent adjournments. They should not take goodness of the presiding officers as their weakness," the judges said as they issued as many as 11 directions to deal with pendency of cases.

The bench stated, cases pending for over 5 years needed to be monitored by the respective high courts.

**CASH FOR QUERY ROW**

## TMC MP MAHUA MOITRA'S COUNSEL WITHDRAWS FROM DEFAMATION CASE



**ASHISH SINHA**  
NEW DELHI

TMC MP Mahua Moitra's counsel on Friday withdrew from a case in the Delhi High Court, which sought restraint orders against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, an advocate, and various media outlets from disseminating any alleged defamatory content about her.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan withdrew from the matter after advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai informed the court that Sankaranarayanan had

contacted him on Thursday night to withdraw his complaint to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader. Dehadrai is the advocate against whom Moitra sought relief.

Sankaranarayanan stated that Dehadrai had previously instructed him, which prompted him to approach him. He informed his client, Moitra, that Dehadrai was a member of the Bar and had assisted him in a previous case, so he suggested that Dehadrai speak to him.

Justice Sachin Datta said **P5**

**SEEKING JUSTICE**

## PFI moves SC against Centre's 5-year ban under UAPA

**ASHISH SINHA**  
NEW DELHI

The Popular Front of India (PFI) has moved the Supreme Court challenging an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) tribunal's confirmation of the five-year ban imposed by the Central government.

The matter was scheduled for a hearing before a bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi, but it was adjourned as the petitioner had requested an adjournment through a circulated letter.

In its petition, the PFI has challenged the UAPA tribunal's March 21 order, which upheld the central government's decision from September 27, 2022. The government had banned the PFI for a five-year period, citing its alleged connections with global terrorist organizations such as ISIS and its efforts to disseminate communal hatred in the country. The government had offi-

cially declared the PFI, along with its associates, affiliates, and fronts, including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation, and Rehab Foundation, Kerala, as an "unlawful association." The notification, under the UAPA, stated that it would be effective for a five-year period from the date of its publication in the official gazette, subject to any orders made under section 4 of the UAPA.

In September of the previous year, over 150 individuals allegedly linked to the PFI were detained or arrested in raids conducted across seven states. An extensive nationwide crackdown by government agencies on this 16-year-old organization resulted in the arrest of over a hundred of its activists and **P5**

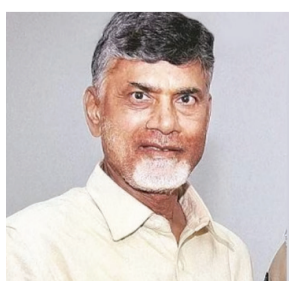
**CALL OF COURT**

## SC ASKS POLICE NOT TO ARREST NAIDU TILL VERDICT IN SDC SCAM IS PRONOUNCED

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Andhra Pradesh Police not to arrest TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in the FibreNet case until it delivers a verdict on the plea related to the Skill Development scam case.

A bench comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi scheduled the antici-



patory bail hearing of Naidu in the FibreNet Case on November 9 and informed the Andhra Pradesh Police to

maintain the previous understanding.

The reference was made to the statement made by the Andhra Pradesh Police on October 13, in which they assured that they would not take Naidu into custody. Justice Bose suggested that, since the court's decision on another plea was reserved, it would be more appropriate to address Naidu's current plea after the verdict is delivered.

IN MADHYA PRADESH

# 'FRIENDSHIP IN DELHI, WRESTLING IN STATES', CHOUHAN TAKES JIBE AT I.N.D.I.A

TDG NETWORK  
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday took a dig at the INDIA bloc after its constituents fielded candidates against each other in assembly polls, saying the opposition grouping is driven by the motto of "friendship in Delhi and wrestling in states".

INDIA members Congress, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have separately announced candidates for the November 17 assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, clearly indicating the bloc is not working at state-level.

Upset with the Congress for not conceding any seat so far for the SP in Madhya Pradesh, its president chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday hinted the grand old party could get the same treatment from his outfit in Uttar Pradesh.

In stinging remarks that exposed chinks in the opposition INDIA grouping, Yadav said the Congress leadership should not allow its "small leaders" to comment on his party.

The SP and the AAP have announced candidates on multiple seats for polls in the BJP-ruled state, which has a 230-member assembly. Latching on to apparent cracks in the recently formed bloc of more than two dozen parties, Chouhan dubbed it an incoherent coalition and called it 'ghamandia' (arrogant).

"We have been saying from day one that this is a 'bemail gathbandhan' (out of sync coalition). It is like friendship in Delhi (Centre), and



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan being felicitated during a public meeting in Sironj Assembly constituency, in Vidisha district, Friday

## 'CHHODO AKHILESH VAKHILESH': KAMAL NATH



MP Congress Chief Kamal Nath

back Congress to halt BJP. Kamal Nath, MP Congress chief, tersely brushed off allegations, saying, "chhodo Akhilesh Vakhilesh." Amid the verbal sparring, Supriya Shrinete of Congress downplayed the disagreement, terming it a common occurrence in ticket distributions. The tension was heightened after BJP declared its initial list of 144 candidates for the state, with Yadav accusing Congress of deceit over seat-sharing promises.

The dispute between the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) escalated in the run-up to the Madhya Pradesh elections. Akhilesh Yadav criticised Congress's behaviour, implying trust issues. Ajay Rai, from Congress, retorted accusing SP of assisting BJP, either openly or discreetly. Highlighting past bypoll outcomes, Rai emphasised SP's need to

wrestling in states. Neither their views are similar nor their hearts are at the same place. It is falling apart because of the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the BJP leader said in a statement issued to the media. He said SP president Yadav has said the Congress kept him in the dark for a year and later "ditched" his party over allocation of seats. Chouhan remarked the Congress, the SP and the AAP are fighting against each other in Madhya Pradesh and wondered what kind of grouping is INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance). "People are surprised with their behaviour. When they (INDIA constituents) are fighting against each other in states, what will be the future of the country if they get to rule at the Centre?" he asked. Chouhan said fissures developed in INDIA even before the alliance was formally announced and said he sees no future for the bloc.

On Thursday, SP chief Yadav said his party leaders would not have answered calls from the Congress for a meeting in Madhya Pradesh had he known that the INDIA bloc was confined only to the national level (for Lok Sabha polls).

In the 2018 Madhya Pradesh elections, the SP had won one seat -- Bijawar -- in the Bundelkhand region and finished second in five assembly constituencies. The Mulayam Singh Yadav-founded outfit had secured 1.3 per cent votes in the last MP polls which it fought in alliance with the tribal Gondwana Gantantra Party.

2024 ELECTORAL STRATEGY

## AIADMK LS POLL SLOGAN IS SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF MINORITIES: EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI

LATHA SRINIVASAN  
CHENNAI

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, both the AIADMK and the DMK have been expressing confidence at winning all 40 seats. Now, after the alliance break up with the BJP, the AIADMK has gone a step further and is fervently wooing the minority communities in the state.

Speaking at a rally in Santharankovil late Wednesday night AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) said, "People of Tamil Nadu are our masters. We will safeguard the rights of the people of the state to get new schemes and funds for them from the central government and to safeguard the rights

of the minorities in Tamil Nadu. This is the AIADMK's poll slogan for the Lok Sabha elections."

Numerous minority leaders, including Manithaneya Jananayaga Katchi leader Thamimun Ansari, SDPI leader Nelloi Mubarak and All India Majlis-e-Ithihathul Muslimin state president TS Vakil Ahmed, have held meetings with EPS over the last few weeks.

EPS also raised the Cauvery row and said at the rally, "National parties (Congress and BJP) are coming to power one after another. But they don't bother about the people of Tamil Nadu and treat us like dust. The AIADMK is here to safeguard the interests of the state."

Despite the fact that the AIADMK is now wooing the minority parties in Tamil Nadu, their alliance with the BJP the past few years had some of these parties aligning with the DMK. EPS raised the release of Muslim prisoners in the Assembly in a bid to get the Muslim vote on the AIADMK side. The AIADMK has now chosen its 2024 electoral strategy as the rights of minorities but time will tell how far the party is successful in winning the Muslim and minority votes.

While EPS has been reiterating to the people that the AIADMK will not ally with the BJP in 2024 or 2026, the BJP has not issued any statement on this so far.

CONTROVERSY

## MOITRA CHALLENGES HIRANANDANI'S UNOFFICIAL AFFIDAVIT CLAIMS

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress MP, Mahua Moitra, scrutinised the credibility of a controversial affidavit from businessman Darshan Hiranandani. She noted its absence of an official letterhead and lack of notarization. Moitra criticised the document, claiming it was thrust upon Hiranandani by the Prime Minister's Office and then strategically leaked to the media.

The affidavit accuses Moitra of plotting to politically undermine Prime Minister Narendra Modi, using the Adani group for a smear campaign. Hiranandani



TMC MP Mahua Moitra

alleges Moitra shared her parliament login credentials with him to draft questions about the Adani Group. He justified his involvement, citing potential backing from Opposition-ruled states. Moreover, Hiranandani claims Moitra received information from various sources, including journalists and former Adani Group employees. Sucheta Dalal, a named journalist, has refuted the claims.

BJP's Nishikant Dubey has written to Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla, accusing Moitra of various violations and requesting her immediate suspension. Dubey suggests Moitra's questions in parliament were influenced by Hiranandani to favour his business over the Adani group. In response, Moitra refutes all allegations and expresses openness to any investigation.

ANNOUNCEMENT

## HARYANA ENHANCES ASHA WORKERS' BENEFITS, STRIKE'S END NEAR

VIPIN PARMAR  
CHANDIGARH

In a significant move, the Haryana Government has increased retirement benefits for Asha workers to Rs 2 lakh. The announcement came from Chief Minister Manohar Lal following his recent meeting with the workers. Additionally, their monthly honorarium will see a raise by Rs 2100 from the previous Rs 4 thousand.

The government has also indicated its intention to petition the central Government of India for further incentives for the Asha

workers.

State President of Asha Workers, Surekha, highlighted that a 10-point demand was presented to the Chief Minister. While some points remain under central jurisdiction and await discussion, others found consensus.

In light of these advancements, Asha workers signalled a potential end to their ongoing strike. However, they remain committed to their planned march to Delhi on October 30.

This marked the fifth official meeting between the

protesting Asha workers and the Chief Minister. A prior meeting, chaired by RK Khullar, Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, sought to address the demands raised by the Asha workers.

Since August 8, approximately 20,000 Asha workers have been on strike, demanding government employee status, a minimum wage of Rs 26 thousand, restoration of previously cut incentives, and more comprehensive retirement benefits, affecting crucial healthcare services in the region.

'VIJAYABHERI YATRA'

## RAHUL TARGETS BJP, AIMIM, BRS IN TELANGANA TOUR

TDG NETWORK  
JAGTIAL

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and All India Majlis-e-Ithadul Muslimin (AIMIM) have been ousted from Telangana. He predicted a similar fate for Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the upcoming elections.

During his 'Vijayabheri Yatra', Gandhi highlighted the Congress party's six guarantees for Telangana residents, emphasising their quick implementation once in power. The promises include monthly cash aid for women, reduced gas cylinder rates, housing and land assistance, and increased turmeric prices.

He emphasised BJP's supportive stance towards



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi waves at supporters during his visit to Telangana ahead of the State Assembly elections, in Jagtial district, Friday

KCR and alleged BJP and AIMIM's coordinated strategy to weaken Congress's electoral chances. Addressing the public, he remarked on the stark contrast between Congress's delivered promises in other states and

BJP's unfulfilled commitments.

Mr. Gandhi confidently declared a forthcoming "Congress Tsunami" in Telangana, ensuring a brighter future for the state under Congress governance.

HARASSMENT CASE

## SC GRANTS ANTICIPATORY BAIL TO INDIAN YOUTH CONGRESS PRESIDENT

ASHISH SINHA  
NEW DELHI

On Friday, the Supreme Court awarded anticipatory bail to the Indian Youth Congress president, BV Srinivas, concerning an alleged harassment case.

A bench comprised of Justices BR Gavai, Aravind Kumar, and PK Mishra solidified its May 17 decision, highlighting Srinivas's cooperation with the investigation. Earlier, on May 17, the apex court had provisionally protected Srinivas from arrest in the case. The counsel from Assam resisted the bail's approval. Nevertheless, the bench remarked, "Given the petitioner's cooperation in the

investigation, we are inclined to allow the application. The May 17 order is made absolute." The Gauhati High Court had previously denied Srinivas's anticipatory bail request. This decision followed a complaint from the ousted chief of Assam Youth Congress, who accused Srinivas of inflicting mental distress.

The Supreme Court, on May 17, summoned the Assam government to address the petition by July 10. Delving into the complainant's statement recorded under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the bench opted to withhold commentary, lest it impacts the trial's rights. However, considering

the two-month delay in filing the FIR, the court deemed Srinivas deserving of interim protection. If arrested concerning this case, the court directed that Srinivas be granted anticipatory bail upon submitting a solvent surety of Rs 50,000, with one or more sureties of an equivalent amount. The court also mandated his cooperation in the National Commission for Women's investigation.

The high court had found the case unfit for pre-arrest bail privilege and dismissed it. Srinivas's counsel argued that most charges against him, except those under Section 354 of the IPC (related to assaulting or using criminal

force on a woman intending to outrage her modesty), are bailable. Furthermore, the alleged offence took place in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, outside the Dispur police station's jurisdiction. After deliberating both arguments, the high court noted the 35-year-old victim's testimony seemed voluntary and uninfluenced.

On April 26, Srinivas petitioned the high court to quash the FIR, which accused him of mental and physical harassment. The complainant alleged that Srinivas had consistently harassed her over six months with derogatory comments and threats. She also claimed

physical mistreatment during a recent party session in Raipur and that he threatened to sabotage her political career if she reported him. Her allegations were made public in tweets on April 18. On April 23, a 5-member Guwahati police team visited Bengaluru, leaving a notice at Srinivas's home, summoning him to the Dispur Police station by May 2.

Subsequently, the Congress issued a show-cause notice to the complainant, eventually expelling her from the party for six years due to anti-party activities. In return, Srinivas dispatched a legal notice to the woman, seeking an apology or facing legal actions.

MURDER CASE

## MOOSEWALA'S FATHER VOICES DISMAY AFTER VIRTUAL COURT HEARING

ASHISH SINHA  
NEW DELHI

Balkaur Sidhu, the father of the murdered Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, expressed dismay over the virtual appearance of the accused involved in his son's murder case. He voiced that commitments were made to ensure that the indicted individuals would be physically present in court.

He expressed, "We had been assured that the accused would appear in person. However, they were not adequately presented on the Video Conference. Today, out of the 25 accused, only 22 were produced. Lawrence Bishnoi remained silent due to observing a 'Maun Vrat' (vow of silence) today. We



Balkaur Sidhu with late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala

feel quite helpless in this situation." The delay in producing the accused in court has subsequently held up the process of transferring the chargesheet to the district

& sessions court, where the trial concerning the murder is in progress.

The next scheduled hearing for this case is set for November 2. On May 29

last year, Sidhu Moosewala, 28, tragically lost his life in Mansa due to a point-blank shooting, just a day after the state government reduced his security detail. The attackers fired more than 30 rounds at Moosewala, who was later discovered by locals, seated lifelessly in his vehicle. This horrific event transpired just two days post the Punjab Police's decision to revoke the security privileges of 424 individuals, Moosewala included. The Punjab Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) has submitted three chargesheets against a total of 32 accused. This list includes notorious gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar. It's believed that this

assassination was a result of an ongoing vendetta between the rival Bishnoi and Bambaiga gangs. Further inquiries have pinpointed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi as the mastermind behind the brutal murder. Goldy Brar, identified as a close accomplice of Bishnoi and believed to be in Canada, is also under investigation concerning this case. In light of this, the police have issued a Red Corner Notice for Brar via Interpol.

It's noteworthy that Moosewala had previously contested an election in Mansa during the last Punjab Assembly elections as a Congress candidate. However, he faced defeat at the hands of AAP's Vijay Singla.

TWEET OF THE DAY

BJP  
@BjP4India



The high speed Namo Bharat that has started today is Made in India, it is India's own train. Now the screen door system has been launched on the platform, that too is Made in India. NAMO India is a glimpse of the future India. NAMO India is also a proof of how the picture of our country changes when the economic strength of the country increases. - Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi

Mahua Moitra  
@MahuaMoitra



Chairman Ethics Committee openly speaks to media. Please see Lok Sabha rules below. How does "affidavit" find its way to media? Chairman should first do enquiry into how this was leaked. I repeat - BJP1 point agenda is to expel me from LS to shut me up on Adani

Narendra Modi  
@narendramodi



On board the Namo Bharat Train with our enthusiastic youngsters and the exceptional all-women team at the helm. A moment of immense pride as we journey towards a developed and prosperous India.

Rahul Gandhi  
@RahulGandhi



This election is a fight between 'Dorala' Telangana and 'Prjala' Telangana. Congress' 6 Guarantees will provide support to every family of Telangana. Mahalakshmi - Rs 2,500/month to women - Free bus travel - Gas cylinder for Rs500 Indiramma Indlu - Rs 5 lakh assistance to build a house - 250 sq yards land to Telangana movement fighters Gruha Jyoti - 200 units free electricity Yuva Vikasam - Rs 5 lakh assistance for college students Cheyutha - Rs 4,000 monthly pension to senior citizens, widows, disabled and others - Health insurance of Rs 10 lakh under Rajeev Aarogyasri Rythu Bharosa - Rs 15,000/year to farmers and Rs 12,000/year to agricultural labourers Congress Tsunami will sweep the state, and deliver the dream of Bangaru Telangana - this is my Guarantee!

'GAME CHANGER'

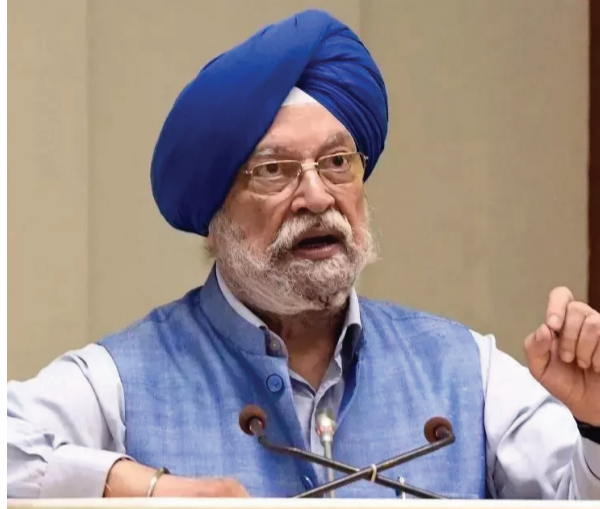
# PURI TOUTS INDIA'S RISE IN METRO SYSTEMS WITH RRTS INAUGURATION

TDG NETWORK  
GHAZIABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor's priority section, marking a significant step in regional connectivity. This elicited jubilation among locals, as the development promises faster commute times.

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, in an interaction with ANI, emphasised the potential of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor to drastically reduce the Delhi-Meerut commute from 3 hours to around 55 minutes. "It's a groundbreaking initiative," Puri proclaimed.

Puri also shared that in the next 18 months, India will boast the world's second-



Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri

largest urban transport metro system, outdoing the United States. "The growth in our urban infrastructure and facilities is harmonious with India's burgeoning economic growth," he asserted. Residents echoed

similar sentiments. "It's a game-changer," Shubhank Agarwal, a local resident, said, underscoring the convenience the RRTS brings to daily passengers. The corridor, linking Sahibabad to Duhai Depot, is expected

to cut travel times between these points from 30-35 minutes to a mere 12.

This corridor, touted as India's premier semi-high-speed regional rail service, has stations at Ghaziabad, Guldhar, and Duhai. With trains designed to operate at 180 Kmph, this ambitious project encapsulates PM Modi's vision of revolutionising India's transportation landscape. Earlier today, Modi's inauguration was attended by locals including 10-year-old Rishita Agarwal who expressed her admiration for the Prime Minister. Ghaziabad's Shikha Sharma also expressed her enthusiasm, "We're ecstatic about our PM inaugurating the RapidX train."

The project was initiated with the foundation being laid by PM Modi on March 8, 2019.

DELHI EXCISE POLICY

# HC dismisses AAP leader Sanjay Singh's plea against arrest

ASHISH SINHA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday declined to interfere in the arrest and subsequent custody of AAP leader Sanjay Singh by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) concerning a money laundering case tied to the recently abolished excise policy of the city government.

A bench, presided over by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, rejected Singh's plea challenging both his arrest and the ensuing custody, noting that there were insufficient grounds to accord him any relief.

Sanjay Singh, who was taken into custody by the ED on October 4, had approached the high court the following week, objecting to his arrest and detention in the money laundering case. This case pertains to purported irregularities in the Delhi excise policy for the fiscal year 2021-22.

The basis for the ED's money laundering case is the CBI's First Information Report (FIR). Both



AAP leader Sanjay Singh

agencies—the CBI and the ED—assert that inconsistencies arose during the revamping of the Delhi Excise Policy for 2021-22, wherein unwarranted benefits were extended to certain licence holders.

Allegations suggest that Sanjay Singh was instrumental in both devising and executing the policy, actions that allegedly led to undue financial profits for a select group of liquor manufacturers, whole-

salers, and retailers.

During the proceedings at the high court, Singh argued that his arrest was "unlawful, vindictive, and a manifest misuse of authority," advocating for his immediate release.

After his arrest, a trial court had directed that Singh be held under the watch of the anti-money laundering agency. By October 13, he was transferred to judicial custody, set to remain there until October 27.

UAPA ACT

# DELHI COURT PROLONGS NEWSCLICK DUO'S CUSTODY OVER ALLEGED PRO-CHINA TIES

ASHISH SINHA  
NEW DELHI

Patiala House Court in Delhi has extended the judicial custody of NewsClick's founder and Editor-in-Chief, Prabir Purkayastha, and HR head Amit Chakravarty until October 25. This follows an earlier 10-day remand by the court. The pair were apprehended by Delhi Police under the anti-terrorism law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, over

claims that NewsClick received substantial funding for promoting pro-China content.

Purkayastha's attorney contended the allegations, citing a previous protection from the Delhi High Court in 2021 and challenging the rationale behind labelling journalistic activities as terrorism. The lawyer said, "If I through any article raised questions against the Central Government's COVID policy, is that an

act of terrorism?" The defence also highlighted Purkayastha's reputation as a distinguished journalist and raised concerns about his association with fellow journalist Gautam Navlakha, which seems to be the basis for the UAPA charges.

Meanwhile, Advocate Rohit Sharma, representing Chakravarty, emphasised that Chakravarty is not involved in content creation and questioned the reasons

for his arrest, highlighting that he handles administrative tasks.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police alleges that NewsClick, via the People's Dispatch Portal, propagated misleading narratives for monetary gains from illicitly channelled foreign funds. The police FIR suggests that both Indian and foreign entities funnelled these funds to India with malicious intent to undermine the country's sovereignty and unity.

HORRIFYING ORDEAL

# STALKER ATTACKS WOMAN IN DELHI TAXI, LOCALS INTERVENE

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Prachi Malik, a 23-year-old woman from Delhi, was brutally attacked by her ex-boyfriend and stalker, Gaurav Pal, inside a taxi. Malik met Pal in 2021 and ended their relationship due to his increasing obsession. On the morning of October 12, as Malik headed to her taxi, Pal ambushed her, attempting to snatch her belongings and later stabbed her over 20 times in the cab. The attacker was subdued by the quick intervention of the cab driver and nearby residents.

Recalling the horrifying ordeal, Malik said, "He grabbed my hair, tried to take my laptop bag, and even aimed for my eyes. My hands were slashed as I tried to defend myself." Discharged from the hospital on Wednesday, Malik now faces a six-month recovery period and is currently on a liquid diet due

to her injuries.

Prior to the attack, Malik had distanced herself from Pal, who insisted she quit her job and marry him. Despite blocking his number, Pal's persistence became evident when he followed her, knowing her whereabouts. The previous night's events escalated when Malik blocked his persistent calls.

Even after his arrest, Pal threatened Malik's life. Malik's main concern now is that Pal remains behind bars. She stated, "I don't want any woman to experience what I went through."

Malik had previously voiced concerns about Pal's behaviour to the police, who promised intervention. Authorities now face scrutiny for their inaction, as they claimed the situation was "resolved amicably." Malik's commitment to her work stems from her desire to support her single mother and four siblings, a fact Pal seemingly ignored.

'DIWALI GIFT'

# OVER 300 SHOPS IN DELHI TO BE DESEALED: MAYOR

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi announced on Friday that a court-appointed committee has decided to desal more than 300 shops that were sealed in 2018 due to alleged violations of norms. She termed this move as a "Diwali gift" to the impacted traders.

In 2018, a total of 392 gar-

ment shops situated in the Lajpat Nagar-IV area were sealed on the direction of a Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee. These shops were accused of running commercial activities within a residential zone, Oberoi elaborated.

Highlighting the traders' years-long struggle, Mayor Oberoi praised the committee's recent decision as "praiseworthy".

A senior official from the MCD confirmed that the resolution to desal the shops originated from the monitoring committee.

For the desalting process to commence, Oberoi explained that the traders would need to provide an undertaking along with several other documents. "They will have to present a supplementary lease deed issued by the L&DO,

settle any due penalties and misuse charges to L&DO, and clear conversion and parking fees if outstanding," Oberoi mentioned.

Additionally, the Mayor pointed out the necessity of submitting a certificate verifying structural stability to the MCD. "Only after these stipulated procedures are met will the shops be desal," she affirmed to the media.

AIR QUALITY

# DELHI EXPERIENCES WORST OCTOBER POLLUTION SINCE 2020

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality this October has been the most polluted since 2020, with current data indicating minimal improvement in the foreseeable future. The average Air Quality Index (AQI) for the first 19 days of this month stands at 181.7, surpassing the averages of 2022 and 2021, though still below 2020's 226.1.

Forecasts predict the AQI to decline into the poor category by Friday, likely persisting for the subsequent six days. IMD officials attribute this to decreasing wind speeds, dipping from 6-8 km/hour to 4-8 km/hour by the weekend. Although a slight rise in wind speed is anticipated on Sunday, air quality is projected to remain poor.

The notably better AQI in 2022, the best in six



years, was credited to a late monsoon retreat coupled with consistent post-monsoon rainfall caused by western disturbances (WD). Similarly, 2021's improved AQI was due to an increased number of rainy days. In contrast, 2022 saw only one WD affect the

city, resulting in a single day of rainfall. While the city experienced a brief improvement in AQI over the past three days due to rain and robust winds, the effect is transient, with only a slight chance of light rain forecasted for Sunday.

However, conditions cur-

rently don't suggest the AQI deteriorating beyond the poor range. For pollutant dispersion to be unfavourable, a ventilation index below 6000 m<sup>2</sup>/s and wind speeds under 10 kmph are required, neither of which are anticipated in the upcoming week.

'HERITAGE'

# DELHI HC INVESTIGATES OFFICIALS OVER DAMAGE TO CENTURY-OLD TREES

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

On Thursday, the Delhi High Court requested responses from three city government officials concerning a petition that seeks contempt charges against them. The officials are accused of damaging "heritage" trees, some over a century old, to widen a road, in violation of court orders.

The petitioner claimed that these officials breached judicial mandates that require government departments to ensure minimal environmental harm during projects. Moreover, tree officers must provide justifications when granting permission for tree felling.

Highlighting the severity of the situation, Justice Jasmeet Singh stated that the cutting down of such historic trees without due diligence is a "shocking state of affairs." Notices were issued to the public works department (PWD) and forest department officials regarding the con-



tempt plea. They were also instructed to maintain the current situation until further notice. The case is scheduled for a hearing on January 15.

Rohit Bhatnagar, the petitioner, represented by advocate Aditya N Prasad, mentioned that numerous trees along Lok Marg/Om Mandir Marg were stripped down to their main trunks earlier this month. About 15 of these were slated for removal, following an order from the forest department to accommodate road expansion.

Bhatnagar's plea emphasised the historical significance of these trees, term-

ing them "Heritage Trees". They were planted during colonial times, stretching from Kingsway Camp to the Coronation Pillar. This area hosted the Delhi Durbar in 1877 and King George V's coronation in 1903. "Although Delhi lacks a formal policy on 'Heritage Trees', the importance of preserving such trees is undeniable," argued the petitioner.

Furthermore, the petitioner criticised the order for tree felling as lacking transparency and details. It did not specify the reasons for the felling nor did it explore alternatives to save the trees, which contradicts previous court orders.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

## MADHYA PRADESH: CONGRESS RELEASES CANDIDATE LIST AND A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN THE STATE

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh is one of several pivotal events on the horizon in the upcoming assembly election cycle that will begin in November. The Congress had on Sunday released its first list of 144 candidates for the state. With this, the Congress has declared all but one candidate for elections to the 230-member assembly in Madhya Pradesh.

The Congress replaced its candidate for the Datia assembly constituency, fielding Rajendra Bharti in place of Avadesh Nayak. He will contest against BJP candidate and Home Minister Narottam Mishra. Bharti, a former MLA, had defeated Mishra in the past but lost the last election by a slender margin. The party also fielded Ravinder Singh Tomar from the Dimani assembly

seat and he will contest against Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. From the Gwalior assembly seat, considered the bastion of Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Congress has fielded Sunil Sharma, who had unsuccessfully contested in a by-poll against sitting MLA and minister Pradhuman Singh Tomar, a known Scindia loyalist. Pradhuman Singh Tomar had switched over to the BJP along with Scindia after the last assembly polls.

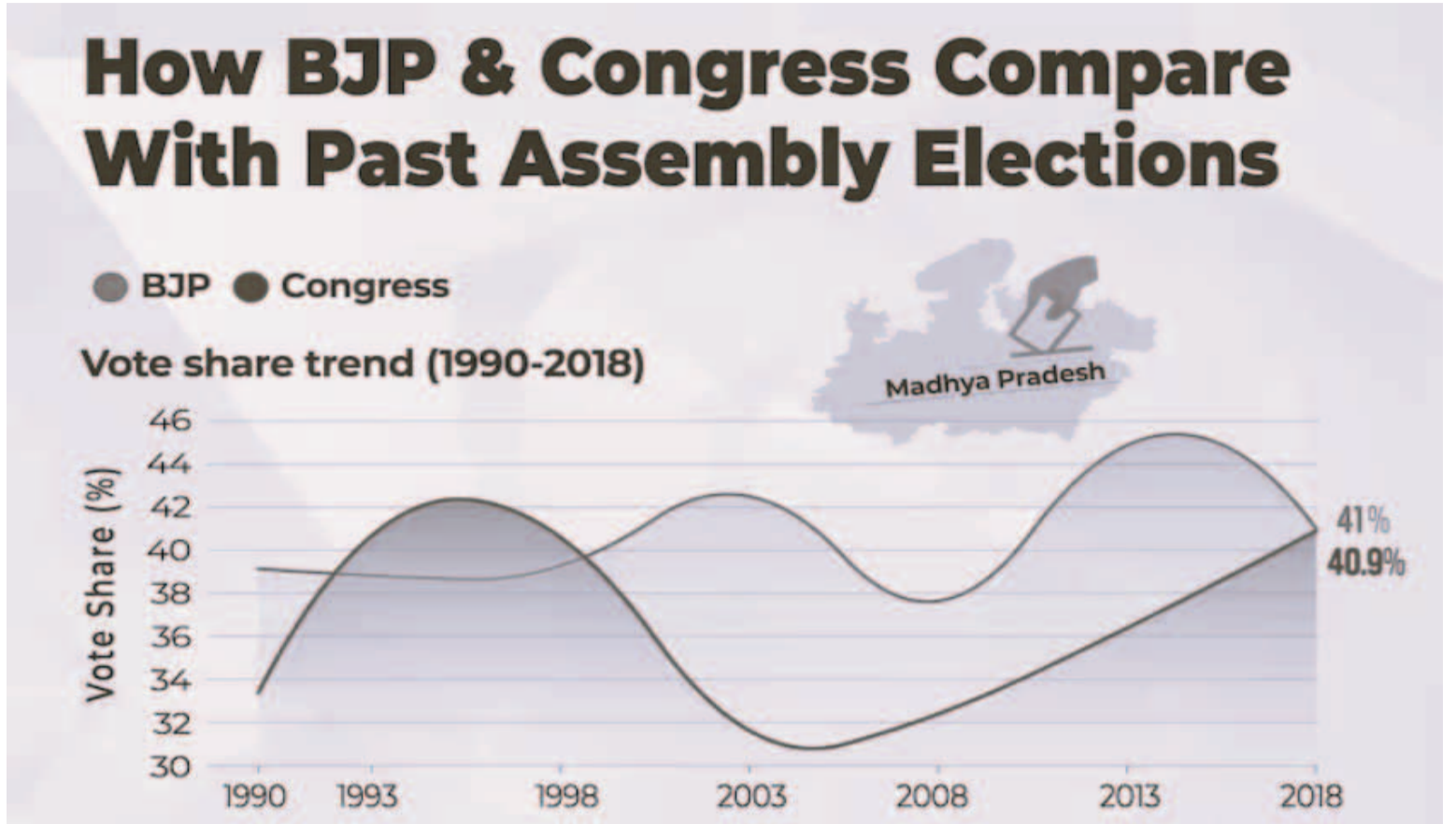
In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of what lies ahead in these elections, a data intelligence unit analysed the state assembly election data from 1962 to 2018. The data revealed intriguing patterns in the victory margins over the years. Tight races highlighted the power of grassroots efforts, while big wins stressed guarding strongholds and

targeting swing areas.

With specific regard to tight races, it was found that 24% of seats had margins of less than five percent. This means that a mere whisker decided the outcome of every fourth seat. On the other hand, in terms of clear wins, only one in eight seats witnessed victories of over 30 percent, indicating the presence of strongholds. There was also a middle ground, where one in three seats fell within the 5-15% margin. These were highly competitive races but with leads that were nonetheless clearly established.

As Madhya Pradesh gears up for another electoral showdown by the end of this year, the historical patterns suggest a strong political undercurrent in the state. The result could serve as a crucial indicator for national politics.

Over the last six decades,



## Tug of War

Congress and BJP locked in an intense rivalry



Total seats 230

| 2018 | Winners | 2013 |
|------|---------|------|
| 114  | ● INC   | 58   |
| 109  | ● BJP   | 165  |
| 2    | ● BSP   | 4    |
| 5    | ○ OTH   | 3    |



the political terrain in Madhya Pradesh has undergone significant transformations.

The period from 1962 to 1985 marked the dominance of the Indian National Congress in Madhya Pradesh. Data reveals that in 1962, 1967, and 1972, the party secured a broad range of victories, from razor-thin margins to substantial leads.

Frequently establishing itself as the prevailing authority with a substantial majority, the party became closely associated with governing the state. Nevertheless, as the 1980s approached, the party's prominence began to diminish, marking the onset of a decline in its complete dominance.

In 1967, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh emerged as a significant player, eventually evolving into the contemporary Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). While the Congress continued to maintain its stronghold for an additional decade, the foundation for an alternative political force was laid during this time.

Around 1977, there was a shift in political dynamics. The Janata Party assumed a prominent position, echoing a nationwide sentiment against the Congress, which had recently imposed and subsequently lifted a state of emergency in the country. Nevertheless, this shift was temporary, as the Congress regained power by 1980.

The BJP began to assert its influence in the 1980s, and as we progress through the years on the heatmap, the saffron shade becomes notably more pronounced, particularly during the 1990s and 2000s. Remarkably, the party exhibited a proficiency in securing victories with significant margins, as evident from the clustering of warmer colours in the "20 to 30%" and "30% and above" categories. By 1990, they had not only arrived on the scene but had established dominance, winning 220 out of 320 seats and heralding a new era in the state's political landscape. It's important to note that prior to

the separation of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh had 320 assembly seats.

Since 2003, the Congress faced challenges in Madhya Pradesh, losing thrice—in 2003, the BJP won big with 173 seats; Congress got only 38.

The 21st century has been a precarious balancing act, with both parties experiencing peaks and valleys.

The BJP's dominance in the 2003 and 2013 elections was evident, but the Congress's resurgence in 2018 suggests a state open to change its course. With narrow margins and high stakes, the forthcoming elections could swing in either direction.

While both parties have witnessed their fair share of nail-biting conclusions, the BJP seems to have a greater number of seats with clear-cut victory margins, particularly in the 10 to 15% and five to 10% ranges. On the flip side, the Congress holds a slight advantage in the most tightly contested seats (with less than a 5% margin).

INDIA NEWS SURVEY

## SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAY BHUPESH BAGHEL FIRST CHOICE FOR CM IN CHHATTISGARH, RAMAN SINGH COMES A CLOSE SECOND

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday announced 53 candidates for the ensuing Chhattisgarh Assembly elections which will be held in two phases on 7 and 17 November. The party has dropped 18 sitting MLAs so far in the state where it is seeking to retain power in Chhattisgarh under Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and fielded over two dozen new faces. CM Baghel and his 12 cabinet colleagues and state Assembly Speaker Charandas Mahant will face the electoral test and the votes will be counted on December 3. Congress has so far declared candidates for 83 out of the total of 90 seats. The filing of nominations for the first phase began on 13 October. Twenty constituencies are slated to go to polls in the first phase on 7 November while the second phase of polls will be held on 17 November, covering 70 constituencies.

Ahead of the upcoming elections, India News conducted an exclusive ground survey to understand the political pulse of the state and understand the sentiment on the ground.

The survey found Bhupesh Baghel is the first choice (47.07%) for CM among of

**Q. Who is your first choice as CM of Chhattisgarh?**

Bhupesh Baghel: 47.07%  
TS Singh Deo: 18.48%  
Raman Singh: 22.22%  
Can't say: 12.23%

**Q. Who is the winning face for BJP in Chhattisgarh?**

PM Modi: 76.29%  
Amit Shah: 4.44%  
Raman Singh: 7.40%  
Can't say: 11.87%

**Q. Who is the winning face for Congress in Chhattisgarh?**

Bhupesh Baghel: 48.14%  
Rahul-Priyanka: 25.11%  
Mallikarjun Kharge: 8.14%  
Can't say: 18.61%

**Q. Which vote-getting party can spoil the game between Chhattisgarh Congress-BJP?**

Aam Aadmi Party: 29.22%  
Jogi Congress: 39.18%  
Gondwana Republic Party: 15.37%  
Can't say: 16.23%

**Q. Will Congress suffer losses due to the tussle between Baghel and Singh Deo in Chhattisgarh?**

Yes: 45.33%  
No: 48.51%  
Can't say: 8.14%



While Bhupesh Baghel is the preferred Congress leader in Chhattisgarh, but there is significant uncertainty among respondents regarding the Congress leadership, with a substantial number unable to express a preference. Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were the choice of 25.11%. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is preferred by 8.14%.

Jogi Congress is viewed as a spoiler by 39.18%, while the Aam Aadmi Party came second, seen as a potential spoiler by 29.22%. Gondwana Republic Party is a perceived spoiler by 15.37%. The opinions on the potential impact of the internal tussle within Congress in Chhattisgarh are divided. Almost half of the respondents think it may lead to losses, while a similar proportion believes it won't have a major effect. In summary, this data provides insights into the preferences of Chhattisgarh residents for political leadership, potential spoiler parties, and the perceived impact of internal conflicts within Congress. It's evident that Bhupesh Baghel and PM Modi enjoy considerable popularity, but there is uncertainty and division in other areas of political preference and perception.

respondents. This suggests that he enjoys strong support among the respondents. Deputy CM TS Singh Deo is the preferred choice for 18.48% while the BJP's Raman Singh is the choice of 22.22%.

A majority (76.29%) of respondents believe Prime Minister Narendra Modi

will be the winning factor in Chhattisgarh, indicating strong popularity in the state. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was the choice of 4.44% while Raman Singh was the choice of 7.40%. Among Congress leaders, CM Baghel is the favoured leader for 48.14% of respondents.

CONCERNING AQI

## MUMBAI RECORDS 'VERY POOR' AIR QUALITY, EXPERTS SAY CITY ON BRINK OF POLLUTION CRISIS

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board, as of the evening of 19 October, the city of Mumbai had an average AQI (air quality index) score of 156 while New Delhi was at 121. The financial capital has been waking up to a thick blanket of smog owing to a rapid increase in construction activities. According to experts, the situation could worsen, setting the stage for a dangerous winter season.

Several ongoing infrastructure projects in the city, as well as large-scale building construction and demolition works, have caused a surge in dust particulate pollution in the air, impacting the health of people. "A combination of high moisture and dust is caused due to the multiple redevelopment and construction projects that are operational across the city," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) scientist Sushma Nair said. "There is moisture, anti-cyclonic wind circulation which does not allow the wind to ascend. The anti-cyclone is right over Mumbai," she added.

Earlier this year, a policy-influencing think tank called

### State-wise aerosol pollution in India



### MAHARASHTRA TO ENTER RED ZONE OF AEROSOL POLLUTION

- In 2023, aerosol pollution in Maharashtra is anticipated to move from its current "vulnerable" orange zone to the "highly vulnerable" red zone.
- High aerosol amounts include particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) consisting of sea salt, dust, sulphate, black and organic carbon. If inhaled they can be harmful to people's health.
- Aerosol optical depth (AOD) is the quantitative estimate of the aerosol present in the atmosphere and it can be used as a proxy measurement of PM<sub>2.5</sub>.
- Maharashtra currently falls under the orange category which is a vulnerable zone with AOD between 0.4-0.5.
- However, rising aerosol pollution is expected to push the AOD higher than 0.5 to enter into the most vulnerable (red) zone. The values of AOD range from 0 and 1.0.

Mumbai First suggested a number of measures that Mumbai's authorities can undertake to address the situation. Among the key solutions provided by the think tank include stopping

open refuse burning and landfill site burning, tackling road dust from paved and unpaved roads, controlling emissions from bakeries and crematoria, etc. "The only way to reduce air pollu-

tion and increase air quality in urban areas is to reduce emissions at the source, adopting eco-friendly technologies, usage of renewable energies, etc," Murthy said.

In February this year, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) adopted an action plan to impose stringent measures and control the air pollution levels in the city. The civic body had outlined guidelines that include installing air purifiers in the most crowded areas of the city.

Trends data from Google showed that the search interest for air purifiers was the highest in Maharashtra compared to the rest of India in the past seven days. Shopping websites such as the delivery giant Amazon are providing attractive discounts on air purifier products as concerned citizens are snapping up the product to enhance indoor air quality ahead of the festive season. "Mumbai needs to implement dust management, as there is a lot of construction being undertaken in the city at the moment and that is contributing significantly towards air pollution in the city," said Rishi Aggarwal, founder of the Mumbai Sustainability Centre.

NITHARI KILLINGS

# UP GOVT MAY MOVE SC AGAINST ALLAHABAD HC VERDICT: DCM MAURYA

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI



The Uttar Pradesh government intends to re-evaluate the Allahabad High Court's order in the Nithari serial killings case and may approach the Supreme Court if necessary, stated Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

On Monday, the high court acquitted domestic help Surendra Koli and his employer Moninder Singh Pandher in the infamous 2005-06 case, where they were previously sentenced to death. The court cited the prosecution's failure to establish guilt "beyond reasonable doubt" and the mishandling of the investigation.

This verdict has stirred memories of the heinous crimes involving young children, brought to light by the discovery of skeletal remains behind a Noida residence near Delhi. Families

of the victims have expressed a sense of injustice.

Deputy Chief Minister Maurya, during an official visit to Gautam Buddha Nagar, remarked, "Certainly, the type of crimes that were registered in this case and the type of advocacy that should have been done by the government were done."

He further stated, "Certainly, the Allahabad HC's order will be reviewed at the government level, and if

necessary, the government will approach the Supreme Court."

The Allahabad High Court decision reversed the death sentences in 12 cases for Koli and two cases for Pandher. The court noted the failure of the prosecution to prove the guilt of both accused "beyond reasonable doubt" based on circumstantial evidence and criticized the investigation as a betrayal of public trust by responsible

agencies. The two were originally charged with rape and murder, and their sentences were related to killings that shocked the nation due to the horrific details of sexual assault, brutal murder, and potential cannibalism.

Koli is currently imprisoned in Ghaziabad and faces multiple cases, while Pandher is detained in a Noida jail and may soon be released following the High Court's decision.

In Noida, family members of the victims expressed their disappointment with the verdict and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to ensure the killers receive the appropriate punishment. One bereaved parent commented, "We are not satisfied with the judgment. This is not right. If someone killing several children gets acquitted, what punishment will those who kill one or two people get?"

BOOSTING TOURISM

# Yogi Govt to promote UP by setting up pavilion at tourism expo in London

TDG NETWORK  
LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government is gearing up to promote Uttar Pradesh (UP) as a brand and favourable tourist destination in the Tourism Expo to be held from November 6 to 9 at the World Travel Market in London. The Yogi government has prepared a detailed action plan under which the Tourism Department will set up a pavilion in an area of 52 square metres at the Tourism Expo in London, said the official statement.

An agency will also be appointed by the Tourism Department for the establishment and efficient operation of this pavilion.

The press release further informed that an e-bidding process was started through the e-tender portal on October 17 to select the agency that will be given the responsibility of running the program smoothly and the

interested agencies can apply till October 26.

As per the intention of CM Yogi, the Tourism Department is giving maximum focus on promoting spiritual and historical heritage sites of UP in the Tourism Expo and the theme of the pavilion set up in Uttar Pradesh will be inspired by these parameters, said the official statement.

The Tourism Department of UP will display brochures and booklets related to all of the state's heritage and famous tourist destinations at the Expo.

UP's geographical, spiritual, and historical heritage will be presented in the pavilion, while highlighting the positive changes that have occurred in the state during Yogi's government, particularly in terms of industry, economy, law and order, good governance, standard of living, infrastructure growth, and ease of doing business.

ASSEMBLY POLLS

# 294 CANDIDATES FILE 455 NOMINATIONS FOR FIRST PHASE OF POLLS IN C'GARH

TDG NETWORK  
RAIPUR

Ahead of the assembly polls in the state of Chhattisgarh next month, 294 candidates submitted a total of 455 nomination papers for the 20 assembly constituencies. Notably, 254 of these nominations were filed on the final day for submission.

The scrutiny of these nomination papers is scheduled for October 21, and candidates will have the opportunity to withdraw their nominations until October 23.

As per the Chief Electoral Officer's office, the number of candidates for each constituency is as follows:

- Rajnandgaon: 33
- Kawardha: 29
- Pandariya: 20
- Bhanupratappur: 15
- Jagdalpur and Dantewada: 14 each
- Dongargarh, Dongargaon, and Antargarh: 12 each
- Khairagarh and Kondagaon: 11 each

Bijapur and Konta: 10 each

Chitrakot: 9

Narayanpur and Khujji: 8 each

Kanker and Keshkal: 7 each

Bastar and Mohla-Manpur: 6 each

The first phase encompasses 12 constituencies within the Bastar division, including eight assembly constituencies across Rajnandgaon, Mohla-Manpur-Ambargarh Chowki, Khairagarh-Chhui-khadan-Gandai, and Kairdham districts.

The voting for these 20 seats is scheduled for November 7, with the elections taking place in two phases within the state. The total number of voters for these 20 constituencies in the first phase is 40,78,681, consisting of 19,93,937 men, 20,84,675 women, and 69 third-gender voters. The electoral process will be facilitated through 5,304 polling stations.

BATTLE OF IMAGE

# LITMUS TEST FOR KCR, RAHUL, PRIYANKA IN TELANGANA POLLS

CONTINUED FROM P1

state to boost the Congress party. In the past, the late YSR Reddy was a charismatic leader for the Congress who won the undivided state and contributed to the formation of UPA 2 in terms of MPs. However, Congress's decision to create Telangana resulted in the party's decline in both Andhra and Telangana, leading to KCR's rise. This time, the situation is somewhat different. After KCR's ten-year rule, Congress is making a determined effort in Telangana, with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi conducting rallies and roadshows.

Inspired by their success in Karnataka, Congress has adopted a similar model in Telangana to attract voters. Rahul Gandhi has announced various schemes, including financial assistance to women, free bus travel, and affordable gas cylinders. KCR, on the other hand, has his own popularity on the ground, built during his decade in power. His government's flagship social schemes are his strong points.



During campaign events, there have been exchanges of words between Gandhi and the KCR government, with allegations of corruption. Responding to Congress leader KT Rama Rao, who is a minister and KCR's son, KTR stated that Rahul lacks a true understanding of the ground situation and is merely reading from scripts provided by local leaders.

Another factor at play is the influence of Owaisi, whose party attracts the minority vote in Telangana. Owaisi is in alliance with KCR, which makes it challenging for Congress to compete for these votes. Owaisi has been critical of Congress and Rahul Gandhi.

The BJP is also eager to make inroads in Telangana

and appointed Cabinet Minister G. Kishan Reddy as the party president ahead of the elections.

On the ground, it appears to be a two-way battle between KCR and Congress, with KCR having an advantage due to his leadership in the state's formation and subsequent development. However, Congress sees an opportunity due to perceived anti-incumbency against KCR.

If Congress wins in Telangana, the credit would largely go to the Gandhi siblings, as there are no prominent local faces in the state to take the credit. In contrast, wins in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, or Chhattisgarh have strong local leaders, making a Telangana victory a significant milestone for the Gandhis.

CASH FOR QUERY ROW

# TMC MP Mahua Moitra's counsel withdraws from defamation case

CONTINUED FROM P1

he was "appalled" and added that since Sankaranarayanan tried to play the role of a mediator, is he still eligible to appear in the matter? "It's something that you need to answer yourself. It's your call," the judge said, prompting Sankaranarayanan to withdraw himself from the case.

The court scheduled the matter for further hearing on October 31 after the Dusshera break.

During the brief hearing, Dehadrai, who appeared in person, claimed that the senior lawyer had

spoken to him for nearly 30 minutes over the phone and asked him to withdraw the CBI complaint in exchange for a dog named Henry.

Moitra's petition in the high court sought directions to restrain Dubey, Dehadrai, various social media platforms, and media houses from posting, circulating, or publishing fake and defamatory content about her. Moitra alleged that her former close friend, lawyer Dehadrai, had sent vile, threatening, vulgar messages and trespassed into her official residence, stealing personal possessions, including her pet dog,

Henry. She had initially filed police complaints, which were later withdrawn due to settlement talks.

Moitra, the Lok Sabha member from Krishnanagar in West Bengal, sought a permanent injunction against Dubey, Dehadrai, social media platform X, search engine Google, YouTube, 15 media houses, and requested to restrain them from making, publishing, or circulating defamatory statements against her. She also sought damages.

Dubey had accused Moitra of accepting bribes from a businessman

to ask questions in Parliament, and he urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to form an inquiry committee to investigate the charges. In his letter to the Lok Sabha speaker, Dubey claimed that advocate Dehadrai provided "irrefutable" evidence of bribes being given to Moitra by a businessman.

Moitra denied the allegations and contended that they were intended to harm her reputation. She requested the court to direct the defendants to remove all alleged defamatory and scurrilous content from their respective platforms.

WAR AGAINST TERROR

# ISRAEL STRIKES HUNDREDS OF OPERATIONAL HAMAS TARGETS

CONTINUED FROM P1

nization Hamas, the terrorist took part in the murderous terrorist operations in the Gaza Strip. Also, in a targeted attack, a terrorist squad associated with the terrorist organization's air force that planned to launch missiles at an aircraft was thwarted.

Meanwhile, Senior Israeli officials have spoken about the prospect of an imminent large-scale ground operation in the Gaza Strip to eliminate the terrorist group Hamas, the Times of Israel

reported on Thursday.

According to the report, Israel Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told soldiers near Gaza that the order to enter the Palestinian enclave would be given "soon."

"You now see Gaza from afar, soon you will see it from the inside," Gallant told troops of the Givati Brigade. He further said, "The order will come."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also visited the frontlines, rallying a group of Golan soldiers near the Gaza border

and telling them Israel was on its way to a major victory. Additionally, the Defense Ministry and the Israel Defense Forces announced that they will begin to evacuate residents from the northern city of Kiryat Shmona to state-subsidized guest houses, The Times of Israel reported.

It reported that the evacuation comes amid repeated rocket and missile attacks by the Hezbollah terror group and other allied Palestinian factions targeting northern Israel.

CONTINUED FROM P1

Serbia, Columbia, Italy, Thailand, Canada, the Netherlands, Poland and the European Union participated in the meeting.

Taking to X, Cohen reposted Israel Hebrew's statement on X stating, "We demand that the international organizations and the Red Cross reach out to the abductees in order to verify their condition and the conditions in which they are being held." "The Minister of Foreign Affairs @elico1 together with 22 ambassadors and diplomats from countries that have abductees, calling for the immediate release of the abductees and to allow visits by the Red Cross. The meeting was attended by ambassadors from Tanzania, Russia, Romania, Portugal, Peru, Serbia, Colombia, Austria, Ethiopia, Argentina, Philippines, Georgia, Sri Lanka, France, Mexico, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Thailand, Canada, the Netherlands, Poland and the European Union," he added.

ACHIEVEMENT

# PM MODI LAUNCHES COUNTRY'S MAIDEN RAPID RAIL CORRIDOR

CONTINUED FROM P1

corridors have been identified to be developed in the National Capital Region (NCR), out of which three corridors have been prioritised to be implemented in Phase-I including Delhi - Ghaziabad - Meerut Corridor; Delhi - Gurugram - SNB - Alwar Corridor; and Delhi - Panipat Corridor.

The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS being developed at a cost of more than Rs 30,000 crore, and will connect Delhi to Meerut in less than an hour of travel time going through the urban centres of Ghaziabad, Muradnagar, and Modinagar. The 82-km Delhi-Meerut section is likely to be completed by 2025.

RRTS, being developed in the country, is a state-of-the-art regional mobility solution, and is comparable to the best in the world. It will provide safe, reliable and modern intercity commuting solutions in the country.

In line with PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the RRTS network will have extensive multi-modal-integration with Railway stations, Metro stations and Bus services. Such transformative regional mobility solutions will boost economic activity in the region;

provide improved access to employment, education and healthcare opportunities; and help in significant reduction of vehicular congestion and air pollution.

This new dedicated, high-speed, high-capacity, commuter service, the RRTS is different from both conventional railways as well as Metros.

It is better than conventional railways as it provides reliable, high-frequency, point-to-point regional travel. It is different from Metros as it caters to passengers who are looking to travel a comparatively longer distance with fewer stops and at a higher speed.

Offering comfortable seats and air conditioning, the priority section of RRTS is going to uplift travel in Ghaziabad.

Otherwise, the options so far for the commuters were public autorickshaws and buses, or private buses or taxis, amid the hot and humid weather clubbed with traffic.

The Sahibabad RRTS station from where the Prime Minister flagged off India's first RapidX train is just 4 km away from the Vaishali Metro Station situated on the Blue line of the Delhi Metro.

TURN OF EVENTS

# Canada shuts consulate office in Chandigarh amid row

CONTINUED FROM P1

A notice has been posted on the office door located on the 4th floor of the Elante Office Complex in phase-I of the Industrial Area. The notice states that consular services from the Consulate General of Canada in Chandigarh are temporarily suspended and provides contact information for the High Commission of Canada in New Delhi (7/8 Shanti Path, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021).

A security personnel at the consulate office has mentioned that while the office remains open, the services have been discontinued, and the duration of this suspension remains uncertain.

However, applicants who had arrived at the visa facilitation service center on the ground floor, which typically forwards applications to relevant embassies, were taken by surprise. One such applicant, Gurwinder Singh from Fazilka, who had applied for a Canadian study visa, was not informed about the suspension of services. There are many people like him who have been caught off guard.

CONTINUED FROM P1

garding Canadian diplomatic presence in India," the ministry statement read.

"The state of our bilateral relations, the much higher number of Canadian diplomats in India, and their continued interference in our internal affairs warrant a parity in mutual diplomatic presence in New Delhi and Ottawa," it said.

India has engaged with Canada over the past month in order to work out the details and modalities of its implementation, the MEA statement read, adding that India's actions in implementing the parity are fully consistent with Article 11.1 of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic ties.

"Our actions in implementing this parity are fully consistent with Article 11.1 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations."

SEEKING JUSTICE

# PFI moves SC against Centre's 5-year ban under UAPA

CONTINUED FROM P1

the seizure of several dozen properties.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification had mentioned that some of the PFI's founding members were former leaders of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), and the PFI had connections with the proscribed organization, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). Both JMB and SIMI are banned organizations. The notification also highlighted several instances of international linkages between the PFI and global terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

According to the notification, the PFI, its associates, affiliates, or fronts have allegedly been working covertly to promote the radicalization of a particular community by fostering a sense of insecurity in the country. This assertion was supported by evidence that some PFI members had reportedly joined international terrorist organizations.



TOP OF THE DAY

**PUNJAB HEALTH WORKER ARRESTED FOR TAKING RS 50,000 BRIBE**

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its anti-corruption campaign has arrested Sanjeev Singh, resident of village Bareke, posted as field worker, civil hospital Mamdot, Ferozepur district for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000. Disclosing this here on Friday, a spokesperson of the VB said the above-mentioned official has been arrested on the complaint of Jagdish Singh, resident of village Mallwal Kadeem, Ferozepur district who has lodged a complaint on the Chief Minister's Anti-Corruption Action Line in this regard. Giving details he informed that the said complainant has alleged in his complaint that the above said health official had taken Rs 50,000 for helping him in lieu of amendment in a medico-legal report (MLR) after an enquiry from a special board of doctors.

**DELHI POLICE BUST CYBER FRAUD GANG, ARREST 7**

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Friday busted a gang of cyber cheaters and unveiled a web of deception and financial scams with the arrest of seven people from Delhi-NCR and Bihar. As per Deputy Commissioner of Police in Delhi's Shahdara, Rohit Meena, the gang used to lure innocent people by giving them lucrative offers and then extorted money from them. A gang of cyber cheaters was busted with the arrest of seven persons from Delhi-NCR and Bihar. Rs 4-5 crore worth of transactions were detected.

**GUJARAT MAN ARRESTED FOR SENDING SENSITIVE INFO TO PAKISTAN**

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Police Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Friday arrested a man for allegedly sending sensitive information to Pakistan using a messaging platform. As per the ATS officials, the espionage attempt has been targeted at the family of Indian Army personnel. The accused has been identified as Labhshankar Maheshwari from Tarapur town of Gujarat's Anand district. The ATS officials further informed that the accused has been a Pakistani citizen who later got Indian citizenship. SP, Gujarat ATS, Om Prakash Jat while speaking at a press conference regarding the arrest informed that the ATS received inputs from Military intelligence that a Pakistan agent was using Remote Access Trojan (RAT) malware to access phones and steal sensitive information.

**JHARKHAND GUV CONDOLES DEATH OF SPIRITUAL GURU MELMARUVATHUR**

CHENNAI: Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan on Friday condoled the death of spiritual guru Melmaruvathur Bangaru Adigalar. "Tamil Nadu has lost a great saint. He is a great saviour of Hinduism in Tamil Nadu. Today we all are paying our greatest respect to him," he said. Guru Bangaru Adigalar was a renowned spiritual guru who received India's third-highest civilian award, Padma Shree.

MP REPORT CARD

ASSESSING RANJEETA KOLI'S PERFORMANCE AS MP OF BHARATPUR

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A ground-level survey of the Bharatpur parliamentary seat was exclusively conducted by India News in order to analyse the work of MP Ranjeeta Koli, the MP from Ujjain, and understand the voter's feedback about him.

Ranjeeta Koli is an Indian politician who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bharatpur, Rajasthan in the 2019 Indian general election as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. She won the election by getting 7,07,992 votes which was nearly 61.74% of the votes. She is new to politics but she belongs to a political family. Her father-in-law Gangaram Koli was a time MP from the Bayana Lok Sabha constituency from 1991 to 1998.

Bharatpur has the country's most famous bird park in Rajasthan, the Keoladeo National Park. The temples, palaces and forts here testify to the artistic skills of the Jats. Bharatpur was once a stronghold of Jats.

The Bharatpur Lok Sabha seat is reserved for SC. It was earlier controlled by Congress but now BJP's hold is getting stronger. BSP too always had influence on this Lok Sabha



| HISTORY OF BHARATPUR SEAT           |                                |                                  |                             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1999-2004<br>Vishvendra Singh (BJP) | 2009<br>Ratan Singh (Congress) | 2014<br>Bahadur Singh Koli (BJP) | 2019<br>Ranjeeta Koli (BJP) |

| ASSEMBLY SEATS(8) |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Kathumar          | Bharatpur |
| Kaman             | Nadbai    |
| Nagar             | Weir      |
| Deeg-Kumher       | Bayana    |

| REPORT CARD OF MP (PARLIAMENT) |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Attendance in Parliament-95%   | Questions in the House-94% |
| Utilization of MP funds - 97%  | Special contribution-80%   |

There are about 19 lakh voters in Bharatpur Lok Sabha seat. In every election, the real contest is between Congress and BJP, but because of BSP, the contest becomes triangular. The Jat voters play a decisive role when it comes to the election results of this seat. After Jat, the Jatav vote bank is going to influence the results here. The trend of Jatav-Muslim, Meena and Khatik votes has been towards Congress. But now BJP has succeeded in making a dent in this vote bank.



- ISSUES**
- Drinking water crisis
  - Weak tourism infrastructure
  - Illegal mining
  - Extreme unemployment
  - Poor education and health
  - Local roads are in bad shape
  - Connectivity problem
  - Rural backwardness
  - Waterlogging problem

- CASTE EQUATION**
- Male- 49%
  - Female- 51%
  - Urban- 18%
  - Rural- 82%
  - SC 22%
  - ST 4%
  - Muslim 18%

There are no big companies or industries here. From hotels to transport, all businesses depend on Bharatpur Bird Park. The result of the MP report card shows that although the voters are satisfied with the MP's performance, still Koli's performance is average and there is scope for improvement in developmental work and winning trust.

MP REPORT CARD (GROUND)

**1- Are you happy with the work of your MP?**  
A- Yes-56%  
B-No-42%  
C-Don't know-02%

**2--Would you like to re-elect your MP?**  
A- Yes-55%  
B-No-43%  
C-Don't know-02%

**3-If the candidate is changed, will you vote for the same party?**  
A- Yes-66%  
B-No-20%  
C-Don't know-14%

**4-On what basis will you vote in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections?**  
A- Modi Factor-39%  
B- MP Factor-30%  
C- Party Factor-28%  
D- Don't know-3%

**5- Will Modi factor work in 2024 general elections?**  
A- Yes-69%  
B-No-20%  
C-Don't know-11%

**GROUND SURVEY RATING 6.1/10**

WATER-SHARING-DISPUTE

CLARIFY YOUR STAND ON MP PATHAK'S DEMAND FOR SYL WATER FOR HARYANA: SAD TO MANN

TARUNI GANDHI  
CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal today asked Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to clear his stand on his own Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak's demand for SYL water for Haryana before calling opposition parties for a debate. He should hold a debate with his Haryana AAP unit on the SYL canal issue, the party said.

Addressing a press conference here today, SAD Legal Wing President Arshdeep Singh Kler said the Punjab CM first provided Ministeri-



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

al Kothi No. 964 to Haryana AAP unit team for demanding construction of SYL canal and ensuring water supply for Haryana and now he

Haryana. He asked the CM how a Punjab Rajya Sabha MP could demand water for Haryana from SYL and why he was silent on the issue.

Advocate Kler said that Bhagwant Mann should demand immediate suspension of the MP from the party while forwarding his case to the Rajya Sabha secretariat for his suspension and subsequently declaring his seat vacant for opposing Punjab's rights in the country.

The SAD leader said that it was shocking that CM Bhagwant Mann is enacting the drama of debate on SYL as well as calling an illegal session of Vidhan Sabha on

the issue which will have no positive outcome.

He said that instead of challenging opposition parties, Bhagwant Mann should hold a debate with his Haryana AAP unit on demand of SYL and Punjabis will be eager to see how he defends the rights of the state on the SYL canal issue or he will simply surrender rights of the state as he did in Supreme Court.

Advocate Kler reminded the CM that SAD and Punjabis will never allow SYL to be built in Punjab, so he should tell Arvind Kejriwal as well Haryana AAP unit that they should forget SYL canal water in Punjab.

DIVORCE-CASE-RULING

WOMEN ARE NOT SLAVES OF THEIR MOTHERS OR MOTHER-IN-LAW: KERALA HC

ASHISH SINHA  
NEW DELHI

The Kerala High Court has recently observed that women are not slaves of their mothers and mother-in-law while criticising a family court order in a divorce case for its 'patriarchal' observations.

Justice Devan Ramachandran noted that a family court at Thrissur earlier dismissed a divorce plea filed by the wife after observing that her complaints were part of "ordinary wear & tear."

HARYANA-ROADS-SAFETY

Haryana Police is lagging behind in Road Safety Fund expenditure

VIPIN PARMAR  
HARYANA

Haryana Police is lagging behind in Road Safety Fund expenditure, revealed the state government's response to a question asked by the MLA. Information has been given by the state government that Rs 170 crore was allocated to the police for road safety, but it was able to spend only Rs 72.12 crore in a period of 5 years, while there are

disputes at hand were easily solvable and could be settled out of court. Justice Ramachandran made it clear that he could only direct an out-of-court settlement if the woman also was willing to explore the same. The judge added, "She has a mind of her own. Will you tie her up and force mediation? This is exactly why she was forced to leave you. Behave well, be a man."

Justice Ramachandran observed, "Women are not slaves of their mothers or mothers-in-law." Also, the judge took exception to a submission made by the husband's lawyer that the

disputes at hand were easily solvable and could be settled out of court. Justice Ramachandran made it clear that he could only direct an out-of-court settlement if the woman also was willing to explore the same. The judge added, "She has a mind of her own. Will you tie her up and force mediation? This is exactly why she was forced to leave you. Behave well, be a man."

The Court dealt with a plea made by a woman to transfer a divorce case pending before a family court in Kot-

arakara to a family court in Thalassery, which was closer to Mahe, where she moved for employment along with her child (born out of the wedlock).

She told the Court that she initially moved to her paternal house in Kottarakara along with her child due to marital disputes and abuse at her matrimonial house. After her first divorce plea was dismissed by a Thrissur court she filed her divorce plea at Kottarakara, since it was closer to her paternal house.

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TAMIL-NADU-POLITICS

Naam Tamilar Katchi will go alone in LS elections: Seeman



LATHA SRINIVASAN  
TAMIL NADU

On October 19th, Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) leader Seeman spoke to the media in Salem, Tamil Nadu, and categorically stated that his party would go alone in the Lok Sabha elections and not forge any alliances.

Seeman stated, "Even when AIADMK held talks on an alliance, the Naam Tamilar Katchi turned it down as the principles of both these parties are different."

The NTK leader also said if PM Narendra Modi contested the LS polls, then he would stand against him.

He also weighed in on the Cauvery row and said that the DMK should have broken away from the L.N.D.I.A. Bloc as Congress was denying water to the people of Tamil Nadu. He added that although his party had differing views with the DMK on various issues and policies, however, he would not accept the disrespect shown

to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin by the agitators in Karnataka during the bandh.

The Cauvery row has been making headlines in recent months with various party leaders in Tamil Nadu condemning the DMK for not ensuring that the farmers in the state received the Cauvery water supply as per the order of the Cauvery Water Management Authority.

Seeman also spoke about the assault on Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lanka and criticized both the state and Centre for not taking any action on this. The NTK leader expressed confidence that at some point the party would form the government soon in Tamil Nadu.

On the issue of AIADMK snapping ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Seeman said that he presumed that it was a permanent breakdown of the alliance and not just a rift between the AIADMK and the BJP.

BIHAR-POLITICS-ALLIANCE

NITISH KUMAR SPEAKS OF 'FRIENDSHIP' WITH BJP LEADERS

TDG NETWORK  
MOTIHARI



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday while pointing towards a BJP leader from the stage said, "All the people we have here, are our friends. You will remain connected to me as long as I live."

Nitish was speaking at the convocation ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi Central University in Motihari.

"All the people we have here are our friends. We are different, you are different, does it mean our friendship will end? You will remain connected to me as long as I live. We will all work together. President, we are very happy that you are here. We would like you to keep coming here. We will show you the entire Champaran once, the land of Mahatma Gandhi," Nitish Kumar said.

The RJD, an ally of Nitish Kumar, however played down the comments saying the Bihar Chief Minister was speaking of his personal relationships.

"Radha Mohan Singh (of BJP) was sitting in front, so he spoke about his personal relationship. There is no mention of any party. People interpreted him incorrectly" said RJD's Shakti Yadav.

The BJP also distanced itself from the comments and said it has no connection any more with Nitish Kumar.

"Nitish Kumar has left, we have asked him to leave. BJP clearly believes that we are together in development but there is a fight on principles. Amit Shah has said that he has no connection with Nitish Kumar" said Saket Choudhary the state BJP chief.

President Droupadi Murmu and Governor Rajendra Vishwanath were also present on the stage. Today is the second day of President Murmu's visit to Bihar.

President Droupadi Murmu had on Wednesday inaugurated the state's fourth agriculture road map aimed at enhancing agriculture production in Patna. In her address, she stated that agriculture is an important part of the folk culture of Bihar and the basis of its economy.

While launching the Krishi road map President Murmu said that farmers of Bihar are known for adopting new experiments in farming noting that a Nobel laureate economist had called the farmers of Nalanda "greater than scientists".

TRUDEAU'S SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS

# The unrealised potential of the India Canada partnership

OPINION

PRIYANKA MISHRA



Justin Trudeau's foolish parliamentary antics have hampered a promising partnership of nations that have the potential to grow as trade and cultural partners. Clearly, the Canadian PM lacks a smart Foreign affairs committee and a solid team of advisors, that could make him realize he just shot himself in the foot. The bumbling premier seems to have learnt little from the misadventures of his father and might repeat the glaring mistakes that have stained Canada's political history and its security narrative.

Following New Delhi's issuance of a safety advisory there is a possibility that Indian students might not consider Canada as their destination for higher education. This possible shift in student preferences could impact the education sector that contributes about C\$22 billion (\$16.3 billion) in annual revenues to Canada.

Indian students play a significant role in contributing to the Canadian economy in many ways. Indian students pay tuition fees to Canadian universities and colleges, which are often higher for international students compared to domestic students. This influx of tuition fees constitutes a substantial source of revenue for Canadian educational institutions.

These students spend money on various goods and services in Canada, including accommodation, food, transportation, and entertainment. Their spending stimulates local economies and supports businesses in the vicinity of educational institutions.

Universities and colleges hire faculty, administrative staff, and support personnel to accommodate the growing student body. Additionally, the increased demand for services, such as housing and dining, leads to employment in various sectors.

Indian students often engage in research activities during their academic programs. Their contributions to research projects not only enhance the quality of research but can also lead to innovations and discoveries with potential economic benefits.

Many Indian students choose to stay in Canada af-

ter completing their studies, contributing to the Canadian workforce. Indian students who remain in Canada for employment and possibly pursue permanent residency continue to contribute to the Canadian economy over the long term. They pay taxes, invest in real estate, and participate in various economic activities.

Canada, like many other developed nations, is experiencing a demographic shift characterized by an aging population. This means that a significant proportion of its citizens are reaching retirement age, and the birth rate is not sufficiently high to replace the retiring workforce. As a result, there is a growing gap between the number of people leaving the labor force (retirees) and those entering it.

For any economy to thrive and maintain sustainable economic growth, it needs a healthy and growing labor force. A shrinking or stagnant labor force can pose several challenges, including labor shortages, reduced economic productivity, and increased pressure on social welfare programs.

Canada has recognized the need to address the challenges posed by an aging workforce, and immigration has emerged as a key solution.

According to the most recent 2021 census reports compiled by Statistics Canada, approximately 23% of Canada's population comprises immigrants. Furthermore, these reports indicate that over 62% of the newly arrived immigrants originate from Asia, predominantly from India. In a noteworthy development,

this marks the first instance where India has claimed the highest share, accounting for 18.6% of the immigrant population.

On the other side, India's access to Canadian potash, a critical nutrient for agricultural crops, faces disruption. Potash primarily in the form of potassium chloride (KCl), is a vital component in fertilizers, enhancing crop yields and ensuring food security.

India, being one of the world's largest agricultural producers, relies on potash imports to meet the nutrient requirements of its crops since it does not possess significant domestic reserves of this essential nutrient. Canada is one of the world's leading exporters of potash, and Indian agriculture depends on a steady and reliable supply of Canadian potash to maintain agricultural productivity.

A break down in trade ties might lead to increased prices for potash in the Indian market and reduce crop yield. This could impact food prices for consumers and the profitability of farmers.

Furthermore, India seeks to establish itself as a global pharmaceutical powerhouse. It is already known for producing high-quality and cost-effective medicines. When it comes to exports to Canada, pharmaceuticals play a crucial role, contributing significantly to the bilateral trade relationship.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, India played a pivotal role in supplying essential pharmaceutical products, including vaccines, to Canada. This collaboration highlighted the importance of the pharmaceutical sector in addressing global health crises.

Iron and steel products are another significant category of Indian exports to Canada. These products are essential for various industries, including construction, manufacturing, and infrastructure development. Gems and jewelry, electrical machinery and organic chemicals are some of the other exports from India to Canada. The grinding halt to trade talks between the two nations is likely to affect all these sectors.

Although Canada's share in FDI inflows into India is minuscule, it was likely to grow substantially over the years, given the potential of the Indian economy. The current gloomy outlook on their relationship is unfortunate for both nations.

India and Canada have established a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the objective of enhancing trade and investment within the technology sector. Within the framework of this agreement, both nations have pledged to lower tariffs and address non-tariff barriers in the trade of technology-related goods and services, encompassing areas such as information technology, electronics, and telecommunications. Additionally, the CEPA encompasses provisions for collaborative efforts in the realms of digital innovation and support for startup ventures.

In recent years, India has sought to position itself as an alternative to China as a global supply-chain hub. The ongoing tensions in the India-Canada relationship threaten to disrupt this strategy. A trade deal with Canada could have been a

crucial step in enhancing India's role as a reliable supply-chain partner.

Similar in value of export-import relationships, India and Canada so far enjoyed a promising economic partnership, with over 600 Canadian enterprises, including prominent names like Bombardier and SNC Lavalin, maintaining significant operations in India. Conversely, more than 30 Indian companies, including major IT players such as TCS, Infosys, and Wipro, have made substantial investments totaling billions of dollars in Canada. These investments have not only strengthened economic ties but have also led to the creation of numerous job opportunities in both countries. One wonders how the current stand-off will affect these corporates, employees and their plans for further expansion.

It is unfortunate that Canada has chosen to become a safe haven for terrorists and anti-India activities. Although both countries stand to lose, this nose-dive in relationships brought on by Trudeau's short-sightedness is going to hurt Canada much more than India. His choice of political appeasement over economic ties is likely to end badly not just for him but for Canadians in general.

*Priyanka Mishra has worked as an investor, thought leader and advisor for Stanford Seed, Ivycap Ventures, Lead Angels and Endiya Partners. She is a keen Geo political observer and has previously been an advisor to Canadian women entrepreneurs wanting to expand their businesses to India through the inter-governmental Canada India Acceleration Program.*

PERSPECTIVE  
RIFT

## AKHILESH TOUGHENS STAND ON SEAT SHARING WITH CONGRESS IN UP

Samajwadi Party boss and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Akhilesh Yadav is not amused with the statements made by the State Congress Chief Ajay Rai that the grand old party was preparing to put up nominees in all the 80 seats for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. Rai had earlier questioned the wisdom of the Samajwadi Party in fielding a nominee against the official congress candidate in Uttar Pradesh, and its attempts to weaken the Congress in Madhya Pradesh where it has no say or stakes. This despite the fact that the Congress had supported the SP fully during the by-election to Ghosi. Akhilesh reacted sharply to Rai's assertions and maintained that the Congress needed to make its stand clear whether it wanted to have co-operation with his organization as part of the understanding reached at the meetings of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). He was unsure whether the Congress would be able to identify too many seats where its nominees could win in a Parliamentary poll. This was a dig the SP supremo had at the Congress leadership since the party has only one seat (Rae Bareilly) in the current Parliament and its chances of winning in the State are considered bleak, given that there is no organizational network, and the Gandhis are losing their charm with each passing day. In 2019, Rahul Gandhi had been defeated from the family bastion of Amethi by union minister Smriti Irani and it is unlikely that either he or Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would be able to win the seat back from the BJP. Even Akhilesh's overall position in UP is not very sound and the Samajwadi Party has to do much more, if it has to wrest seats from the BJP during the Parliamentary confrontation. In fact, after Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh is the strongest BJP state and whether one likes it or not, there is wide acceptance for Yogi Adityanath's leadership. The general belief is that the current Chief Minister, the first in the State's history to have been re-elected, has made UP, far safer than it ever was, and was likely to virtually repeat the BJP's performance in the Lok Sabha election. This is regardless of the fact whether the INDIA alliance partners work out things amongst themselves or enter the fray separately. Many political analysts also are of the view that the BJP may not be able to replicate its performance in all the States, but so far as UP and Gujarat are concerned, it shall fare very well from all accounts. Although Ajay Rai is a five-time MLA, he should realise that it was not the time to have a sparring match with allies, who are much stronger. There are reports that the Congress may retain Rae Bareilly, because there has been a secret understanding the party has reached with Mayawati. However, this was not going to be sufficient. Unless and until, the Congress gets into double digits in India's largest state, its chances of making a comeback nationally would always be bleak. The Hindi heartland is where the Congress needs to improve its performance to be a contender for the top spot, which has been eluding it for the past two polls. Yes, it is true that the differences amongst INDIA partners have surfaced during the Assembly polls which shall be held in November. The Congress and the BJP are facing each other in three States and other allies must not play spoilers by fielding candidates there since they are marginal players and therefore should honour the spirit of the coalition of helping each other. The best news for the alliance partners would be if the BJP is humbled not only in these three states but also in Telangana and Mizoram. The outcome would have an impact on the Lok Sabha polls and may provide a psychological advantage to the INDIA partners nationally. However, what needs to be seen is that the partners have many contradictions and none of them would want the Congress to be stronger again. A weak Congress suits them more than a weak BJP since most of the allies have at some stage or the other been partners of the BJP as well but were occupying the space which Congress once held. This is the reason, why the Congress leadership in general and Mallikarjun Kharge in particular must ensure that state leaders do not speak out of turn and try and adjust with the partners in the larger interests of the alliance. It is also anticipated that the INDIA alliance may develop cracks closer to the polls, and three leaders who could play a role in widening them would possibly be Nitish Kumar, Arvind Kejriwal and Sharad Pawar. And if Akhilesh Yadav was to join them, the alliance would collapse prematurely. In UP, the Congress cannot regain its lost ground, till its traditional vote bank of Brahmins, Dalits and Muslims comes back in its fold. This is unlikely to happen and instead of wooing these three segments, some party leaders are surprisingly talking about OBC politics, knowing fully well that by and large, the OBCs have always been against the Congress. It is very important that for INDIA alliance to move forward, the partners need to strengthen the perception regarding the common intent, and work toward the objective instead of publicly differing on minor issues. Perception sometimes help, whatever be the reality.

PANKAJ VOHRA

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

# Geopolitical jigsaw: Unravelling its impact on financial market resilience

DR SAIF SIDDIQUI AND DR NEHA SETH

Increased uncertainty and rising cross-border tensions affect global capital flows and financial stability. Tensed ties between the USA-China, the Russia-Ukraine crises, the most recent Israel-Hamas war etc., are a few recent geopolitics situations which have affected overall financial and capital market stability. As per the IMF report, since 2016, there has been about a 15 per cent reduction in bilateral cross-border allocation of portfolio investment and bank claims between the USA and China.

IMF October 2021 Outlook report estimated global economic growth (in 2022) to be five per cent. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) projection slackened to 2.2 per cent in 2023. European Union (EU) Autumn 2022 Economic Forecast stated that the EU, due to its vicinity to the Russia-Ukraine war, was exposed to lower growth as it relies on imported fossil fuels. This war impacted Europe's economy, where growth in 2023 is projected to be just 0.29 per cent and 1.58 per cent in 2024. This has created an uncertain investment environment for India, where India has to navigate its uncertainty with a proper policy structure.

The Middle East's considerable position as a prominent oil provider highlights its potential to instigate global disruptions, as seen by the tangible existence of substantial geopolitical risks. The Israel-

Hamas conflict exerts a significant influence on the global economy. According to Bloomberg's analysis, there is a potential for the price of oil to increase significantly, reaching a level of USD 150 per barrel. Additionally, this jump in oil prices might have a negative impact on global economic development, potentially resulting in a decline of 1.7 per cent.

The escalation in crude oil prices can potentially result in elevated inflation levels in importing nations such as the United States, India, China, and other countries. Consequently, the expenses associated with production in many industries and the energy expenditures for both firms and people experience an increase. In the opinion of other experts, the rise in crude oil prices will happen if there is any interruption in the Strait of Hormuz.

In the realm of the capital market as well, there was an early period of turbulence. However, it is now widely believed that the ongoing battle will remain limited to the borders of Gaza and Israel. Anticipated financial market turbulence is unlikely until the conflict extends to more geographical areas. Therefore, it is challenging to anticipate a more extensive influence on the capital market. The financial market in Israel exhibited an immediate reaction characterised by significant declines in major stock indices, namely TA125 and TA35, which closed almost 7 per cent down. Additionally, government bond prices experienced a



decline of three per cent. According to reports, the Central Bank of Israel has announced its intention to engage in the sale of USD 30 billion in foreign exchange reserves. This measure is being undertaken with the objective of providing support to the domestic currency, the Shekel, and mitigating fluctuations in the exchange rate of the Shekel. The Tadawul All Share Index in Saudi Arabia had a decline of 1.3 per cent as well. On Monday, October 09, 2023, the primary stock markets in the Middle East experienced a decline during the initial trading session. The EGX30 index in Egypt had a decrease of almost 5 per cent. The Nifty index in India experienced a marginal decrease of 0.7 per cent. On the same day, the Indian markets declined as the Nifty50 and the SENSEX declined approximately one per cent each during the initial trading session. Potential negative repercussions could be experienced by Indian retail investors in the event of esca-

lating the existing conflict, particularly if it attracts involvement from other regional states.

As a consequence of the aforesaid geopolitical occurrence, investors may seek secure investment options, such as gold and treasury bonds. The price of spot gold had a 1.2 per cent increase, reaching USD 1,853.79 per ounce. Similarly, US gold futures rose by 1.2 per cent, reaching USD 1,867.80. In addition to the above-mentioned factors, the Indian equity market had a substantial outflow of USD 2.2 billion from Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in September 2023. This withdrawal represents one of the most significant monthly decreases since January 2023. Nevertheless, due to the persistent increase in US 10-year bond yields, investors hastily divested from Indian equities, which are commonly perceived as higher-risk assets and hence less appealing. Concerns about a possible escalation of geopolitical tensions in West Asia encouraged

FIIs to continue selling their Indian equity holdings throughout October 2023 and the following months. In addition, the share prices of Indian pharmaceutical businesses, oil marketing businesses and IT businesses conducting their operations in Israel may also be impacted in the event of an escalation of the crisis.

The outlook for the future is bleak inside the complex network of geopolitical uncertainty and its substantial repercussions on worldwide financial markets. The intricate and unpredictable nature of the connection between international politics and the global economy is evident when examining the consequences of recent wars. Financial markets exhibit a remarkable degree of resilience and adaptability. However, in order to navigate the evolving landscape, market participants are faced with the ongoing challenge of striking a delicate equilibrium between managing risks and capitalizing on potential opportunities. What will be the outcome of this geopolitical puzzle - will peace and stability prevail, or will there be a disintegration of components? The definitive answer cannot be ascertained until a certain period of time has elapsed.

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IN COURT

## DELHI HIGH COURT PERMITTED WOMAN LIVING SEPARATELY FROM HUSBAND TO TERMINATE 23 WEEKS PREGNANCY

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Mrs B. v. The Union Of India And Anr observed and has permitted the woman living separately from her husband and desirous of taking divorce to terminate her 23 weeks pregnancy. The bench headed by Justice Subramonium Prasad in the case observed and took note of the opinion given by the medical board of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS wherein it is stated that the foetus was normal and that it being safe to terminate the said pregnancy.



The same came after it has been directed by the court to constitute a medical board to examine the woman's condition and to consider if it would be safe for her to undergo the medical termination of the pregnancy. The woman in the matter informed the court that she had no desire of living with her husband and that it was tough for her to take the decision to terminate the pregnancy of her.

On the other hand, it was also submitted by the man that he wishes to live with her and tried to reconcile the situation but failed.

In the present case, the court was dealing with the petition moved by the 31-year-old woman who got married in June and came to know that she was carrying a single intrauterine pregnancy after a month.

Therefore, it being the case of her case that right from the early stages of marriage, she was being tortured, abused verbally, physically, mentally, and emotionally by her husband at her matrimonial home. Thus, it has been alleged by the women before the court that husband

committed physical assault on her for the first time in July and the second instance took place in August, when she was 3 months pregnant.

Therefore, the woman has been living in her parental home and she did not want to continue with her pregnancy.

The court also noted the decision taken by the court in the case Supreme Court in X v. Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Another, thus, the ratio being that it is the prerogative of each woman to evaluate her life and arrive at the best course of action in view of the change in material circumstance. The Apex Court in the

case observed and is of the opinion that change in material circumstance may result when the woman separates from her partner and she may no longer have the financial resources in order to raise the child. Further, the Apex Court in the case has included the cases of domestic violence perpetrated on a woman under Rule 3B(c) of the MTP Rules wherein a woman is permitted to terminate her pregnancy up to 24 weeks on the ground of the change of marital status during the ongoing pregnancy.

Accordingly, the court issued the notice and has ordered that the woman's husband be impleaded.

IN COURT

## Supreme Court Collegium Recommended The Appointment of Two Judicial Officers Of Delhi High Court

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The two judicial officers, Shailender Kaur and Ravinder Dudeja, sworn in as the as the additional judges of the Delhi High Court.

The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the appointment of them as Delhi High Court judges on October 10, 2023.

The Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma administered the oath of office to the newly appointed judges.

The Central Government has notified the appointments of them.

Therefore, the announcement was made by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on X i.e., the formerly Twitter.

The Supreme Court Collegium stated that the Delhi High Court's Chief Justice, in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommend the elevation of



judicial officers.

The Supreme Court Collegium with regards to the appointment of judge Shailender Kaur in its resolution stated that the Judgment Evaluation Committee has given an 'A' rating to the judgments of the judge.

The resolution stated that the collegium is conscious of the fact that the officer has recently retired from the Delhi Higher Judicial Service on 30.09.2023. therefore, the Collegium is of the considered view that she is suitable for appointment as a judge of the Delhi High Court.

However, the resolution stated with regards to the appointment of Ravinder

Dudeja who is presently the Registrar General of the Delhi High Court, thus, it has been stated that the Judgment Evaluation Committee has also given an 'A' rating to his judgments.

The resolution stated while considering the long experience of the officer in judicial service, merit and integrity, and is of the opinion that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the Delhi High Court. The Supreme Court Collegium has taken note of the fact that the proposal involves the non-recommendation of a senior judicial officer.

It has also been stated by the Supreme Court Collegium that the cogent reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending his name. thus, this court is in agreement with the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending his name.

IN COURT

## SC Directed Union And States; Increased Compensation for Sewer Deaths To Rs 30 Lakh| Completely Eradicate Manual Scavenging

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Dr. Balram Singh vs Union of India observed and has issued the categorical direction to the Union Government and all State Governments for ensuring the complete eradication of the practice of manual scavenging.

The Supreme Court in the case observed and has expressed anguish at the continuance of this abhorrent practice in India.

The Supreme Court observed and has directed that the compensation in cases of sewer deaths must be increased to Rs.30 lakhs.

Further, the court directed that in cases of the permanent disablement arising from sewer operations the increase of compensation to Rupees 20 lakhs and for other forms of disablement, the compensation must be not less than Rs 10 lakhs.

The bench comprising of Justice S Ravindra Bhat and



Justice Aravind Kumar in the case observed and has issued a slew of fourteen directions to the Union and State Governments for the effective implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as the Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013.

The bench in the case also directed the active measures for the rehabilitation of the victims and their families in order to ensure their scholarships and other skill programs.

In the present case, the court was hearing the Public Interest Litigation moved against the employment of manual scavengers.

The bench of Justice Bhat

in the case stated that if you have to be truly equal in all respects, the commitment that Constitution makers gave to all sections of society by entrenching emancipatory provisions such as Article 15(2), Article 17 and Article 23 and Article 24 of the Constitution, each of us must live up to its promise. Therefore, the Union and the States are the duty bound to ensure that the practice of manual scavenging is completely eradicated and each of them owe to this large segment of the population, who have remained the unseen, unheard, and muted, in bondage systematically trapped in human conditions. However, the conferment

of entitlements and placement of obligations upon the Union and States through the express prohibitions in the Constitution and the provisions of the 2013 Act mean that they are being obliged to implement the provisions in the letter and spirit.

The bench of Justice Bhat in its judgement stated that upon all of us citizens lie the duty of realising true fraternity. It is not without reason that our Constitution of India has placed great emphasis on the value of dignity and fraternity.

The court in the case remarked that all of us today who proudly bask in the achievements of our republic have to awake and to arise so that the darkness which has been the fate of generations of our people is dispelled and they enjoy these freedoms and justice- social, economic and political- that we take for granted.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on February 01, 2024.

IN COURT

## PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT DIRECTED POLICE TO CONSIDER PROTECTION PLEA MOVED BY SAME SEX LIVE-IN COUPLE

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case X v. State of Punjab & Ors observed and has directed the Senior Superintendent of Police to look into and pass appropriate orders on representation filed for police protection by a same-sex live in couple.

The bench headed by Justice Jasjit Singh Bedi in the case observed and stated that this court deems fit to direct respondent No. 2-Senior Superintendent of Police, District Barnala to look into the matter and in order to pass an appropriate order on the representation allegedly filed by the petitioners before him on August 07, 2023.

Further, the court stated that it would also be appreciated that if the necessary orders are passed within one month from the date of receipt of the copy of the order.

The court in the case made the said observations in response to the plea moved by the lesbian live-in couple



wherein seeking protection from their family members who objected to their relationship.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner argued before the court that the marriage is not a must for providing security to a couple in a 'live-in' relationship' because protection qua life and liberty is sacrosanct and stands at the highest pedestal.

The court while consid-

ering the plea directed the SSP, Barnala to look into the matter.

The Supreme Court in the case observed and is refrain from ranting legal recognition for same-sex marriages. Thus, it has also directed the State to take steps to end the discrimination faced by queer couples and to ensure protection for their right to cohabitation. The court also stated that it is pertinent to note that the Punjab and

Haryana High Court had earlier granted protection to a lesbian couple wherein it is stated that the Article 21 of the Constitution of India does not cease to apply when people of the same gender decide to live together.

The bench headed by Justice Anoop Chitkara in the case observed that the Love, attraction, and fondness have no boundaries, and not even the boundary of gender. Thus, some segments of societies cannot keep pace with the boldness of expression, courage not to be subservient, and the rapidly changing ethos and lifestyles that Gen-Z and millennials might like to embrace or follow, which includes openly proclaiming their attraction towards persons of similar gender.

Accordingly, the court stated that Article 21 of the Constitution of India is equally applicable to same-sex live-in couples.

The counsel, Advocate, Jasmeet Singh appeared for the petitioners.

The counsel, Kirat Singh Sidhu, DAG, Punjab.

IN COURT

## SUPREME COURT DESIGNATED 47 FORMER HIGH COURT JUDGES AS SENIOR ADVOCATES

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court decided to confer the senior designations on 47 former judges of the High Courts in its meeting held on October 16, 2023. Therefore, none among them judges are former Chief Justices of the High Courts.

The names are as follows:

1. Ms. Sonia Gokani, the former Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.
2. Mr. Ali Mohammad Magrey, the former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.
3. Mr. Satish Kumar Mittal (Satish Kumar), the former Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.
4. Mr. Ramesh Deokinandan Dhanuka, the former Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
5. Mr. Mohammad Rafiq, the former Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
6. Mrs. Sabina, the former Acting Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
7. Mr. Badar Durrez Ahmed, the former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.
8. Mr. Mahesh Mittal Kumar, the former Chief Justice



9. Dr. S. Muralidhar, the former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.
10. Mr. Vangala Eswaraiyah (V. Eswaraiyah), the former Acting Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.
11. Mr. C. Praveen Kumar, the former Acting Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.
12. Mr. Umesh Chandra Maheshwari, the former judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
13. Mr. Reddi Kantha Rao, the former judge of the Telangana High Court.
14. Mr. Mohinder Mohan Singh Bedi, the former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
15. Mr. P. N. Prakash, the former judge of the Madras High Court.
16. Mr. Ravindra Kumar Gauba, the former judge of the Delhi High Court.
17. Mr. C. L. Soni, the former judge of the Gujarat High Court.
18. Dr. Shameem Akther, the former judge of the Telangana High Court.
19. Mr. Tanaji Vishwas Nalawade (TV. Nalawade), the former judge of the Bombay High Court.
20. Mr. Shaji P. Chaly, the former judge of the Kerala High Court.
21. Ms. Jaishree Thakur, the former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
22. Ms. Mukta Gupta, the former Delhi High Court judge.
23. Mr. Ashok Kumar Verma, the former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
24. Mr. Sandeep Kashinath Shinde, the former Bombay High Court judge.
25. Mr. Najmi Waziri, the former Delhi High Court judge.
26. Mr. Anugu Santhosh Reddy, the former judge of the Telangana High Court.
27. Mr. Chandra Bhushan

28. Mr. Wadane Kalidas (Kalidas Laxmanrao Wadane), former Bombay High Court judge.
29. Mr. Subrata Talukdar, the former Calcutta High Court judge.
30. Mr. Talwant Singh, the former Delhi High Court judge.
31. Ms. Asha Menon, the former Delhi High Court judge.
32. Mrs. Sadhana S. Jadhav, the former Bombay High Court judge.
33. Dr. Addula Venkateshwar Reddy, the former Telangana High Court judge.
34. Dr. Durga Prasanna Choudhury, the former Orissa High Court judge.
35. Mr. Inderjit Singh, the former P&H High Court judge.
36. Mr. Mohan Lal Mehta, the former Delhi High Court judge.
37. Mr. V. Parthiban, the

38. Mr. Vinay M. Deshpande (Vinay Deshpande), the former Bombay High Court judge.
39. Dr. S. Tamilvanan, the former Madras High Court judge.
40. Mr. Gurmit Ram, the former P&H High Court judge.
41. Mr. Tejinder Singh Dhindsa, the former P&H High Court judge.
42. Mr. N. Kirubakaran, the former Madras High Court judge.
43. Ms. Anjana Mishra, the former Patna High Court judge.
44. Mr. Satyaranjan C. Dharmadhikari, the former Bombay High Court judge.
45. Mr. Mehinder Singh (Sullar), the former P&H High Court judge.
46. Mr. Abhay Mahadeo Thipsay, the former Bombay High Court judge.
47. Mr. Somayajulu, D.V.S.S., the former Andhra Pradesh High Court judge.



IN COURT

# STATE/UTS MUST NOTIFY 'DISTRICT OFFICERS' UNDER POSH ACT: SC ISSUES SLEW OF DIRECTIONS

## ANALYSIS

SANJEEV SIROHI

While not leaving even a drop of doubt in the mind of anyone, the Apex Court as recently as on October 19, 2023 in a most learned, laudable, landmark and latest judgment titled *Initiatives For Inclusion Foundation & Anr vs Union of India & Ors in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1224 of 2017* and cited in Neutral Citation: 2023 INSC 927 in the exercise of its original civil jurisdiction has issued a slew of directions to the Union Government and all State/UT Governments to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) read with its Rules. It must be noted that the Bench of the Apex Court passed these most commendable directions in a writ petition that had been filed under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution by an organization named 'Initiatives For Inclusive Foundation' seeking effective implementation of the provisions of the POSH Act. The most significant among these directions is the direction made mandatory by the Court that the States and Union Territories must appoint a "District Officer" as per Section 5 of the Act

even though in the Section 5 itself it is not mandatory. Most significantly, what constitutes the "real backbone" of this learned judgment is then laid bare in para 22 wherein it is postulated that, "Having regard to the above discussion, it is appropriate for this court to issue the following directions (under the relevant heads) to ensure the effective implementation of the POSH Act, and render it workable:

A. Coordination between Union Government and State/UT Governments

i. The Women and Child Development Ministry of every State/UT, through its Principal Secretary, should consider identifying a 'nodal person' within the Department, to oversee and aid in coordination as contemplated under the POSH Act. This person would also be able to coordinate with the Union Government on matters relating to this Act and its implementation.

ii. Each State/UT Government is to submit a consolidated report of its compliance with the below directions to the Union Government within 8 weeks. The latter is hereby directed to consolidate the various reports, identify any lapses in the compliance by the State and try to remedy it, before filing

a consolidated affidavit of compliance – detailing the States' compliance, and the Union Government's action taken in regard to the direction within 12 weeks from the date of this judgment.

B. Appointment of public authorities

iii. The concerned Principal Secretary of the State/UT Ministry of Women and Child [or any other Department, subject to amendment of the Rules as per direction (vii) below], will personally ensure appointment of a district officer in each district within their territorial jurisdiction, as contemplated under Section 5 within four weeks from the date of this judgment.

iv. Thereafter, each appointed district officer

(a) must in compliance of Section 6(2) appoint nodal officers in every block, taluka and tehsil in rural or tribal area and ward or municipality in the urban area;

(b) must constitute a LC, as contemplated under Section 6 and 7 of the Act; and

(c) ensure the contact details of these nodal officers, and LCs, shall be forwarded to the nodal person within the State Government Ministry of Women and Child Development within 6 weeks from the date of this judgment.

v. Thereafter, a circular/bulletin containing names of all district officers, and their contact details (phone, address, and email), along with a district wise chart of the various nodal officers and their contact details, must be uploaded on the department's website (or in the absence of one, on

the main State government website) in a conspicuous location, along with a compiled version of the Act, Rules, and simple charts/explainers on the basics of the Act, within 6 weeks from the date of this judgment.

C. Amendments and gaps in Rules that State must fill

vi. The Union Government ought to consider amending the Rules, so as to operationalise Section 26 of the Act, by recognising a reporting authority, and/or a fine collecting authority. This direction must be read in light of the discussion in paragraph 8 (role of district officer with regards to annual compliance reports) and paragraph 21 (on the penalty regime contemplated in the Act and resulting lacunae in the Rules) above.

vii. The Union Government may also consider amending the Rules so as to identify one Department (preferably the Women and Child Department), and creating a 'nodal person' post within the said Department to be responsible for the coordination required in the implementation of the Act [see direction (i)]. This will ensure greater uniformity in the implementation of the Act across the country.

D. Training and capacity building

viii. The District Officers and LCs should be mandatorily trained regarding their important responsibilities. Given their position in the redressal framework contemplated in the Act, they must first be sensitised to the nature of sexual harassment, the gendered interactions that

occur in the workspace, etc. The State Governments, must organise periodic, and regular training sessions at the District level which are to be attended by the District Officer, members of the LC, and nodal officers [ref: Section 24(b)].

E. Larger efforts towards awareness

ix. In furtherance of Section 24, the State/UT Governments, and Union Government are hereby directed to set out the financial resources allocated and or needed, to developing educational, communication and training material for spreading awareness of the provisions of this Act to the public, and formulate orientation and training programmes as elaborated in direction (viii) above. This plan of action must form part of the compliance affidavit filed by each State. The discussion in paragraph 16 is to be read along with this direction.

x. The District Officers, once nominated by the State are hereby directed to identify the non-governmental organisations working with women and their protection within the district, and take action pursuant to their duty under Section 20(b) for creation of awareness.

xi. The appropriate government or district officers in question, must also undertake effort to spread awareness on the existence of LCs, and make them approachable for the unorganized sector – thus operationalizing the horizontal import of this Act.

xii. The directions (iv) and (v) passed in *Aureliano Fernandes v. State of Goa & Ors.* (Judgment

dated 12.05.2023 in Civil Appeal No. 2482/2014.) (supra) cover specifically the direction to authorities, management and employers to familiarize the members of the ICCs and LCs of their duties and detailed step-wise manner in which an enquiry ought to be conducted on receiving a complaint of sexual harassment; conduct orientation programmes, workshops, seminars, awareness programmes, etc. and to educate women employees and women groups about the Act, Rules, and regulations are reiterated. The modules prepared by NALSA [as per direction (vi) in *Aureliano Fernandes*] to conduct workshops and organize awareness programmes to sensitise authorities, managements, employers could be used in this regard.

xiii. It is relevant to add here that the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has prepared a Handbook for implementation of POSH Act [Government of India, Handbook on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (2015) <https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/Handbook%20on%20Sexual%20Harassment%20of%20Women%20at%20Workplace.pdf> (accessed on 26.09.2023).], which serves as a useful guide for not just employees seeking information, but also more pertinently those who are nominated or appointed as members of the ICCs (by the employer) or LCs (by the District Officer). It is hereby directed that a targeted effort be made to share this information with each District Officer, who may in

turn disseminate it to their respective LCs, the nodal officers appointed under Section 6(2), and employers who constitute their own ICCs.

F. Annual Compliance Reports

xiv. Due compliance with Section 21(1) and (2), and Section 22, must be undertaken by each District Officer, of the State – including collecting the reports from the IC/employers (or information where no report is available), and from the LC, and preparation of a brief report to be shared with the State government. The State/UT Governments is hereby directed to create a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) including the procedure, and timelines for this process, so as to enable it to, in turn, comply with Section 23 of the Act, i.e., monitoring implementation and maintaining data. This direction may be read in light of the discussion contained in paragraph 18 above.

G. Monitoring of ICs and compliance by employers

xv. The directions passed in *Aureliano Fernandes v. State of Goa & Ors.* [Judgment dated 12.05.2023 in Civil Appeal No. 2482/2014.] (supra) address most specifically, the constitution of ICs – in public establishments [falling broadly within Section 2(o)(i)] and some private establishments – such as bodies governing professional associations, etc.; those directions are hereby reiterated, to avoid multiplicity or overlap of efforts. It is however further directed that efforts made must be in line with the scheme of the Act, and through the authorities so designated

for the various roles.

xvi. Similarly, directions are hereby made to hospitals, nursing homes, sports institutes, stadiums, sports complex, or competition or games venues [as defined in Section 2(o)(iii) and (iv)] to establish ICs, and report compliance as per the duties under this Act.

xvii. The District Officer must be supplied a list of establishments (compiled by the relevant departments of the State/UT Government) that fall within the scope of Section 2(o), so that they may write to them and ensure that they are well versed with the provisions relating to employers, and their duties (including constitution of ICC under Section 4, duties under Section 19, etc.) and are implementing them in letter and spirit. This will also enable collection of annual reports, as contemplated under Section 21. The consequent direction to all private sector workplaces under Section 2(o) (ii) can be passed once the District Officer is able to discern an exhaustive list of entities."

Finally, the Bench concludes by holding in para 23 that, "List this matter in the first week of February 2024, for further compliance."

In sum, the most commendable directions that have been issued by the Apex Court to check brazen and rampant sexual harassment of women in work places must be implemented promptly on a war footing. No doubt, States/UTs must comply with the directions issued by the Apex Court in this leading judgment and comply with accordingly! No denying it!

IN COURT

# Same Sex Marriage Judgment : Analysis

## OPINION

DHRUV SHARMA



In a nation where the rich tapestry of diversity is woven into its very identity, the recent pronouncement by the Supreme Court of India on same-sex marriage has evoked a sense of missed opportunity—a lamentable instance where the scales of justice, equality, and progress seemed to tip askew. While ostensibly rooted in legal intricacies and the demarcation of legislative boundaries, the verdict reveals itself as a poignant moment in time when India, in the eyes of many, could have etched a legacy of societal transformation. The global stage unfurls a dynamic narrative of in-

clusivity, where numerous nations have embraced same-sex marriage as an embodiment of the universal right to love and commitment.

India, with its splendid mosaic of cultures and traditions, stands at a unique juncture. Regrettably, the Supreme Court's stance on same-sex marriage does not align with this global tide of acceptance.

The reluctance to legalize same-sex marriages appears rooted in a reluctance to overstep legislative boundaries, as the Court cites the legislature as the rightful arbitrator of such matters.

However, history teaches us that judicial intervention has often been the necessary impetus for societal change, setting in motion the pendulum of progress. By shying away from the task, the Supreme Court inadvertently leaves the LGBTQ+ community at the mercy of societal prejudices and systemic discrimination.

Notably, Chief Justice DY

Chandrachud acknowledged that an individual's right to enter into a union should remain undisturbed, unencumbered by their sexual orientation. This acknowledgment, while commendable, unfurls the verdict's profound contradiction. If the right to unite in a loving bond is indeed a fundamental tenet, then why does the Hon'ble court, an entity sworn to uphold justice and equity, withhold this right from same-sex couples?

The 1 Advocate Dhruv Sharma, Junior Associate of Ms. Mayuri Raghuvanshi, Advocate-on-Record divergence between principle and practice casts a disconcerting shadow over the Court's dedication to safeguarding essential rights.

The judiciary's resistance to a more progressive stance becomes particularly evinced in the case of adoption rights for same-sex couples. A majority of the judges on the bench opposed Chief Justice Chandrachud's stance on allowing these couples to offer loving homes to children in need. This stark divergence represents a disheartening lapse, missing the opportunity to ensure that children, regardless of their parents' sexual orientation, are placed in environments of love and care. The belief that only heterosexual couples can serve as good parents is not only



discriminatory but remains empirically unsubstantiated. Research consistently demonstrates that children raised by same-sex couples fare equally well, debunking the stereotypes that underpin this verdict.

The verdict's hesitancy to advance a more progressive stance seems to stem from a reluctance to infringe upon legislative jurisdiction. While this concern is valid, it should not act as a shield behind which the judiciary hides from pressing social issues. The judiciary has a long history of redefining societal norms and address-

ing injustices, a role not to be abdicated when the cause is as just as recognizing the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

The verdict's hesitancy in addressing the essential matter of extending adoption rights to same-sex couples perpetuates the discrimination these individuals face in accessing vital benefits, including Provident Fund, pension, gratuity, and insurance. Excluding these couples from these fundamental rights reinforces the notion that they are somehow unworthy, perpetuating an injustice that remains

indefensible.

Moreover, the verdict's disapproval of a gender-neutral interpretation of the Special Marriage Act seems to undermine the very principles of equality and inclusivity that the nation should uphold. Instead of advocating for inclusivity, it expresses concerns that such an interpretation may inadvertently expose women to vulnerabilities. Such apprehensions, although understandable, should be addressed through careful legislative drafting and implementation, not through excluding cer-

tain groups from the law's protective ambit.

This verdict represents a missed opportunity to challenge entrenched prejudices and misconceptions about the LGBTQ+ community. By adhering to societal norms that discriminate against same-sex couples, it unwittingly fosters the notion that these individuals are second-class citizens, perpetuating stereotypes and biases that linger in our society.

The argument that same-sex marriage and LGBTQ+ rights are not a priority in the face of a forthcoming general election is inherent-

ly flawed. Human rights and social justice should always be at the forefront of the nation's priorities, irrespective of political considerations. The recognition and protection of LGBTQ+ rights are not mere political issues; they are a matter of fundamental fairness and equality. It is the duty of a just and progressive society to ensure that all its citizens are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their sexual orientation.

In conclusion, the Supreme Court's verdict on same-sex marriage in India represents a missed opportunity to achieve the principles of equality, justice, and inclusivity. While certain positive aspects can be discerned from the judgment, its refusal to legalize same-sex marriages and extend adoption rights to same-sex couples perpetuates discrimination and inequality.

As a nation that celebrates its diversity, India should aspire to lead the journey towards recognizing the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals. The Supreme Court's decision falls short of this noble goal, leaving a poignant mark on the nation's commitment to justice and equality. It is high time that we recognize the importance of same-sex marriage and LGBTQ+ rights and take meaningful steps towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

TOP OF THE DAY

US MUSLIM GROUP CANCELS VIRGINIA BANQUET

ARLINGTON : A national Muslim civil rights group is moving its annual banquet out of a Virginia hotel that received bomb and death threats the group said Wednesday may be linked to its concern for Palestinians caught in the Israel-Hamas war. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) cancelled plans to hold its 29th annual banquet on Saturday at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, where it has held events for the past decade, and will instead move it to an as-yet undisclosed location with heightened security, a CAIR statement said. CAIR cancelled plans to hold its 29th annual banquet on Saturday at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington.

UAE SENDS 3 TONNES OF VACCINES TO DERN, LIBYA

DERNA: The UAE sent a plane to Benghazi International Airport in Libya today, carrying 3 tonnes of meningitis and influenza vaccines. The Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) delegation announced that the medical shipment includes 90,000 doses of meningitis and influenza vaccines that are enough for 30,000 people. The team is working with the relevant Libyan authorities to secure the required refrigerators, as the food must be shipped at a chilled temperature of 8 degrees Celsius to ensure its safety and proper distribution to the city residents. The Aid is meant to boost community immunity and to provide greater protection for the elderly and people with chronic diseases.

PRAYERS HELD AT WESTERN WALL FOR HOSTAGES

TEL AVIV: A special Thursday evening prayer session was held at the Western Wall for the safe return of hostages held in Gaza, and for the success of the Israel soldiers in the war against Hamas. Avichai Broditz, whose wife and three children were abducted and taken to Gaza, and Rabbi of the Western Wall Shmuel Rabinowitz participated in the event, which included recitation of Psalms and prayers for the welfare of soldiers.

UNAMA CALLS TO END JOURNALISTS' DETENTIONS

KABUL : The United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMA) has called on the Taliban to stop arbitrarily detaining journalists in Afghanistan, according to Khaama Press. Concerning trends have emerged over the past two years regarding the regular detention of journalists by Taliban officials in several areas. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, vehemently denounces this practice, citing it as capricious and posing a serious risk to press freedom in the Taliban-ruled country.

ESCALATING WAR

GAZA UNDER HEAVY ISRAELI FIRE, TOWN NEAR LEBANON EVACUATED

**TDG NETWORK KHANYOUNIS**  
Israel bombarded Gaza early Friday, hitting areas in the south where Palestinians had been told to seek safety, and it began evacuating a sizable Israeli town in the north near the Lebanese border, the latest sign of a potential ground invasion of Gaza that could trigger regional turmoil. Palestinians in Gaza reported heavy airstrikes in Khan Younis in the south, and ambulances carrying men, women and children streamed into the town's Nasser Hospital, Gaza's second largest, which is already overflowing with patients and people seeking shelter.



The Israeli military said it had struck more than 100 targets across Gaza linked to the territory's Hamas rulers, including a tunnel and arms depots.

On Thursday, Israel's De-

fence Minister Yoav Gallant ordered ground troops to prepare to see Gaza "from the inside," hinting at a ground offensive aimed at crushing Gaza's militant Hamas rulers nearly two weeks after their bloody incursion into Israel. Officials have given no timetable for such an operation.

Over a million people have been displaced in Gaza, with many heeding Israel's orders to evacuate the northern part of the sealed-off coastal enclave. Gaza's overwhelmed hospitals are rationing their

"thwart" any diversions by Hamas. More than 200 trucks and some 3,000 tons of aid were positioned at or near Rafah, but work has not yet begun on repairing a road on the Gaza side that was damaged by airstrikes. Israel has evacuated its own communities near Gaza and Lebanon, putting residents up in hotels elsewhere in the country in a state-funded program.

On Friday, the Defence Ministry announced evacuation plans for Kiryat Shmona, a town of more than 20,000 residents near the Lebanese border. Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which has a massive arsenal of long-range rockets, has traded fire with Israel along the border on a near-daily basis and hinted it might join the war if Israel seeks to annihilate Hamas. Israel's archfoe Iran supports both armed groups.

The violence in Gaza has also sparked protests across the region, including in Arab countries allied with the US. Those demonstrations could flare anew on Friday following weekly Muslim prayers. In an address from the Oval Office on Thursday, President Joe Biden again pledged unwavering support for Israel's security, while saying the world "can't ignore the humanity of innocent Palestinians" in Gaza. Speaking hours after returning to Washington from an urgent visit to Israel, Biden linked the current war in Gaza to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, saying Hamas and Russian President Vladimir Putin "both want to completely annihilate a neighbouring democracy." Biden said he was sending an "urgent budget request" to Congress on Friday, to cover emergency military aid to both Israel and Ukraine.

ALERTING

US issues caution for Americans travelling overseas amid Israel-Gaza war



ANI WASHINGTON DC

Amid the Israel-Gaza war, increasing anti-US protests and potential terrorist attacks, the United States has issued a worldwide caution for Americans travelling overseas. The US State Department on Thursday issued a 'worldwide caution' alert as Middle East tensions soar.

"Due to increased tensions in various locations around the world, the potential for terrorist attacks, demonstrations or violent actions against US citizens and interests, the Department of State advises US citizens overseas to exercise increased caution," the

travel advisory said. "US citizens should stay alert in locations frequented by tourists," the advisory said. The advisory also urged US citizens to enrol in the 'Smart Traveler Enrollment Programme' so that they can receive information and alerts and can be easily located in an emergency overseas. The latest conflict has been triggered by the unprecedented attacks against Israel by Hamas militants on October 7. Israel has launched a massive counter-offensive in Gaza to avenge the attacks. More than 1,400 people have been killed in Israel, including children, and more than 4,500 people have been injured, Israeli officials said.

PROTESTS

Protesters march to US Embassy in Indonesia over Israeli airstrikes

TDG NETWORK JAKARTA

Protesters marched from several mosques to the heavily guarded U.S. Embassy in Indonesia's capital Friday to denounce the staunch American support for Israel and demand an end to Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.

Similar protests also took place in front of the United Nations mission, a few kilometers (miles) from the embassy, and in the compound of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Authorities estimated that about 1,000 people participated in the rallies across Jakarta following Friday prayers in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

A brutal incursion into southern Israel by Hamas fighters on Oct. 7 provoked Israel to declare war against the militant group that rules Gaza. The Israeli siege of and airstrikes on the Palestinian territory were the focus earlier this week of demonstrations at Egyptian universities, inside a congressional office building in Washington, outside the Israeli Embassy in Bogota and near the U.S. Embassy in Bei-



rut. Nearly two weeks after the Hamas attack in Israel, such protests continued as Israel prepared for an expected ground invasion of Gaza. INDONESIA The protesters who marched to the U.S. Embassy halted traffic along the way as they chanted "God is great," and "Save Palestinians." Waving Indonesian and Palestinian flags and signs read "We are proud to support Palestine," more than 100 noisy demonstrators gathered along a major street in Jakarta that runs outside the embassy.

"The U.S. actually know this war and violence occurred because Palestinians want free from Israel's occupation, but

they close their eyes and pretend to be deaf," a speaker told the crowd. "We call for a two-state solution for Palestinians to end the war." Some protesters voiced their anger by burning portraits of U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

About 1,000 police officers were deployed around the embassy, the nearby presidential palace and the U.N. mission. Indonesia does not have formal diplomatic relations with Israel, and there is no Israeli Embassy in the country. It has long been a strong supporter of the Palestinians.

President Joko Widodo

DIVORCE

ITALIAN PM MELONI ANNOUNCES SEPARATION FROM HER HUSBAND

ANI ROME

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced Friday that she is separating from her partner and the father of her young daughter after nearly a decade together. In a statement posted on social media, Meloni said her relationship with Andrea Giambruno had ended. She said their paths had diverged "for some time." The announcement came after Giambruno, an on-air television personality, was caught on audio seemingly making lewd remarks to colleagues.

An Italian satirical news programme, Striscia la Notizia, aired two nights' worth of programming on Giambruno this week, using backstage clips and audio. Striscia is a primetime programme of the Mediaset broadcaster of the late Silvio Berlusconi, whose Forza Italia party is a junior partner in Meloni's government. This week marks the first anniversary of Meloni's government, Italy's first headed by a woman and first hard-right-led administration since the end of World War



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni with her family. (File photo)

II. Meloni, who was raised by a single mother after her father abandoned the family. Meloni had previously described Giambruno as a "fantastic" and very present father who complemented her in caring for their daughter. In her 2021 memoir "I am Giorgia," she said Giambruno wouldn't balk if she was working and he had to step in, though she complained that he was messier than she.

In her statement, Meloni thanked Giambruno for their relationship and daughter and she would defend their friendship. "And I will defend, at all costs, a 7-year-old girl who loves her mother and loves her father, as I was unable to love mine." She also hit back at the media coverage that preceded her announcement, blasting "all those who hoped to weaken me by hitting me at home."

SPARKS SPECULATION

Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif reaches Dubai before heading to Islamabad today

TDG NETWORK DUBAI

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has arrived in the UAE to meet a select group of people a day ahead of his return to Pakistan without the fear of immediate arrest upon landing, according to a media report on Friday.

Sharif, also the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, landed in Dubai late on Thursday night and is expected to return to Pakistan on a chartered flight, ending a self-imposed four-year exile in London, Geo News reported. In Pakistan, the Islamabad High Court on Thursday provided temporary relief to Sharif as it granted the 73-year-old former prime minister a protective bail in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia corruption cases until October 24. An anti-corruption court also suspended his arrest warrant in the



Former Pakistan Ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Toshakhana vehicles case.

"His (Sharif's) arrival comes after a few hours of delay as he was held up in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for an important meeting. He was given 'special protocol' on arrival at the Dubai airport," Geo News said, quoting sources.

"Nawaz will be meeting a selected group of people during his two-day stay in Dubai and will leave for Pakistan on Saturday morning — first to Islamabad and then to Lahore," it said.

The report also said that Sharif would be returning

to Pakistan in a chartered plane along with 150 people. Sharif was on a self-imposed exile in the United Kingdom after jumping bail in 2020. The three-term Pakistan prime minister was serving a seven-year jail term when the Islamabad High Court suspended his sentence in 2019 for eight weeks to allow him to go abroad to seek medical treatment. But he never came back.

Sharif's return to Pakistan on Saturday is declared by his party as his effort to lead the party's campaign for the general election expected in the last week of January 2024. He stepped down as Pakistan's prime minister in 2017 after he was disqualified for life from holding public office by the Supreme Court after a probe into his family's wealth following the 2016 Panama Papers leak. Sharif has consistently denied any wrongdoing and termed it as a politically motivated case.

HUMANITARIAN AID

RUSSIA DELIVERS 27 TONNES OF FOOD SUPPLIES FOR PEOPLE IN GAZA

TDG NETWORK MOSCOW

Russia has delivered 27 tonnes of food supplies for civilians in the Gaza Strip set to be transferred from Egypt, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Friday. Talking to X, Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated, "27 tonnes of food supplies delivered by Russia's EMERCOM and transferred to the Egyptian Red Crescent for distribution among the people of the Gaza Strip in need. Every bit helps."

Russia's Deputy Minister Ilya Denisov in a statement said, "A special plane has taken off from the airport at Ramenskoye near Moscow for El-Arish in Egypt. The Russian humanitarian aid will be handed over to the Egyptian Red Crescent to be sent to the Gaza Strip." He added the aid comprised

"wheat, sugar, rice (and) pasta."

Earlier on Tuesday, the office of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shared details of his telephonic conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying that the former briefed him on the ongoing counter-offensive against Hamas, following the October 7 terror attacks.

It posted further that Israeli PM Netanyahu told the Russian President that the Israeli forces won't relent till they "eliminate Hamas".

"The Prime Minister made it clear that Israel had been attacked by brutal and abhorrent murderers, had gone to war determined and united, and would not stop until it had destroyed Hamas's military and governing capabilities," the Israeli PM's office posted further.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, during

their telephone conversation, Putin highlighted the measures Russia is taking to stop the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip from escalating further. "President of Russia Vladimir Putin spoke with Prime Minister of the State of Israel @netanyahu over the phone," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia posted on X.

"President Putin laid out the steps being taken by Russia to prevent the further escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip," it added.

Moscow said the conversation was centred on "the crisis situation resulting from the brutal escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict".

The Israeli side was in particular informed of the essential points of telephone correspondences that took place today with the leaders of Palestine, Egypt, Iran and Syria," the Kremlin said in a statement. The Russian

President also expressed "his sincere condolences to the families and friends of the deceased Israelis", the Kremlin said. Along with that, he informed the Israeli leader of the measures taken by Russia to "promote the normalisation of the situation, prevent a further escalation of violence, and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip".

Meanwhile, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs Eli Cohen and 22 ambassadors and diplomats from countries whose citizens have been abducted have called for the immediate release of the abductees and to permit visits by the International Red Cross.

Cohen said the release of the abductees is Israel's "foremost priority." Cohen held a meeting with dozens of foreign ambassadors whose citizens have been held by Hamas in Gaza and asked to pressurise Hamas to ensure their smooth release.

MAJESTIC



School students pose for photos after the INS Sumedha made a port call at Lagos, Nigeria as part of its deployment to Gulf of Guinea. (PTI Photo)

PORT SECURITY

## AUSTRALIA KEEPS CHINESE COMPANY'S STRATEGIC PORT LEASE, DEFYING CANCELLATION

TDG NETWORK  
CANBERRA

The Australian government announced Friday it has decided not to cancel a Chinese company's 99-year lease on strategically important Darwin Port despite U.S. concerns that the foreign control could be used to spy on its military forces.

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet said it decided after an investigation of the eight-year-old lease that current monitoring and regulation measures are sufficient to manage security risks for critical infrastructure such as the port in the northern garrison city of Darwin.

"Australians can have confidence that their safety will not be compromised while ensuring that Australia remains a competitive destination for foreign investment," it said in a statement.

Landbridge Industry Australia, a subsidiary of Rizhao-based Shandong Landbridge Group, signed



the lease with the debt-laden Northern Territory government in 2015. That was three years after U.S. Marines began annual rotations through Darwin as part of the U.S. pivot to Asia.

The United States has raised concerns that Chinese port access in Darwin would enhance intelligence gathering on nearby U.S. and Australian military forces. Landbridge said in a statement it hopes the decision will end security

concerns. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party was in opposition at the time, and he had argued the lease should never have been allowed due to security concerns.

After Labor won elections last year, Albanese directed his department to investigate whether the lease should be changed or canceled. The Australian decision comes before Albanese flies to Washington, D.C., next week to meet President

Joe Biden. Albanese also plans to soon become the first Australian prime minister to visit China in seven years. Neil James, chief executive of the Australian Defense Association think tank, said regulation cannot solve the security risk posed by Chinese control of the port.

"Our problem is going to be if there's ever any increased strategic tension with China and if we have to do something, even if it's regulatory, it's going to be escalatory and make the tension worse," James said.

"The only way to avoid this problem is not to have the lease in the first place and they should bite the bullet and get rid of it," James added. Landbridge far outbid 32 other potential private investors with a 506 million Australian dollar (USD 360 million) offer for the aging infrastructure, the provincial government based in Darwin said at the time.

ELECTION WAR

## UK PM SUNAK'S TORIES SUFFER HUGE LOSSES AT 2 BY-ELECTIONS

TDG NETWORK  
LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's governing Conservative Party suffered huge losses in two by-elections on Friday, losing to the Opposition Labour Party, which overturned a sizeable Tory majority in the seats of Mid Bedfordshire and Tamworth in England. While Sunak is touring the Middle East for crisis talks over the Israel-Gaza conflict, Labour leader Keir Starmer declared that his party was "redefining the political map." Labour made history in Mid Bedfordshire by overcoming a 24,664 Tory majority to win the seat for the first time and pulled off a 23.9 per cent swing to Labour from the Tories in Tamworth.



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

"Winning in these Tory strongholds shows that people overwhelmingly want change and they're ready to put their faith in our changed Labour Party to deliver it," said Starmer.

By-elections ahead of a general election year are seen as reflective of the mood of the electorate and the governing

Tories will be shaken up by the results. The historic results mark the second-highest ever by-election swing to Labour. With the Tories also trailing in the nationwide opinion polls, the results will be a welcome boost to Labour ahead of an expected general election in 2024. Conservative Party chairman Greg

Hands said the results were "disappointing" but blamed the outcome on Tory voters not voting. "Clearly for us, I think it is right that a number of our voters are unhappy with the government. We clearly have a job to do to win them back," he told the BBC.

Former Cabinet minister and Boris Johnson loyalist Nadine Dorries' prolonged resignation in Mid Bedfordshire is believed to have caused much damage in the eastern England seat. In Tamworth in the West Midlands, MP Chris Pincher resigned after being found to have drunkenly misbehaved. Greg Hands admitted that "fury" locally among voters about the background to the by-elections was partially to blame for the Tory defeats.

OIL PRICE HIKE

## Middle East crisis stirs oil supply concerns, gas queues unlikely

TDG NETWORK  
DUBAI

Fifty years after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, the current crisis in the Middle East has the potential to disrupt global oil supplies and push prices higher. But don't expect a repeat of the catastrophic price hikes and long lines at the gasoline pump, experts say.

The Israel-Hamas war is "definitely not good news" for oil markets already stretched by cutbacks in oil production from Saudi Arabia and Russia and expected stronger demand from China, the head of the International Energy Agency said. International benchmark Brent crude

traded above \$91 a barrel on Thursday, up from \$85 per barrel on Oct. 6, the day before Hamas attacked Israel, killing hundreds of civilians. Israel immediately launched airstrikes on Gaza, destroying entire neighborhoods and killing hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the days that have followed. Fluctuations since the attack pushed oil prices as high as \$96. One worry is that the fighting could lead to complications with Iran, home of some of the world's largest oil reserves. Its crude production has been constrained by international sanctions, but oil is still flowing to China and

other countries. Any damage to Iranian oil infrastructure from a military strike by Israel could send prices jumping globally. Even without that, a shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz that lies south of Iran could also shake the oil market because so much of the world's supplies goes through the waterway. Until something like that happens, "the oil market is going to be like everyone else, monitoring the events in the Middle East," Lipow said.

In a speech Wednesday marking the 50th anniversary of the 1973 oil embargo, Sommers said current U.S.

production contrasts sharply with "America's weakened position during the Arab oil embargo." He urged U.S. policymakers to heed what he called the lessons of 1973. "We cannot squander our strategic advantage and retreat on energy leadership," said Sommers, who has repeatedly criticized President Joe Biden's policies restricting new oil leases as part of Biden's efforts to slow global climate change. "With an unstable world, war in Europe, war in the Middle East, and energy demand outstripping supply, energy security is on the line," Sommers said.

SPACE JUNKS

## How can we prevent satellite collisions in an overcrowded space?

TDG NETWORK  
MELBOURNE

Recent reports indicate a near-collision between an Australian satellite and a suspected Chinese military satellite. Additionally, the US government levied its first-ever space junk fine, imposing a \$150,000 penalty on DISH

Network, a satellite TV services provider, for its 21-year-old communications satellite, EchoStar-7. The fine was due to its failure to adhere to previously agreed-upon debris mitigation plan orbit requirements. This incident marks the beginning of a new era in space

usage, with the number of active satellites projected to increase by 700% by the decade's end. As space around our planet becomes increasingly congested, ensuring the safe navigation of thousands of satellites and space debris fragments gains paramount importance. This necessity

has given rise to the field of space domain awareness, which focuses on monitoring and managing satellites and space debris in Earth's three primary orbital regions, signifying the growing significance of space traffic management in our modern world. Currently, there are over 8,700 active sat-

ellites in various Earth orbits. Understanding the intricacies of space debris involves recognizing the three primary satellite orbits. Low Earth orbit, the most common, hosts at least 5,900 active satellites positioned up to 1,000km above Earth's surface, constantly in mo-

tion. Notably, the International Space Station orbits in this region, completing 16 circuits around Earth each day. Moving higher, we encounter medium Earth orbit, situated between 10,000 and 20,000km above Earth. Although less crowded, it accommodates critical satellites

like those powering the Global Positioning System (GPS). These varying orbits play a pivotal role in satellite functionality and the challenges of managing space debris. How do we track them all? This is where space domain awareness comes in. It is the field of detecting, tracking and

monitoring objects in Earth's orbit, including active satellites and space debris. We do much of this with ground-based tracking, either through radar or optical systems like telescopes. While radar can easily track objects in low Earth orbit, higher up we need optical sensors.

## INDIA TAKES NEUTRAL STANCE IN ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT RESOLUTION EFFORTS

Despite knowing the fact that violence, conflicts and wars do not benefit any country in any way, countries not only engage in violent conflicts, they also pose a serious challenge to global peace, security, humanity and economy. Ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict can be quoted as a classic example here. First, Hamas, a worldwide ill-famed terrorist organisation, attacked Israel on 7 October 2023. Rattled with the barbaric terrorist attack on its people including children and women, Israel announced a war against Hamas until it is eliminated completely. Since then, both Israel and Hamas are fighting a war that is impacting innocent people, and global peace and security by and large. Involvement of the surrounding nations and their statements fuelled the ten-

sions, and this week observed an unfortunate situation in and around Israel including Gaza strip. India has so far put forward a very mature face by stating clearly on one hand that it stands with Israel against the brutal terror attack by Hamas, while reiterating its support for free Palestine on the other hand. **Israel-Hamas Conflict Escalates with Global Impact** This week, Israel-Hamas conflict not only intensified, other countries like Iran and the US escalated the tensions in the region by their statements. Barbaric bombings at Al Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza Strip this week left at least 500 of Palestinians dead. Initially Israel was alleged to execute this attack but later Israeli ambassador Naor Gilon in New Delhi issued a recorded message blaming the Islamic Jihad

WORLD RECAP  
ANSHU JOSHI



behind the bombing. He also detailed how the rockets fired by the Hamas often fell in the Gaza territory only hurting Palestinian people. While Hamas is asking for support from the Islamic world, the US is showing its rock-solid support towards Israel. Amid the serious catastrophic conditions for the people living in and around Israel, the conflict seems to be affecting rest of the world as challenges related to refugees, food and other supplies etc. have started hitting many countries of the world. Amid this all, the visits of the UK PM Rishi Sunak and the US

President Biden this week to Israel shown a great support to Israeli people. However, Biden's warning to Israel not to be 'consumed by rage' added a diplomatic connotation to the present conflict. Biden linked the terror attack of Hamas on Israel with the terror attacks against the US on 11 September 2001, that killed nearly 3,000 people. By doing so, he clearly extended his support to Israel. However, when he stated, "But I caution this, while you feel that rage, don't be consumed by it... After 9/11, we were enraged in the US. And while we sought justice and got justice, we also made

mistakes." He clearly suggested Israel to stay away from the brink at which a major regional conflict may start involving more countries in to it. Biden's trip was also focused on ensuring humanitarian aids for those who are suffering due to this ongoing war apart from ensuring the conflict does not escalate any further. But, it seems that the conflict has already been heightened to the global level. **India Supports Israel-Palestine Peace Amid Conflict** India knew this well, and that's why it has requested both Israel and Palestine to resolve the conflict. India has also collected many accolades for successfully executing its Operation Ajay to evacuate Indian citizens from Israel. Evacuated Indian and Nepali citizens have expressed their gratitude to Indian government

for safely bringing them back from Israel. India has so far taken a neutral stand on the conflict between Israel and Palestine, but has strongly opposed the terror attack of Hamas. Soon after Indian PM announced India's support to Israel, many asked about India's intentions as supporting Palestine remain an integral part of Indian foreign policy. Reports of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India clearly state that India is the first Non-Arab State to recognize Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1974. India was also one of the first few countries to recognize Palestinian State in 1988. India also opened its Representative Office in Gaza in 1996, which was later shifted to

Ramallah in 2003. Basically, the first Indian PM, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru opposed the formation of Israel though the US resolution. In fact, Mahatma Gandhi had also stated, "Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French." Though India-Israel relations cannot be called very cordial in the initial years of the formation of Israel, Israel always proved to be a trusted support during the testing times of India. Israel supplied its ammunition to India during the India-China war of 1962, India-Pakistan Wars of 1965, 1971 and 1999. In past nine years, India and Israel developed a special, trusted and long-lasting strategic partnership. Today, both India and Israel are engaged in multiple key areas

like defence and security, intelligence, technology, healthcare, culture etc. India strongly believes in the two-state theory when it comes to the conflict between Israel and Palestine, and calls for peaceful Israel as well as Palestine. Indian stand on Israel-Palestine conflict can be taken as a good start to resolve the conflict. Both Israel and Palestine need to respect each other's territorial integrity. However, rest of the world, especially those who are supporting Hamas for whatever reason, need to understand that a terrorist organisation cannot be considered face of a democratic country. This understanding may help in resolving the conflict. (The author is Professor, School of International Studies, JNU)

TAROT SPEAKS

AARTI BABUL BHASIN



**ARIES**  
(MARCH 21st- APRIL 19th)  
New beginnings. Take calculated risk. Advancement in career & new opportunities. Review your decisions. A new person enters your life. Enhanced psychic abilities. **Mantra: "Faith & Unexpected opportunities"**

**TAURUS**  
(APRIL 20th-MAY 20th)  
Keep a check on ego. Have courage & believe in yourself but be compassionate. Good news about finances & new opportunity at work & study. Change your life now. **Mantra: "Fearless & Compassionate"**

**GEMINI**  
(MAY 21st- JUNE 20th)  
Disappointments in relationships call for reviews & renewals. Deep breathe to avoid competing goals & conflicts with others. At work new opportunities & success navigate you through the week. **Mantra: "Assessments & New directions"**

**CANCER**  
(JUNE 21st- JULY 22nd)  
Time to take a break, meditate & self analyse. Wishes come true. Happy love life. Uncertain self-employment & worry regarding money. **Mantra: "Life Event & Revelations"**

**LEO**  
(JULY 23rd- AUGUST 22nd)  
Marriage proposal or unsettled legal matters will pick up speed. Relationships become better & new relationships come in life. Use your intuition in matters of the heart. **Mantra: "Just & Fair"**

**VIRGO**  
(AUGUST 23rd - SEPTEMBER 22nd)  
Stop procrastinating & take decisions on matters regarding self or mother. Take expert advice & speak up your mind with confidence. Delays are over. Many things happen simultaneously. Nurture self & others to experience good fortune & self-love. **Mantra: "Self love & Nurture"**

**LIBRA**  
(SEPTEMBER 23rd - OCTOBER 22nd)  
Take charge & work with a futuristic vision. New adventures & endeavours begin. Analyse before taking decisions. Enjoying life's little luxuries. Successful self-employment.

**Mantra: "Organisation & logic"**

**SCORPIO**  
(OCTOBER 23rd - NOVEMBER 21st)  
Fortune is on your side. Name, fame, awards & victories call for celebration. Matter concerning parents might keep you mentally occupied. Wishes come true. Happiness in love. **Mantra: "Fortune & Luck"**

**SAGGITARIUS**  
(NOVEMBER 22nd - DECEMBER 21st)  
Great resolve & hard work will manifest success in finances, property & career. Enjoying life's little luxuries & spending time alone. Successful self-employment. You are ready to fly. **Mantra: "Strength & Confidence"**

**CAPRICORN**  
(21st DECEMBER - 20th JANUARY)  
Keep a check on negative thoughts & ego. Create new opportunities for creative satisfaction. Brilliant new ideas will have a Midas touch in career, money & property. **Mantra: "Compassion & Fortune"**

**AQUARIUS**  
(21st JANUARY - FEBRUARY 18th)  
Do not give up, confidently follow your projects to successful completion. Need to balance emotions. Marriage proposals & love is in the air. Forgive self & others. Concerns regarding parents might make you sad. **Mantra: "Contentment & joy"**

**PISCES**  
(FEBRUARY 19th - MARCH 20th)  
Great strength will be required to forgive others. Relationships will be challenging urging you to defend your beliefs & decisions. Choose your battles wisely. There might be a temporary pause in action. Nothing to worry about. **Mantra: "Forgiveness & Compassion"**

*(Aarti is a certified facilitator for Past Life Regression Therapy, Inner Child Work & therapeutic Guided Meditations. An intuitive tarot reader & a channel for collective consciousness. The Oneness, she also holds personal, group sessions & workshops. You can reach her on 9987546317 & on Instagram as Live a Little Sessions.)*

PICTURE PERFECT

Devotees light lamps at Sheetla Mata temple during Navratri festival in Bhopal on Thursday. PTI



REVIEW

'GANAPATH' REVIEW: TIGER SHROFF CAN'T SAVE THIS DYSTOPIAN DISASTER

LATHA SRINIVASAN

Rating: 1.5 stars on 5  
Tiger Shroff is known for his excellent dancing skills and martial arts skills. So it is natural that a director would want to showcase these skills to the best. Ganapath, directed by Vikas Bahl, is set in a futuristic world where a nuclear war kills many people. In a world where it becomes the rich vs the poor, it is now upto Ganapath (Tiger Shroff) to save humanity. Then a fight arena is set up and we see a happy-go-lucky Guddu aka Ganapath taking to the kickboxing ring at the



Dirty People Club.

Meanwhile, you have a New York-like city called Silver City where the rich live in sizzly skyscrapers and the like. The poor and downtrodden live in an-

other city and are waiting desperately for someone to come to their rescue. It becomes Guddu's destiny to save the poor and he discovers that soon. Then there is the backstory told by Gana-

path's grandfather, played by Amitabh Bachchan, about how a man will come to save people. So we have a superhero and a super villain battling it out soon.

Director Vikas Bahl has made a film that has hardly had anything by going for it. Add to that the bad VFX to showcase this implausible futuristic vision of the director is quite painful to watch. Tiger Shroff with all his antics, Kriti Sanon with her kohl-lined eyes and a baddie (Bakri) with blue eyes are just not engaging enough to keep you invested. This movie can be given a miss.

TRAILER

UP Governor launches trailer of Ashutosh Rana starrer 'Lakeerein'

TDG NETWORK LUCKNOW

Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel, launched the trailer of Ashutosh Rana and Bidita Bagstarrer 'Lakeerein' at Raj Bhawan, Lucknow. 'Lakeerein', a compelling socio-drama addressing the crucial and underreported issue of marital rape, is poised to captivate audiences and ignite important conversations.

It is a powerful narrative that delves into the complexities of consent and domestic violence within the confines of marriage. On the occasion of the trailer launch on Thursday, director Durgesh Pathak stated, "The film has the power to not just entertain but also



enlighten. Lakeerein is a testament to the transformative potential of cinema. Through storytelling, we strive to challenge norms, spark conversations, and bring about positive change in society." The movie depicts Kavya's (Tia Bajpai) struggle as she seeks justice against her husband, Vivek Damo-

dar Agnihotri (Gaurav Chopra), for the horrible act of marital rape. Kavya's battle for justice becomes the film's major theme, shedding emphasis on the legal and societal hurdles that victims of marital rape endure. With a tale set in popular Uttar Pradesh locales, 'Lakeerein' displays the scars of marital rape not only on her life but also on the lives of her maid Naseema and her friend Anita, both of whom have experienced similar crimes in their marriages. In the courtroom, Bidita Bag's character, Advocate Geeta Bishwas, faces off against Ashutosh Rana's character, Advocate Duhari Singh. Geeta's fight

against injustice calls into question society's moral ideals and its proclivity to recognise marital rape. Apart from Ashutosh and Bidita, it stars Tia Bajpai, Gaurav Chopra and Aman Verma, Rajesh Jais, Saharsh Shukla, Mukesh Bhatt, Anil Rastogi, Ali Mohammad in pivotal roles. Produced by Naval K Tandon, Kavita Pathak, and Dinesh Kumar, co-produced by Swarnika Pandey, Varun Mishra, Soni Mishra, Pawan Gaur, and Naren Gedia and directed by Durgesh Pathak, is distributed by Reliance Entertainment. 'Lakeerein', a Powerful Tale of Justice and Marital Rape is set to release on November 3, 2023.

UPCOMING FILM

WE WERE CLEAR WE WANTED NEWCOMERS FOR 'THE ARCHIES': ZOYA AKHTAR

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Zoya Akhtar on Thursday said she and writer Reema Kagti didn't want to cast well-known personalities for the upcoming film "The Archies" as stars come with the baggage of their image. "The Archies" is an Indian live-action musical movie based on the popular American comics of the same name.

It marks the acting debut of superstar Shah Rukh Khan and producer-interior designer Gauri Khan's daughter Suhana Khan, late star Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor, and megastar Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda. Akhtar said they worked closely with casting directors Karan Mally and Nan-



dini Shrikant and locked the cast after a year of auditions. "We were clear that we wanted newcomers because they are such iconic characters and getting anybody who is already very well-known would bring their baggage onto it or their image onto it, good or bad. Also, they (characters) are 17-year-old in the film, so we needed kids that were teenagers," the filmmaker said at the Bollywood Hungama OTT India Fest 2023 here.

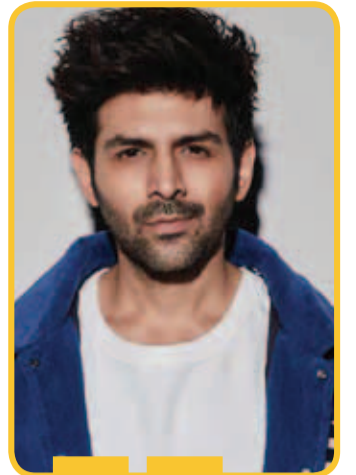
The makers also launched the first song "Sunoh" from the film at the event. Set in the 1960s, "The Archies" explores friendship, freedom, love, heartbreak and rebellion through the lives of Archie, Betty, Veronica, Jughead, Reggie, Ethel and Dilton. It will take audiences to the fictional hilly town of Riverdale. Akhtar said when streamer Netflix made her "an offer" to adapt and set the popular comics in India, the

"Gully Boy" director said she couldn't refuse. "I didn't know what I wanted to do next, they got 'Archies' to me, which is one of our favourite comics. I grew up on this. I was like, 'How can I take this, retain its original essence and speaks to kids today. We were excited about that. We have done whatever we wanted to and now we are getting scared, as always," she added. Suhana Khan expressed her excitement to have made her acting debut with "The Archies". Khushi said it was a "surreal" experience to be part of this world. "The Archies" will debut on Netflix on December 7.

BRAIN PICKING



If you have talent, then success will come to you.



**KARTIK AARYAN**  
Bollywood Actor

NEW SEASON

PRIME VIDEOS RENEWS 'THE BOYS' SPIN-OFF 'GEN V' FOR SECOND SEASON



TDG NETWORK LOS ANGELES

Gen V, the spin-off series to smash hit show The Boys, has been renewed for season two by Prime Video, the streamer announced Friday. The renewal comes just weeks after the show began its eight-episode run on Prime Video. The first season will conclude on November 3, said a press release. Gen V, which hails from Amazon MGM Studios and Sony Pictures Television, follows the training of the first generation of superheroes to know about Compound V, and that their powers were injected into them, rather than God-given.

Showrun by Michele Fazekas and Tara Butters, 'Gen V' features an ensemble cast of Jaz Sinclair, Chance Perdomo, Lizze Broadway, Shelley Conn, Maddie Phillips, London Thor, Derek Luh, Asa Germann, Patrick Schwarzenegger, Sean Patrick Thomas, and Marco Pigossi. Vernon Sanders, head of television, Amazon MGM Studios, said 'Gen V' has become the number one series on Prime Video in over 130 countries.

"Expanding the universe of The Boys with a series as bold as Gen V has been an incredible journey for us and our wonderful partners

at Sony. From our first conversation with showrunners Michele Fazekas and Tara Butters, along with Eric Kripke, Evan Goldberg, and Seth Rogen, we knew Gen V would push the boundaries." "Gen V is Prime Video's most acquisitive new Original series of 2023, and we're excited that our incredible cast and crew are going to continue telling brave and bold stories from Gen V to our customers," he added.

Showrunner Fazekas and executive producer Eric Kripke said they are excited about working on the sophomore season of Gen V. "These are characters and stories we've grown to love, and we are thrilled to know people feel the same! The writers are already working on the new season—sophomore year is gonna be wild, with all the twists, heart, satire, and exploding genitalia you've come to expect from the show," they added. Gen V also features guest stars Clancy Brown and Jason Ritter, as well as appearances from Jessie T Usher, Colby Minifie, Claudia Doumit, and PJ Byrne, who reprise their roles from The Boys. The series is produced by Sony Pictures Television and Amazon MGM Studios, in association with Kripke Enterprises, Point Grey Pictures, and Original Film.

FILM PRODUCTION

VARUN TEJ, MANUSHI CHHILLAR WRAP FILMING FOR 'OPERATION VALENTINE'

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Actors Varun Tej and Manushi Chhillar's upcoming film "Operation Valentine" has concluded production, the makers have announced. Sony Pictures International Productions shared the news on its official Instagram page on Thursday evening.

"That's a Wrap on an Unforgettable Chapter. Get ready for the #OperationValentine in cinemas," the production banner wrote along-



side a photo of the film's cast and crew from the movie's last day.

Inspired by true events, the upcoming film is an action drama. It marks the feature directorial debut of filmmaker and cinematographer Shakti Pratap Singh Hada. "Operation Valentine" will be released in Hindi and Telugu on December 8.

THE MATHEMATICS TOUR

ED SHEERAN TO PERFORM IN INDIA AFTER SIX YEARS

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

British pop star Ed Sheeran will be returning to India after six years with his new tour '+ - x = ÷'. The 32-year-old musician will perform at Mumbai's Mahalaxmi Racecourse on March 16, 2024 as part of Asia and Europe tour, also called The Mathematics tour, the organisers said in a press release.

Sheeran's performance in Mumbai will be the final



stop in the Asia Tour and also feature a guest, singer-songwriter Calum Scott. The tour will draw from all of his albums since 2011, starting with "Plus", "Multiply" (2014), "Divide" (2017), "Equals" (2021) and "Subtract" (2023).

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: EMBRACING THE DIVINE STRENGTH OF MAA DURGA

TDG NETWORK

Women can relate themselves to Goddess Durga in various ways, drawing inspiration and strength from her qualities and symbolism. Here are some ways women can connect with the goddess:

**Strength and Courage:** Durga is often depicted as a fierce warrior who overcame the demon Mahishasura. Women can relate to her by finding inner strength and courage to face life's challenges and overcome obstacles. Durga's image can serve as a reminder that women have the power to confront and conquer difficulties.

**Independence:** Durga is depicted as an independent goddess who rides a lion or tiger. Women can draw inspiration from her independence and self-reliance, emphasizing the importance of being self-sufficient and not relying solely on others.

**Empowerment:** Durga represents feminine empowerment and the idea that women can be strong and assertive. Women can relate to this aspect by recognizing their own strength and taking control of their lives and decisions.

**Protection:** Durga is often called upon for protection. Women can connect with



her as a source of protection, both physically and spiritually. This can provide a sense of security and comfort, empowering women to stand up for themselves and those they care about.

**Balance:** Durga embodies a balance between strength and compassion. Women can relate to this balance by acknowledging that they can be powerful and nurturing simultaneously, embracing

both their fierce and caring qualities.

**Resilience:** Durga's victory over Mahishasura signifies resilience and determination. Women can relate to her story by recognizing

their ability to persevere through adversity and emerge stronger.

**Navaratri Celebration:** During the Navaratri festival, women often participate in dance and music, celebrating the goddess's grace and strength. This celebration provides an opportunity for women to come together, express themselves through art and dance, and experience a sense of community.

**Role Model:** Women can see Durga as a role model, not only for her strength but also for her various roles, including that of a mother and wife (as Parvati). This can help women navigate the complexities of their own roles and responsibilities in society.

**Spiritual Connection:** For those who follow Hinduism or Shaktism, connecting with Goddess Durga can provide a strong spiritual bond and a sense of divine guidance.

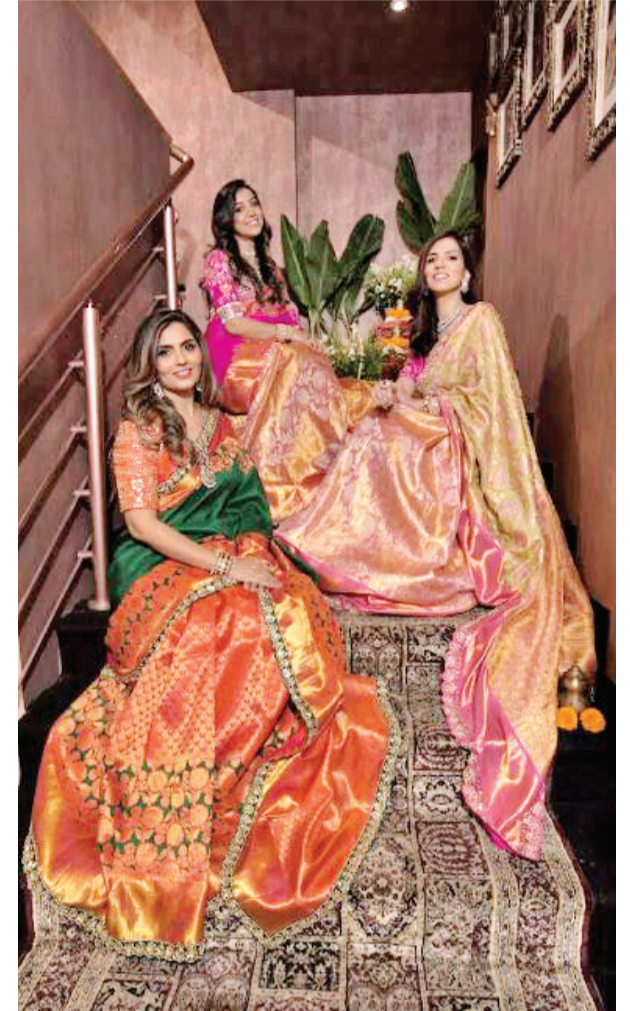
It's important to note that women of all backgrounds and belief systems can find inspiration and empowerment in the symbolism of Goddess Durga. The relationship between women and Durga is not limited to a specific religion but can be a source of inspiration and empowerment for women from diverse cultural and spiritual backgrounds.

# KANJEEVARAM SAREES: A TIMELESS TRADITION OF ELEGANCE FOR WOMEN

TDG NETWORK

The Kanjeevaram saree originated in the temple town of Kanchipuram. According to a popular lore, the weavers of the town are descendants of Sage Markanda, the weaver of the Gods. True to this tradition of combining divinity and dexterity, the weaves are a beauty that enchant textile appreciators and the general populace alike. This collection is avowed as Timeless Markanda, and derives its roots from the history of Kanjeevaram. It brings in traditional Indian handlooms, surface ornamentation and is exclusively woven and embroidered by the artisans and thus, it also aims to promote 'Make in India' into bridal attire.

Embellished with zardosi, this collection has sensuality and a contemporary style statement. It has a very diverse yet distinct testimony of our rich cultural heritage. Timeless Markanda doesn't relate to the concept of a lump of embroideries, instead it has a lot of intricate details placed astutely on the ensembles. The modern techniques and the flounce of the lehengas with vibrant colors and weaves gloriously



make its appeal to the new age women. The modern silhouettes and the traditional touch is what makes this collection a modern outlook for today's women in terms of luxury and elegance.

Adorned with so much intricacy in terms of its motifs, be it flora or fauna, the collection breaks the monotony and marks its impression towards being classic yet edgy to this new era.

# WHAT IS THE REALITY OF WOMEN IN MEDIA TODAY?

PREETI

Author and screenplay writer, Smriti Dewan talks to us about the inside world of media and what it means to be a woman in the industry.

The gender wage gap is a reality, though it's not as simple in figures. In my experience in television, an industry known to be female-centric and female-driven, be it on-screen, behind the camera or even the target demographic which is primarily women, there is no

dearth of women in influential positions. Be it the channel, the production houses, the creative teams, the production teams, we're all in a place now to demand what we feel is our worth. But it's not as perfect as it sounds on paper. The ground realities are a little different when we actually have to get the work done.

There are still certain jobs where producers would rather hire a man, if the job requires late nights or overnight work, if there are shoots in unpredictable,



*There are still certain jobs where producers would rather hire a man, if the job requires late nights or overnight work, if there are shoots in unpredictable, unsafe spaces*

unsafe spaces. And understandably so. But that requires us as women to put ourselves out there even more, put our safety concerns aside just for the sake

of our career. (Something I have been guilty of doing. My first documentary feature as a director required shooting in cremation ghats where women are not al-

lowed to enter) I still walk into meetings, narrations and get mistaken for an assistant, or even a stylist! When you say "writer" or "director", people still picture it to be a male figure in their heads. There have been times I have had to shoot in small towns and villages and people have preferred to direct conversations to my male assistants instead of talking to me. So even though the industry is trying to change, the world still has a lot of catching up to do.

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN BREAST CANCER

DR. ARCHIT PANDIT

Breast cancer is a significant public health concern worldwide, affecting millions of women and even some men. Early detection and accurate diagnosis are crucial for improving survival rates and treatment outcomes in breast cancer cases. In recent years, the field of healthcare has witnessed a significant transformation with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in breast cancer diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. AI is proving to be a game-changer, revolutionizing how healthcare professionals approach breast cancer management.

## EARLY DETECTION WITH AI

One of the most critical aspects of breast cancer management is early detection. Mammography, a standard screening tool for breast cancer, has been in use for decades. However, AI has enhanced mammography's capabilities by providing more accurate and timely results. AI algorithms can analyze mammograms with incredible precision, flagging abnormalities that may not be apparent to the human eye. This early detection can lead to timely intervention

and improved outcomes. AI-powered mammography systems can analyze vast datasets of breast images, comparing them to a repository of known cases. This comparative analysis allows AI to identify subtle patterns and anomalies, making it more adept at recognizing potential tumors, even in their early stages.

## PERSONALIZED TREATMENT PLANS

Once breast cancer is diagnosed, treatment planning becomes crucial. AI plays a significant role in tailoring treatment plans to individual patients. By analyzing a patient's medical history, genetic makeup, and the characteristics of their tumor, AI can assist oncologists in selecting the most suitable treatment regimen. This personalized approach can maximize the chances of successful treatment while minimizing side effects.

Moreover, AI can predict how a patient is likely to respond to various treatment options. By simulating different scenarios and treatment pathways, AI helps oncologists make informed decisions about the course of treatment. This not only improves patient outcomes but also reduces the trial-and-error aspect of cancer

treatment.

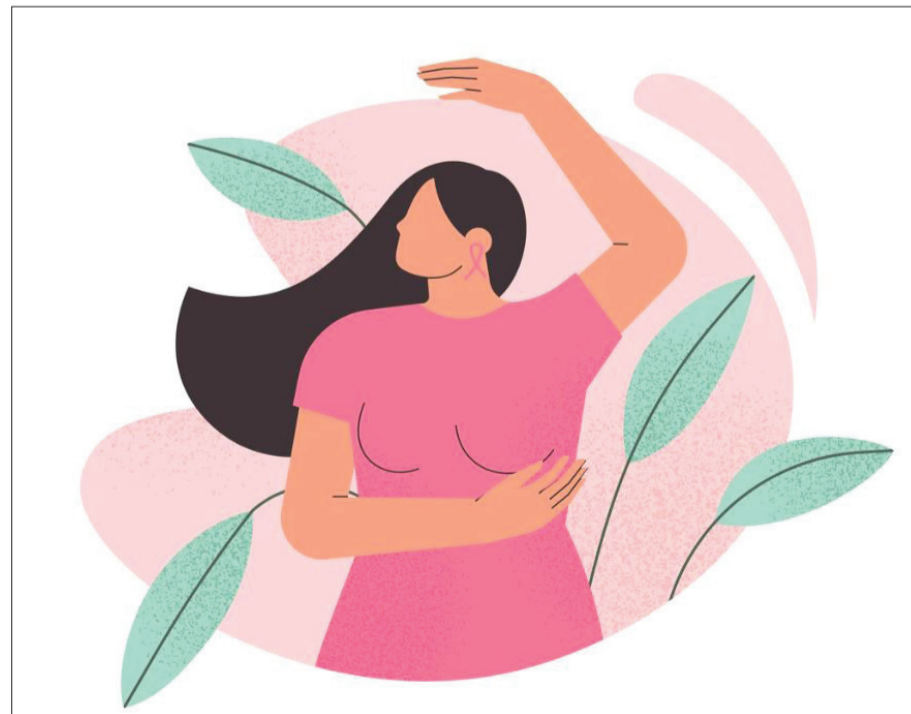
## RADIOMICS AND PATHOMICS

AI is also making strides in radiomics and pathomics, which involve the analysis of medical images and pathology slides, respectively. Radiomics uses AI to extract quantitative data from medical images like CT scans, MRIs, and mammograms. This data can provide valuable insights into tumor characteristics, growth patterns, and response to treatment.

Similarly, in pathomics, AI algorithms can examine tissue samples at the cellular level, identifying abnormalities and helping pathologists make accurate diagnoses. By automating these processes, AI reduces the likelihood of human error and speeds up the diagnostic process, crucial in cases where timely decisions are critical.

## ENHANCING RESEARCH AND DRUG DEVELOPMENT

AI is also transforming the field of breast cancer research and drug development. AI-powered algorithms can analyze massive datasets from clinical trials, genomic studies, and scientific literature. This analysis can identify potential drug



candidates and treatment strategies more efficiently than traditional methods. AI's ability to predict patient responses to specific drugs allows for more targeted and effective therapies.

## AI-ASSISTED SURGERY

AI-assisted surgery is rapidly advancing the field of breast cancer treatment. Surgeons are utilizing artificial intelligence to enhance precision and outcomes in breast cancer surgeries. AI aids in several key areas:

**Image Analysis:** AI algo-

gorithms can analyze preoperative images like MRIs and CT scans to provide a 3D visualization of the tumor's location, size, and proximity to critical structures.

**Surgical Planning:** AI helps in planning the surgical approach, ensuring minimal tissue damage and maximum tumor removal. Surgeons can simulate the procedure before the actual operation.

**Intraoperative Guidance:** During surgery, AI can provide real-time feedback to the surgeon. It assists in

identifying tumor boundaries, guiding incisions, and avoiding damage to healthy tissue.

**Robotics:** AI-driven robotic systems allow for minimally invasive surgeries with smaller incisions, quicker recovery times, and reduced scarring.

**Pathology Assessment:** Post-surgery, AI can analyze pathology slides to verify the complete removal of cancerous tissue.

AI-assisted surgery is transforming breast cancer treatment, making proce-

dures safer, more precise, and less invasive, ultimately improving the patient's quality of life and prognosis.

## CHALLENGES AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

While AI holds immense promise in breast cancer management, it is not without its challenges. Ensuring the privacy and security of patient data is paramount, as AI systems rely on vast amounts of sensitive medical information. Additionally, AI algorithms must be transparent and interpretable to gain the trust of healthcare professionals and patients.

Ethical considerations also come into play, especially in autonomous AI systems. Decisions regarding patient care should ultimately involve human oversight and judgment. The use of AI should augment, rather than replace, the expertise of healthcare professionals.

## THE FUTURE OF BREAST CANCER CARE

The integration of AI in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment is still in its early stages, but the potential benefits are enormous. As AI algorithms continue to improve and become more accessible, breast cancer

care is likely to become more precise, efficient, and patient-centered.

AI can help bridge the gap in healthcare disparities by providing accurate diagnoses and treatment recommendations, even in regions with limited access to specialized healthcare professionals. Telemedicine and AI-powered diagnostic tools can reach underserved populations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance at early detection and effective treatment.

In conclusion, artificial intelligence is ushering in a new era in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. It empowers healthcare professionals with the tools and insights needed to improve early detection, personalize treatment plans, and accelerate research efforts. While challenges and ethical considerations remain, the potential for AI to enhance breast cancer care and outcomes is undeniably promising. With continued research and responsible implementation, AI can help reduce the burden of breast cancer on individuals and society as a whole.

*The author is the Director & Head of Department Surgical Oncology at Sanar International Hospitals.*

## FOCUS

## DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



ERIC LE RESTE

Distraction is a very modern but also, an ancient disease. Distraction can be as mild as daydreaming and building castles in the air, which does not cause a great deal of damage. However, distraction at the wheel of a car can have devastating consequences, and that too within just a second. It seems that many of us are being constantly distracted these days, by our cell phones. What we may not realise is that long-term mental distractions of this

kind can gradually erode the ability to focus when we really need to. It may not be just our over-attentiveness to our cell phones, it could also be a distraction because a relationship has turned sour, or we have money worries, or the deterioration of the health of aged parents. These can all seem 'reasonable' distractions that we should be thinking about, but when we are not thinking about what we should be thinking about, then that is a distraction. This habit can take us 'off track' for a long, long time, and we only realise years later that we were moving far away from our destination. We need to become aware of and understand the cost and the price we may have to pay for these distractions.

Every moment of our lives are moments when we can accumulate happiness, peace, love, understand-

ing and power. Weigh that against all the time we waste, and we can begin to see how important it is to remain focused on life. At the time of death, will we be able to say that we have used our lives in a worthwhile way and have no regrets that we could have done better? The power of accumulation is exactly the same as when we feel stronger and stronger through exercise, when things feel easier and easier and more and more fulfilling. We cannot, though, keep accumulating if we keep losing energy and power over and over again. We all have aims and objectives and when we understand the value of time in reaching those goals; we will resist the side scenes.

So where does this focus come from? It is in the complexity of concentration. Sometimes we become so busy in trying to control the mind, which is running



Focus comes from disciplining the intellect; the mind simply follows it.

off in all directions, but the focus is actually dependent on the yoga (connection) of the intellect. The mind and the intellect are faculties of the soul, the spiritual being within the physical body. There is a difference between

the mind and intellect. The mind creates thoughts all the time, all day, every day. The intellect, when it is 'awake' or alert, has the power of concentration and the ability to discriminate and judge what is the wisest course of action.

The mind just thinks and is full of emotion, the intellect manages those thoughts and emotions. If we visualise someone we care about, we use the intellect to do that. However, the moment the intellect focuses on that

person then the mind starts to create thoughts about them, and these thoughts evoke emotions connected to the way the person is and how the relationship works. So, it is the 'muscle' of the intellect that we need to teach to focus wherever we wish for as long as we wish, and the mind will follow. This is the real effort, to resist the temptation to control the mind and to guide the intellect to focus where we wish, whenever we wish. In Rajyoga, the focus of the intellect is on the Supreme Being, a point of light and an ocean of all goodness. If we focus the intellect on that point of light, the mind immediately begins to create thoughts about the qualities of God, and there is then an exchange of love that brings power and understanding to the soul.

It is good to learn and practise creating focusing

the intellect. Over time we develop the security of our dignity. Every effort in spirituality protects our dignity and self-respect, self-esteem, and self-trust. This becomes a shield so that nothing that happens outside can penetrate or change the way we feel about the self, on the inside. The mind becomes more peaceful, it can catch ideas, thoughts, and feelings and become aware of the wonderful synchronicity that is happening all around us, but only if we focus. We can really capture what the inner silence is telling us. To connect to the Supreme, we need a very quiet mind and a focused intellect, and then it is easy to let the distractions just pass us by.

Eric Le Reste is a journalist and producer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and coordinates the activities of Brahma Kumaris centres in Canada.

## MIND POWER

## HOW TO MANAGE STRESS



B.K. SURYA

There are certain things in life that we have to accept if we want to live a stress-free life. We need to understand that everything in life is not going to be according to our preferences. Secondly, we can be a little more relaxed and light about the challenges that come our way. When we are easy about a problem, it gets solved easily. This applies to our physical health as well - when we remain easy about an ailment, it gets cured easily. The more stressed we are, the faster our mental energy is expended.

Some people become stressed by worrying about the future, while others keep thinking of the past. A lot of people tend to live in the past - they hold on to painful memories, thereby suffering the pain over and over

again. Since they are stuck in the past, they neither enjoy the present nor can they create a better future for themselves. Those who hold on to the past in this manner tend to hold on to their ailments as well. They keep thinking about their illness and make themselves all the more ill.

Some spiritual practices can help us gain greater control over our thoughts, and thereby our life. The first step is to recognise the fact that we are souls. The soul is a subtle sentient point of energy, residing in the centre of the forehead. Every thought the soul creates carries some energy, in the form of subtle vibrations. These affect our brain, the rest of the body, and radiate from us to create an aura that others can sense. When we create thoughts of peace, such as "I am peaceful... peace is my natural state of being..." we experience that peace. The mind calms down, the body relaxes.

There are fewer thoughts and our emotions subside. Consciously and repeatedly creating such thoughts enables us to have a deeper experience of peace. The more peaceful we are, the stronger our mind becomes. In similar fashion, we generate stress by creating



To avoid, reduce, and overcome stress, we need to make our mind strong.

the wrong kind of thoughts. For example, if there is a special dish for dinner, but the cook forgot to add salt, some people will laugh it off, add the salt themselves and enjoy the meal. A few others, however, would lose their temper, berate the cook and end up spoiling

their own mood as well as the atmosphere of the house.

To avoid, reduce, and eliminate stress from our life, we need to make our mind strong. Stress, in fact, is a creation of a weak mind. And the mind is weakened by unnecessary and negative thoughts that

are influenced by any vice, be it anger, ego, or greed. The mind can be made powerful by some simple practices. When we wake up in the morning, we can create certain thoughts every day, such as, 'I am powerful... I am a child of God, the Almighty... Being His child, I

too am like Him... powerful, peaceful, and stable...' Regularly practicing this awakens the latent powers of the soul, and then we will find that we do not get upset, afraid, or angry very easily.

The biggest source of strength for the soul is God. We can connect with Him simply by remembering Him. Through this mental link we can draw His powers and virtues, by remembering them and recognising, accepting, and affirming the fact that God has bestowed on me all that He possesses. This practice is called meditation. It is a tool by which the mind can be made infinitely powerful.

However, having a powerful mind does not mean that everything in life will happen as we wish. There will be obstacles, failures, and tragedies, as there are numerous actors, factors, and forces at play and not all of them are in our control. But if we develop the habit of accepting things that we cannot control, and of learning from them, with the conviction that there is some benefit in everything, they will not cause us stress or sorrow.

B.K. Surya is a Rajyoga teacher at the Brahma Kumaris headquarters in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.

## A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

A life lived with the purpose of bringing benefit to others creates a feeling of richness and abundance inside. My heart is fulfilled when I give. Then I don't need many material possessions to be happy. Today let me give and live a rich fulfilling life.

## PERSPECTIVE

## What do we choose to see?



B.K. DR. SAVITA

What you see is what you get, often abbreviated as WYSIWYG, means what you see on the computer screen is exactly the same as will be printed or displayed. This holds true not just in computing but in real life as well.

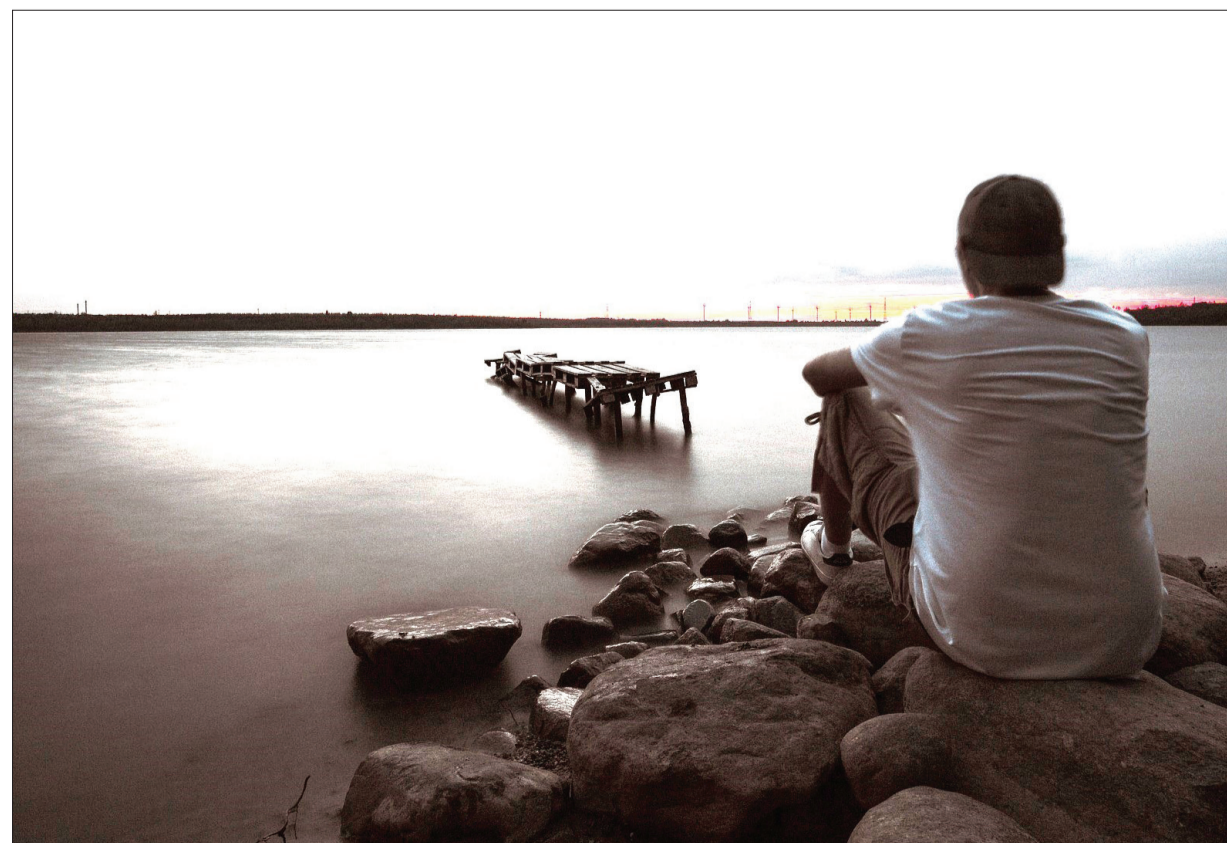
Our experience of life is determined to a large extent by how we see, or choose to see, it. As your vision, so your world, goes a saying. And we see life not as it is, but as we are. If we see life as a struggle, it will become a grind for us. The lens

through which we see can make routine tasks look difficult, and minor inconveniences seem unbearable. Such a perspective is the result of a feeble mental state, and it further weakens the mind, dragging us down to an abyss of despondency.

Something similar happens in relationships. If we see people as generally untrustworthy, then we will be unable to trust anyone, and suffer for it. We may not have any close and warm relationships, and will be dogged by fear, doubt, and worry. That is not a very happy way to live.

Our experiences in the present life, and past ones, colour our perception of the world and of how the people around us behave. Our fears, anxieties, doubts, and preferences are, to varying degrees, the result of how we see the world.

If we have an upbeat outlook, we take problems as challenges, tackle them



Our experience of life is determined to a large extent by how we see, or choose to see, it.

spiritedly, and take the consequences in our stride,

meanwhile learning from the experience. Failures do

not put us down, rather they become stepping stones to

wiser decisions in future. But if we are gloomy by na-

ture, our cheerless existence itself will feel like a burden to us, with each difficult person or situation, and every setback serving to confirm the wretchedness of life.

True, the world has its ugly side, which cannot be overlooked or denied, but it also has its bright spots. We may have to deal with distressing things on a daily basis, but we need not focus exclusively on them. How much attention and emotion we invest in them is up to us.

What do we gain by repeatedly thinking of the appalling things happening in the world? If it is something that affects me personally, I can try to understand the reason behind it and figure out a way to deal with it in the best possible manner. Having done that, I need to shift my focus to the brighter side of life, because that is what is going to empower me, by making me feel posi-

tive. When we habitually and repeatedly dwell on the dark side of life, the resultant feelings drain our energy and joy. But when we step back and see the larger picture, recognise what is of value to us, and engage with that, our time and energy are utilised in a constructive way, leading to learning and growth.

Just think of it, if we have to walk along a muddy track, do we get stuck in one spot, appalled by the sight of the mud, or do we step on the relatively dry spots and make our way forward?

That is how we need to navigate life, by spotting the good in it, avoiding or dealing sensibly with what is harmful, moving ahead, and helping others do the same.

B.K. Dr. Savita is a Rajyoga teacher at the Brahma Kumaris headquarters in Abu Road, Rajasthan.

TOP OF THE DAY

CM KHATTAR ANNOUNCES 2 NEW SHOOTING RANGES

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced on Friday that two shooting ranges will be established in Jhajjar and Panchkula, while two archery training centres will be set up in Yamunanagar and Faridabad. Khattar felicitated the players from Haryana who won medals at the recently held Asian Games in China. At a grand felicitation ceremony organised at Karnal, players, both medal-winners and others who participated at the event, received cash prizes from the chief minister. Khattar honoured the gold medal-winning athletes with a cash reward of Rs. 3 crore, the silver medalists with Rs 1.5 crore, and bronze medalists with Rs. 75 lakh.

ETZEBETH TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN RUGBY SEMIS

PARIS: Eben Etzebeth's influence on and off the field for South Africa is likely to be a key factor in Saturday's Rugby World Cup semi-final against England, as it proved last weekend when the Springboks eliminated the host nation in the last eight. The imposing lock, whose gladiatorial style has made him first choice in the Springbok second row for more than a decade, turned in a match-winning performance in the 29-28 victory over France and is his team's mainstay, according to captain Siya Kolisi.

AUSTRALIAN GP MAIN RACE TO BE HELD TODAY

PHILIP ISLAND: The Australian Grand Prix main race will take place on Saturday instead of Sunday, swapping places in the schedule with the sprint due to bad weather forecasts at Philip Island, MotoGP said on Friday. "This decision has been taken proactively in order to guarantee the best and safest possible show for all competitors and fans attending," it said in a press release. Rain is expected throughout the weekend at Philip Island, with a very high chance of showers, most likely in the morning and afternoon on Sunday, according to Australia's weather bureau.

IOC REJECTS PUTIN'S OLYMPICS ACCUSATION

LAUSANNE: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Friday rejected Russian President Vladimir Putin's accusation that it is using the Olympic Games as a tool of politics and racism. Putin lashed out on Thursday, saying the IOC had effectively suspended Russia from the Olympic movement, we learned that an invitation to the Games is not an unconditional right of the best athletes but a kind of privilege and can be earned not by sporting results but by political gestures that have nothing to do with sport at all," Putin told a conference in the Urals city of Perm.

MIXED TEAM EVENT

GRAND SLAM GIANTS DJOKOVIC, IGA SWIATEK HEADLINE UNITED CUP TEAM EVENT

TDG NETWORK SYDNEY

The record 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic and women's singles World No. 1 Iga Swiatek will headline a starry field at the United Cup. The United Cup will be held in Perth and Sydney from December 29 to January 7, 2024.

The mixed-team event in 2024 will feature five of the world's top ten women and nine of the world's top twenty men, with the draw to be unveiled on Monday.

Serbia, led by 24-time major champion and current World No. 1 Djokovic, will make its debut in 2024.



Djokovic and Swiatek to lead impressive lineup at United Cup.

Team Poland will be captained by four-time Grand Slam winner Swiatek and 11th-ranked Hubert Hurkacz, who has been given the top seeds for the 2024 edition, following the confirmation of registrations from the top 16 countries. Greece will be led by the top 10 stars Stefanos

Tsitsipas and Maria Sakkari, while the United States will be represented by World No. 4 Jessica Pegula and 10th-ranked Taylor Fritz.

France will be led by world No. 10 Caroline Garcia and Adrian Mannarino. This year's Wimbledon winner, Marketa Vondrousova, will

lead the Czech Republic team alongside Jiri Lehecka, with Croatia rounding out the top six seeds, led by Borjana Coric and Donna Vekic.

Australia will be represented by top Australian Alex de Minaur, who is on the verge of breaking into the top 10, as well as three-time major quarterfinalist Ajla Tomljanovic, doubles players Storm Hunter, Matt Ebden, and Ellen Perez, and former world No. 33 John Millman.

"The United Cup holds a unique position in global tennis, with the world's best men and women representing their country at the highest level. For 2024, we are delighted to welcome teams

with both massive star power and great depth," United Cup Tournament Director Stephen Farrow said.

"The top 16 teams include some of the biggest names in tennis, such as Djokovic, Swiatek, Tsitsipas, Pegula, Fritz, Sakkari, De Minaur, Tomljanovic, Zverev, Kerber, and more. They are all set to play in a format designed to showcase both the men's and women's game and the unique equality in tennis," he added.

"We can't wait to see some exciting match-ups between such a high calibre playing field and lots of entertaining tennis in what promises to be a blockbuster event," Farrow further stated.

INVESTIGATION

Sandro Tonali available for Newcastle selection despite betting probe

TDG NETWORK NEWCASTLE

Sandro Tonali is available for selection at Newcastle United for their Premier League game with Crystal Palace, despite the Italian midfielder's ongoing investigation for illegal betting, manager Eddie Howe said on Friday. Newcastle confirmed on Wednesday that the Italian Prosecutor's Office and the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) were looking into Tonali. The player has not commented publicly. "He trained twice this week with us, and he's very much available for selection," Howe told reporters. "Like



I do with all the players, I analyse their training performances, how they look, and how they feel. Sandro has trained well with us." Tonali, 23, had been training with the Italy squad before their Euro 2024 qualifiers

with Malta and England, but was given permission to leave after news of the investigation.

"He's had a very, very difficult couple of weeks. He's been dealing with a lot, and from what I can see, he's handling himself really well, and he's dealing with his emotions incredibly strongly, but underneath, I'm sure there's a lot going on," Howe said. "I'll have to make a call, but I always bring it back to football." Despite the extra headache, Howe said he had sympathy.

"It's very easy for people to forget how young he is and the changes he's had in his life since coming from Italy to England. That's hard enough to deal with, and now he has this situation," he said.

"We all have vulnerabilities, weaknesses, and things that happen in our lives that can be difficult, so the main

thing is that we identify them, support the player as we always do, and try to help them get to their best level on the pitch." On his squad's injuries, Howe was optimistic that Brazilian midfielder Joelinton might be back for Saturday's game against Crystal Palace after missing two fixtures.

"I hope so. He's trained well and looks good." Alexander Isak, who was replaced late in Newcastle's last game, faces a late fitness test. Sven Botman has been out with a knee injury for the last three games. "Sven is improving. The two weeks have been good to him," the manager said.

GOLF

India makes strong start in Women's Indian Open

TDG NETWORK GURUGRAM



Diksha Dagar in action.

There was a strong Indian presence on top of the leader board as one of the pre-tournament favourites Diksha Dagar (67) and a resurgent Vani Kapoor (68), who is playing at her home course, occupied two of the top three places after the first round of the Women's Indian Open at the DLF Golf and Country Club.

Diksha overcame an early bogey to find six birdies later to be one shot behind the leader, Norwegian Madalene Stavnar (66), who is searching for her maiden win on the Ladies European Tour.

Giving the home fans a lot to cheer, local Vani Kapoor shot 4-under 68. As Diksha and Vani moved up the leader board towards the end of the day, amateur Vidhatri Urs showed that Indian women could be a force to reckon with as she shot 2-under 70 to be T-6 while another amateur, Avani Prashanth, who finished as the best amateur last year, was T-10 with 1-under 71 despite three bo-

geys in last eight holes. Avani is the winner of the prestigious Queen Sirikit Cup for amateurs and the Ahlsell Final in Sweden on the LET Access Tour for professionals in August.

Another Indian, Gaurika Bishnoi (72) was T-17 after a round that had three birdies against a bogey and a double bogey. Diksha, who can go to the top of the Race to Costa Del Sol standings with a win this week, said, "It was a slow start (from the tenth tee) for me today because on the 11th hole, I was confused with the club selection. So I wasn't confident about the tee shot. Never mind; I could have had ups and downs. But it was alright; afterwards, I hit six birdies, and I had a solid round." "On the 10th hole (the first of the course), I made a very long birdie putt that was uphill and down in slope. It was a 35-footer. She added, "About my game, all aspects are fairly good, and most importantly, putting was the main thing, and I putted well today."

CONFIRMATION

HOLGER RUNE HIRES BORIS BECKER AS HIS COACH FOR REST OF SEASON

TDG NETWORK MONTE CARLO

World No. 6 Holger Rune confirmed on Friday that he has hired six-time Grand Slam champion Boris Becker as his coach.

The former No. 1 in the ATP rankings, Boris Becker, has previously assisted Novak Djokovic in reaching some of his greatest heights. The German won 49 tour-level titles and 713 matches as a player, including 121 triumphs over Top 10 opponents.

Last week, Rune posted a team photo, which included Becker, following a training session.

Rune is hoping to revitalise his 2023 season following an impressive first half that includes ATP Masters 1000



finals in Monte-Carlo and Rome, his fourth tour-level victory in Munich, and quarter-final appearances at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. Despite reaching a career-high ATP ranking of No. 4 in August, he has only won one of eight matches since the

grass season began. "I felt myself and my game more today than I had in a while. So I feel confident now in making the last adjustments and finishing the year strong," Rune posted on Instagram after losing earlier this week in Stockholm.

ROAR OF ENGINES

IDEMITSU Honda Talent Cup final round set to begin

TDG NETWORK CHENNAI

The Madras International Circuit (MIC) in Chennai is gearing up for a roar of engines as the 2023 IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup NSF250R enters the last round of the championship. The young guns of the IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup showcased their best performances and proved their

mettle on the Moto3 race machine platform, - NSF250R, which is specially designed to elevate racing to higher levels and enhance riders' competitiveness, a release said.

In Race 1 of Round 4, Kavin Quintal reaffirmed his dominance in the championship. The young gun finished the race by crossing the chequered line in the first position. The second position was secured by Mohsin P and Raheesh Khatri had to

settle for the third position in the race. Utilizing his international exposure and skills, Quintal continued to prove his mettle in race 2, maintaining his lead and emerging victorious by completing the race in the first position. On the other hand, Mohsin P displayed strategic manoeuvres to secure the second position, while Johann Reeves Emmanuel clinched his first-ever podium finish in this category by finishing third.

HOCKEY

Salima, Sangita, and Nikki set to perform before home crowd

TDG NETWORK RANCHI



With just a week to go for the start of the prestigious Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023, Indian Women's Hockey Team players Salima Tete, Nikki Pradhan, and Sangita Kumari, all of whom hail from Jharkhand, expressed their excitement for the upcoming tournament.

The tournament, which will take place from October 27 to November 5, will see India competing alongside Japan, China, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand. Savita will be leading the Indian Women's Hockey Team in the tournament, with Deep Grace Ekka as her deputy. India will open their campaign in the tournament against Thailand on Friday, October 27. Indian Women's Hockey Team forward Sangita expressed excitement about returning to Ranchi for

the major tournament, saying, "I played my first tournament in Ranchi when I was in the U-14 team, and we won the bronze medal for Hockey Jharkhand. Later on, I played at the sub-junior level here as well. However, this will be my first time competing in such a major international event in Ranchi. I can't wait to walk out in front of the home fans, which will be out in force to show their support." Sangita has fond memories of playing matches in the city when she was younger, and she feels proud of the growth of hockey in the state.

FINE PERFORMANCE

TSITSIPAS KNOCKS OUT ZANDSCHULP IN EUROPEAN OPEN

TDG NETWORK ANTWERP



World No. 7 Stefanos Tsitsipas returned to the European Open in Antwerp as the top seed and produced a fine performance to knock out Botić van de Zandschulp 7-5, 6-3 in the Round of 16 clash. "It took some time. I didn't have the best start that I would have expected, but what a great way to end it! I was trying to get in there despite the early break and found a really good way through towards the very end. I felt like every point was a fight; in every game, there was an opportunity to do something. I was trying to maintain that consistency and work towards the victory," Tsitsipas said.

It was a pleasant victory for the Greek, who had not won two singles matches in a tournament since capturing the Los Cabos crown in August. In the quarterfinals on Friday, he will face fifth seed Yannick Hanfmann, who defeated Dominic Thiem 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 to end the day's action in Antwerp. Tsitsipas improved to 14-5 in first-round matches

this season after rallying from a 2-4 deficit in the first set against van de Zandschulp. From that point on, the Greeks won nine of 11 games to seize control of the centre court. While neither player maintained his best level for lengthy stretches, Tsitsipas improved throughout the one-hour, 36-minute encounter and easily won thanks to a powerful serving. He didn't face a break point in the second set after saving four of five in the first. Earlier, Hugo Gaston of France saved three match points to defeat second seed Jan-Lennard Struff. 5-7, 7-6(5), 7-6(11). Gaston won on his fourth match point after saving 12 of 16 break points in the nearly three-hour contest.

OUTSTANDING

3 Indians secure medals in under 17 & 15 badminton tournaments

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI



Indian shuttlers Jagsher Singh Khangurra, Bornil Aakash Changmai, and Tanvi Sharma secured semifinal spots in the Badminton Asia U-17 and U-15 Junior Championships, guaranteeing themselves a medal on day 4 of the tournament in Chengdu, China.

In the boys' U15 singles category, Jagsher defeated China's MA Chu Xuan 21-14, 21-13 in just 28 minutes, while Bornil emerged vic-

torious in a closely contested match against Korea's Park Jung Bin, securing a 21-19, 22-20 victory.

Tanvi Sharma overcame a first-game loss to register a 20-22, 21-15, 21-15 win over Liao Jui-Chi of Chinese Taipei in the girls' U17 singles quarter-final match.

In the girls' U17 doubles match, Tanvi and Reshika Uthayasooriyan faced a 10-20, 20-22 defeat against the Chinese pair of Fu Xin Yi and Qin Shi Yang.

CONVINCING WIN

# ZAMPA SHINES IN AUSTRALIA'S VICTORY AS PAKISTAN LOSES STEAM IN TALL CHASE

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Pakistan lost their last six wickets for just 36 runs, which was a significant blow to their chase. They were initially on track, needing 103 runs in 12 overs, with Iftikhar and Rizwan in a strong partnership.

However, Zampa's exceptional performance turned the game in Australia's favour. Zampa had been impressive earlier in the match by dismissing Babar and maintaining a tight line. But in his final spell, he reached new heights by taking wickets consecutively—first Iftikhar and then Rizwan, both LBW—and ultimately sealing the victory by stumping Nawaz.

The foundation for Pakistan's chase had been set by the 134-run opening partnership between Shafique and Imam. Although they



Zampa's outstanding performance helped Australia's win against Pakistan.

couldn't convert it into centuries like Warner and Marsh for Australia, they provided a strong base for the rest of the team. Unfortunately, Pakistan's middle order couldn't carry the innings deep enough. Despite some elegant shots from Shakeel, Iftikhar, and Rizwan, Australia, mainly led by Zampa,

continued to break through and take wickets.

Bengaluru was declared a strong base for the rest of the team. Unfortunately, Pakistan's middle order couldn't carry the innings deep enough.

This win marks Australia's second consecutive victory, showing a strong comeback after a disappointing start to the campaign.

Australian openers David

Warner and Mitchell Marsh launched a brutal onslaught, propelling Australia to a total of 367/9 against Pakistan in the 18th match of the ODI World Cup 2023 at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday.

Babar Azam-led Pakistan won the toss and opted to field first. But the decision did not work in their favour

during the game.

The Australian openers, Warner and Marsh, forged an impressive 259-run partnership in the first innings. Warner scored 163 runs from 124 balls with a strike rate of 131.45, while Marsh notched a 121-run knock from 108 balls with a strike rate of 112.04. Warner hit 10 fours and nine sixes, while Marsh slammed 10 fours and nine sixes.

Pakistan's fielders also dropped a few catches, which proved costly as it allowed Australia to set a challenging target.

Pakistani pacer Shaheen Afridi made the first breakthrough of the game when he dismissed Mitchell Marsh in the 33.5 overs (AUS 259-1). Afridi took his second wicket in the next ball, dismissing Glenn Maxwell for a duck in the 33.6 overs (AUS 259-2). During the first powerplay,

UNBEATEN TEAMS

# India arrives in Dharamshala ahead of clash against NZ

TDG NETWORK  
DHARAMSHALA

Team India arrived in Dharamshala on Friday ahead of their ICC World Cup 2023 clash against New Zealand.

With four wins in four matches, the red-hot Men in Blue will lock horns with unbeaten New Zealand at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium in Dharamshala on Sunday.

The Indian team arrived at the airport on Friday, and after boarding the bus, experienced pacer Jasprit Bumrah and star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja were seen having a conversation.

India head coach Rahul Dravid was seen chatting and sharing laughs while sitting in the bus with Bumrah and Jadeja.

In India's last fixture, Virat Kohli starred with his outstanding unbeaten ton against Bangladesh, and it was the highlight of the match.

Shubman Gill scored runs in his second appearance of the World Cup, stroking an excel-



lent half-century to put his team well on course for victory.

The Men in Blue will, however, miss star all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who sustained an injury to his left ankle while fielding on his own bowling during India's match against Bangladesh at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune. The all-rounder was taken for scans and is advised to rest. He will be under the constant supervision of the BCCI Medical Team. He will now join the team directly in Lucknow, where India will play

against England.

India, however, will gather confidence from their show in the ongoing ICC World Cup as the Rohit Sharma-led side picked up a fourth wins to keep their unbeaten streak in the tournament intact.

In India's previous match, an explosive first-wicket partnership between skipper Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill, followed by Virat Kohli's 48th ODI ton, sealed India a seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in their ICC Cricket World Cup match at Pune on Thursday.

INJURY

# PANDYA'S ABSENCE MAY HINDER INDIA AGAINST NEW ZEALAND: HAYDEN

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Former Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden gave his views on whether all-rounder Hardik Pandya's absence could hinder India's performance in the World Cup.

After a thumping victory over Bangladesh last night in the ICC Cricket World Cup, team India made it 4 wins out of 4, finding themselves second in the table with New Zealand continuing to assert their dominance in the tournament.

India's comprehensive victory on Thursday was tainted by Hardik Pandya's injury. He ended up injuring himself while attempting to stop a ball from going to the boundary. Pandya tried to use his right leg to stop the ball but slipped and twisted his ankle. He appeared to be in pain and got some treatment on his left leg,



and his ankle was taped. Pandya had a small practice run but did not look good and had to be taken off the field.

The Australian cricket legend shared his views on the injury sustained by Hardik Pandya during the course of the match and how it would affect the team's balance.

"No one in the world, really. He is that good an all-rounder at the moment, and when you think back into the history of the way he's been performing, whenever he's not playing for

any team, there is always a balance issue. He provides that great stability."

Hayden further added, "The good thing for India is that they've got batting cover. Surya Kumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan can easily slot into that role, and then you get your specialist seamer Mohammad Shami back into the side, so that would also be a very good side. I don't think you can have Jadeja batting up the order; I feel that's fragility in the Indian batting line-up.

CRUCIAL MATCHES

# High-stakes double header to take place today

SUNIL YASH KALRA  
NEW DELHI

In a gripping day of cricket, Sri Lanka faces the Netherlands at Lucknow's Ekana Stadium, while England takes on South Africa at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium in the ICC ODI World Cup 2023.

Sri Lanka vs. Netherlands: Ekana Stadium Showdown

Both Sri Lanka and the Netherlands, hungry for a win after initial setbacks, clash at Ekana Stadium. Despite Sri Lanka's historical dominance in their encounters, the Netherlands enters with newfound confidence from their victory against South Africa. The spin-friendly pitch presents a challenge for the Dutch batsmen against Sri Lanka's quality spinners.

While Sri Lanka's bowling raises concerns, their batting shows promise, having scored over 300 twice. The Netherlands, inspired by its recent success, poses a formidable challenge. With an average score of

| since CWC2019   vs CWC23 teams |             |      |         |      |        |       |      |     |       |        |           |          |          |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------|---------|------|--------|-------|------|-----|-------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Overs                          | Team        | Inns | Batters | Runs | SR     | Ave   | Dots | BpD | Bdrys | BpBdry | BdryRuns% | Ave Runs | Ave Wkts |
| 01-10                          | Netherlands | 19   | 12      | 774  | 70.49  | 27.64 | 759  | 1.4 | 117   | 9.4    | 62.02     | 45       | 1        |
| 01-10                          | Sri Lanka   | 43   | 23      | 1970 | 77.44  | 24.94 | 1699 | 1.5 | 311   | 8.2    | 65.48     | 49       | 2        |
| 11-40                          | Netherlands | 18   | 28      | 2265 | 72.88  | 23.35 | 1732 | 1.8 | 205   | 15.2   | 40        | 133      | 5        |
| 11-40                          | Sri Lanka   | 42   | 43      | 5581 | 79.63  | 31.18 | 3635 | 1.9 | 542   | 12.9   | 41.57     | 140      | 4        |
| 41-50                          | Netherlands | 14   | 21      | 392  | 74.10  | 9.12  | 282  | 1.9 | 29    | 18.2   | 33.16     | 31       | 3        |
| 41-50                          | Sri Lanka   | 32   | 35      | 1641 | 110.58 | 19.31 | 613  | 2.4 | 184   | 8.1    | 49.97     | 54       | 3        |

INDIAN SPORTS FANS

| since CWC2019   vs CWC23 teams |              |      |         |      |        |       |      |     |       |        |           |          |          |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------|---------|------|--------|-------|------|-----|-------|--------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Overs                          | Team         | Inns | Batters | Runs | SR     | Ave   | Dots | BpD | Bdrys | BpBdry | BdryRuns% | Ave Runs | Ave Wkts |
| 01-10                          | England      | 36   | 15      | 1894 | 87.48  | 32.10 | 1345 | 1.6 | 296   | 7.3    | 65.05     | 56       | 2        |
| 01-10                          | South Africa | 37   | 13      | 1761 | 79.00  | 36.69 | 1426 | 1.6 | 256   | 8.7    | 61.44     | 50       | 1        |
| 11-40                          | England      | 36   | 33      | 5765 | 95.75  | 39.49 | 2800 | 2.2 | 621   | 9.7    | 48.29     | 167      | 4        |
| 11-40                          | South Africa | 37   | 26      | 5571 | 91.66  | 46.43 | 2798 | 2.2 | 573   | 10.6   | 44.66     | 157      | 3        |
| 41-50                          | England      | 27   | 31      | 1534 | 120.13 | 22.90 | 514  | 2.5 | 174   | 7.3    | 53.85     | 60       | 2        |
| 41-50                          | South Africa | 28   | 25      | 2042 | 136.04 | 29.17 | 510  | 2.9 | 247   | 6.1    | 56.71     | 76       | 3        |

INDIAN SPORTS FANS

232 runs on Ekana's pitch, both teams aim for a vital win in this day's match.

England vs. South Africa: Wankhede Stadium Battle

In the 20th match, England faces South Africa at Mumbai's iconic Wankhede Stadium. De-

spite England's historical lead, the current tournament has been challenging. Ben Stokes' return aims to boost England's morale as they seek redemption from defeats against New Zealand and Afghanistan. Former cricketer Christopher Mpofu highlights

Jofra Archer's reserve status for England, while South Africa's recent strong performances, including Quinton de Kock's centuries, showcase their strength. The historical record favors South Africa in 69 ODIs, setting the stage for a thrilling contest at

Wankhede. The batting-friendly Wankhede pitch, recent trends favoring teams batting second, and minimal rain forecast add to the excitement. Fans can anticipate a spectacular clash between two cricketing giants under the Mumbai lights.

CLINICAL PERFORMANCE

# WORLD CUP 2023: INDIA TRIUMPHS AGAINST BANGLADESH WITH KOHLI'S CENTURY

SUNIL YASH KALRA  
PUNE

India's World Cup 2023 journey continued on a triumphant note as they clinched their fourth consecutive victory, defeating Bangladesh by seven wickets at Pune's MCA ground. The match was characterized by record-breaking moments and exceptional displays of skill.

Virat Kohli's unbeaten century, his 48th in ODIs, was the focal point of the match. Notably, he achieved the impressive milestone of 26,000 international runs in just 567 innings, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record of 600 innings. Batting first after winning the toss, Bangladesh posted 256 runs for the loss of eight wickets during their 50 overs. Despite some bright moments, India's bowlers effectively contained them.

Chasing 257 runs, the Indian batsmen demonstrated their mettle, securing victory with seven wickets in hand and 8.3 overs to spare. Alongside Kohli, Shubman Gill contributed a half-century (53 runs), while captain Rohit Sharma added 48 runs to



the tally.

This match marked a historical note as it was the first ODI between India and Bangladesh on Indian soil in almost 25 years. Notably, the last time these two teams met in India was in May 1998, a match that featured current chief coach Rahul Dravid and bowling coach Paras Mhambrey in the Team India XI.

The match was not short of records and milestones: - Bangladesh became the first team to score 200 or more twice against India in a multi-team tournament in 2023.

- Rohit Sharma advanced to the top of the list for most runs in World Cup history, tallying 1,243 runs.

- Virat Kohli's remarkable feat in breaking Mahila Jayawardene's record for the most runs in international cricket, reaching over 26,000 runs.

- Kohli's first six of the World Cup came after 192 balls, coinciding with his 48th ODI century. - Mushfiqur Rahim of Bangladesh joined an exclusive group, becoming the second Bangladeshi batsman to score 1,000 runs in the World Cup.

Rohit Sharma added to the records with his six at Pune's MCA Stadium and asserted his dominance as the player with the most runs, centuries, and fours while chasing in World Cup history. In summary, the match was a spectacular showcase of cricketing brilliance, with Kohli and Sharma's performances serving as the highlights of the day.

As Team India continues its impressive streak in the World Cup 2023, cricket enthusiasts worldwide eagerly anticipate the upcoming matches.

BIRTHDAY BOY

# Wishes pour in from cricket fraternity as Sehwag turns 45

SUNIL YASH KALRA  
NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag celebrated his 45th birthday on Friday, receiving birthday wishes from many in the cricket fraternity.

During his playing days, Sehwag amassed a total of 8,586 runs from 104 Tests at an average of 49.34, besides also amassing 8,273 runs from 251 ODIs. The former opener also appeared in 19 T20Is for India, accumulating 394 runs.

India's World Cup-winning all-rounder Yuvraj Singh took to X and wished the former swashbuckling opener good health and happiness.

"What is common between Viru of Sholay and Viru of the Indian team? Both said, 'I will get each one of you, one at a time.' Happy birthday, brother! Wishing you a year full of good health and happiness. Lots of love always @virendersehwag," Yuvraj posted on X.

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh also took to X and posted, 'Happy Birthday @virenderse-



hwag, my dear friend & brother. You are a perfect combo of aggression & calmness & you know better which side of your cricketer to unleash & when. Your wits on social media keep us in happy moods. May you always stay happy and healthy & keep smiling."

He was also a part of two World Cup-winning squads, led by former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni. India clinched the inaugural World T20 in South Africa before lifting the World Cup in 2011 on

home turf. "Only #TeamIndia cricketer with two Test triple tons Here's wishing the World T20 & World Cup winner, @virendersehwag, a very happy birthday," BCCI posted on X.

Former Indian middle-order batter Suresh Raina said Sehwag's fearless approach in the game has always inspired everyone. "A very Happy Birthday to the cricketing legend, @virendersehwag! Your fearless approach to the game has always inspired us all. May your birthday be as

full of sixes as your unforgettable innings! Have a fantastic day, Viru paaji!" Suresh Raina posted on X.

He smashed the fastest Test triple-century off just 278 deliveries to join Don Bradman and Brian Lara in the list of players to score two triples.

He made 319 off 304 balls against South Africa at Chennai in 2008, with 42 fours and five sixes. Sehwag's previous triple ton was against Pakistan at Multan in 2004. Also, he is the only Indian with two Test triple tons.