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BJP CANNOT STOP DMK FROM WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE: TN MINISTER E.V. VELU



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UN DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL URGES ACTION ON TALIBAN'S WOMEN'S RIGHTS



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ENGLAND'S SPINNERS LEAD THEIR TEAM TO A RESOUNDING VICTORY

TOP OF THE DAY

CONGRESS MOVES EC AGAINST 'MISUSE' OF ED

NEW DELHI: A Congress delegation met the election commissioners on Wednesday and sought immediate intervention to stop the alleged misuse of the Enforcement Directorate during Assembly polls and alleged that the probe agency was acting at the behest of the central government to disturb the level-playing field. The delegation also alleged that the Mahadev betting app issue was being politicised in view of the polls. After the meeting, Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi told reporters, "We were dejected that we were not given time [to petition the EC] before the November 7 polling. The EC heard us and we explained to them the alleged misuse of ED, acting as the Election Department of BJP and disturbing the level-playing field during assembly elections in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan."

ETHICS PANEL SEEKS MAHUA'S EXPULSION

NEW DELHI: Trinamool Congress's Mahua Moitra should not be allowed to continue as an MP and her membership should be terminated, the parliamentary Ethics Committee examining the cash-for-query allegations against her has recommended. Calling Mahua Moitra's actions "highly objectionable, unethical, heinous and criminal", the panel said it calls for severe punishment.

GRAFT LINKS

BIHAR FODDER SCAM ACCUSED ALSO ACTIVE IN BENGAL RATION SCAM: ED

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) probing the West Bengal ration scam has found that the alleged mastermind and prime accused in Bihar's fodder scam case three decades back who had admitted giving bribes to the then Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, have links with the ration corruption scam in West Bengal in which former Food & Supplies Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick has been arrested by the agency, sources said. ED sources claimed that

POPULATION CONTROL

'NO SHAME': PM MODI TEARS INTO NITISH FOR 'INSULTING' WOMEN

PM Modi also attacks I.N.D.I.A bloc over Nitish Kumar's derogatory remarks.

TDG NETWORK
GUNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over his derogatory remarks against women in relation to population control and said crass words were uttered in the state Assembly and there was "no shame".

Addressing an election rally here, PM Modi did not name Nitish Kumar, but referred to his remarks made on Tuesday. He also attacked the I.N.D.I.A bloc over Nitish Kumar's remarks and asked women in the gathering if leaders of the Opposition bloc could do any good for them or respect them. "People of the I.N.D.I.A bloc are roaming, playing tricks to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public rally for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Guna on Wednesday. ANI

dislodge our government, a leader of the I.N.D.I.A bloc said indecent words in the Assembly in which mothers, sisters were present. No one can imagine. There is no shame. Not only this, no leader of the I.N.D.I.A bloc was prepared to speak a word against such dangerous insult of sisters, mothers," PM Modi said.

"Those who have such attitude, can they ever do your welfare? Sisters and mothers, can they do your welfare, provide you respect, honour you," he asked.

Several women in the gathering waved "no". Slamming the JD-U leader, PM Modi said such remarks also besmirch the country's reputation. "How unfortunate for

the country. How much you will fall and you are insulting the country," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said he will never shy away from doing whatever he can for the honour of women and to enhance their respect. The Bihar Chief Minister on Tuesday sparked a controversy after he used derogatory language in the state assembly to explain the role of education and the role of women in population control.

Nitish Kumar was speaking during the winter session of the Bihar Assembly. The Chief Minister made the remarks while underlining the need for girls' education to check population growth.

Following an uproar over his remarks, Nitish Kumar on Wednesday apologised and said he is taking back

his words. "If my words were wrong, then I apologise for that. If anyone got hurt by my words, I take them back," Kumar told reporters.

Chaotic scenes were witnessed in the Bihar Assembly as Opposition members rushed to the well raising slogans against Nitish Kumar over his objectionable remarks on birth control the day before.

Nitish Kumar's remarks have evoked strong condemnation from BJP leaders. His remarks also drew outrage from the National Commission for Women (NCW), which asked him to tender an unconditional apology.

In a scathing riposte to the Bihar Chief Minister, Union Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai said that the

MISOGYNIST REMARKS

Nitish's remarks on women cringe-worthy, obscene: Annamalai



Bihar BJP Mahila Morcha workers during a protest over Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's remarks in the state Assembly, in Patna on Wednesday. ANI

LATHA SRINIVASAN
CHENNAI

Speaking on the floor of the Assembly recently, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that women should be educated so that they can prevent pregnancy and control the population. This statement has created a controversy and the latest to condemn this statement is Tamil Nadu BJP leader K. Annamalai.

TN BJP President K. Annamalai on Wednesday said,

"We condemn it. A senior leader, like Nitish Kumar, has spoken about our mothers and sisters in a way that is very obscene, and we can call this totally cringe-worthy. And very unfortunately, Nitish Kumar after joining the I.N.D.I.A bloc is speaking the language of the DMK party, the DMK party generally uses these words, language. After Nitish Kumar's statement, our mothers and sisters are feeling offended and outraged. I apologise

BAD TO WORSE

'Severe' pollution: Schools in Delhi to shut from Nov 9-18

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In view of the "severe" level of air pollution in the national capital, the Delhi government on Wednesday announced an early winter break for schools from November 9 to November 18. "All schools shall observe winter break from November 9 to November 18, 2023," said an order from the Education Department of the Delhi government. The order referred to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)



IV having been implemented in Delhi in view of the high level of pollution and said no respite is predicted in the near future.

"In the wake of the implementation of GRAP-IV measures due to the severe

plus air quality prevailing in Delhi and seeing that no respite from such adverse weather conditions in the near future is predicted by the IMD, the winter break for the season 2023-2024 is

EXCLUSIVE

CURBING POLLUTION IS EVERYBODY'S DUTY: GOPAL RAI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In view of the severe pollution situation in the national capital, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai spoke exclusively with NewsX and unveiled the plan to curb the rising pollution. Excerpts:

Q: Pollution has been a recurring problem for the national capital. The Supreme Court has issued directives from time to time to hammer out this problem, but no tangible results have emerged. The AAP government also introduced Odd-Even formula for



Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai chairs a high-level meeting, at the Delhi Secretariat in New Delhi on Wednesday. Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot and Revenue Minister Atishi are also present. ANI

this but the overall situation is far from satisfactory. What do you have to say about this?

A: The AAP government introduced the Odd-Even formula based on an inter-

national research and we have also apprised the Supreme Court about this. We have also called for a meeting of ministers and officers to ensure compliance of the instructions given by the Supreme Court yesterday regarding pollution. Thus, in a way, the Delhi government has marshalled its manpower to curb the menacing pollution situation of the national capital. We had also written to the LG regarding the Smog Tower and real-time source enforcement study, but the Smog Tower was started on

ONGOING PROBE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: NIA CONDUCTS RAIDS, DETAINS MYANMAR NATIONAL

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted nationwide raids on Wednesday to apprehend individuals involved in human traffick-

ing. According to officials, a person from Myanmar was detained in Jammu.

The raids are part of investigations into human trafficking cases and are being carried out in eight states and two Union Territories,

as stated by an NIA spokesperson. In Tripura, Assam, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Haryana, Rajasthan, and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry, searches were conducted. During a raid in Jammu

and Kashmir, a Rohingya Muslim from Myanmar named Zaffar Alam was taken into custody. This arrest took place at around 2 am at his temporary residence in the Bathindi area of Jammu. Another accused individual is cur-

rently evading arrest. These raids specifically targeted slums where Myanmar immigrants reside and were conducted in connection with a case related to the violation of the Passports Act and human trafficking.

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CHANGE OF TACK

In strategy rejig, KCR redirects his attention towards Karnataka

SHATDARSHNAM SUSHMITHA
HYDERABAD

In the state of Andhra Pradesh, the two major political parties, TDP and YSRCP, have opted to abstain from participating in the Telangana Assembly elections. This move has led Telangana's Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao, to shift his attention towards Karnataka.

In Karnataka, the Congress currently holds power, and issues such as providing electricity to farmers and a recent incident involving a forged letter from Karnat-

taka's deputy chief minister, urging Foxconn to relocate to Bengaluru, have become prominent talking points among rural gatherings and urban tea stalls alike.

The separation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh in 2014, following a prolonged dispute over perceived mistreatment by Andhra politicians, gave rise to a strong pro-Telangana sentiment, with KCR's TRS party winning 63 out of 119 contested seats, securing a 34.3 per cent vote share.

In the 2018 Telangana Assembly elections, N. Chandrababu Naidu, then the

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, filed legal petitions concerning water and asset distribution with Telangana and aligned with the Congress before the polls. This move further stoked anti-Andhra sentiments, resulting in the TRS winning 88 seats with a 46.9 per cent vote share.

Since the Congress's victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections in May, the political dynamics between Karnataka and Telangana have evolved. The intensifying rivalry between the two states has been fueled by the

STAGE VANDALIZED

BJP INFIGHTING TAKES UGLY TURN IN BENGAL

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

Barely months before the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha elections, infighting within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in West Bengal took an ugly turn on Wednesday when alleged supporters of the state president Sukanta Majumdar and state organising secretary Amitava Chakraborty broke the stage from which the party's national secretary Anupam Hazra was to address party supporters.

BJP central leader Anupam Hazra was supposed to hold a meeting in Birbhum's Khoirashol, but before the meeting started, a section of BJP workers vandalized the stage and broke the chairs in full view of media cameras.

In the evening, Hazra told The Daily Guardian Review: "This attack on the stage was done by the supporters of district president Dhruva Saha and MLA Anup Saha who were acting on the instructions of state president Sukanta Majumdar and state

organising secretary Amitava Chakraborty. I was supposed to address the gathering of BJP karyakartas at the Bijoya Sammelani. But had I reached on time, I would have been targeted personally."

He alleged that he had voiced his apprehension about his personal safety in a Facebook Live session in the morning itself and said that he was anticipating more attacks and feared for his life.

He also claimed that he had informed BJP party president Jagat Prakash Nadda about the turn of events and had demanded strict action against the perpetrators and their "political godfathers". Anupam Hazra, who was moved to Delhi as the national secretary of the BJP, had been tasked to rejuvenate party workers and provide a correct and unbiased picture of true state of affairs to the party's top central leadership. BJP sources said that, however, this seems to have antagonised large sections of the party's

DETERIORATING AQI

AIR EMERGENCY: CAPITAL CHOKES ON SMOG AS AQI REMAINS 'SEVERE'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A thick toxic haze or 'smog' continued to hang heavy over the national capital as the air quality remained in the 'severe' category on Wednesday, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) informed.

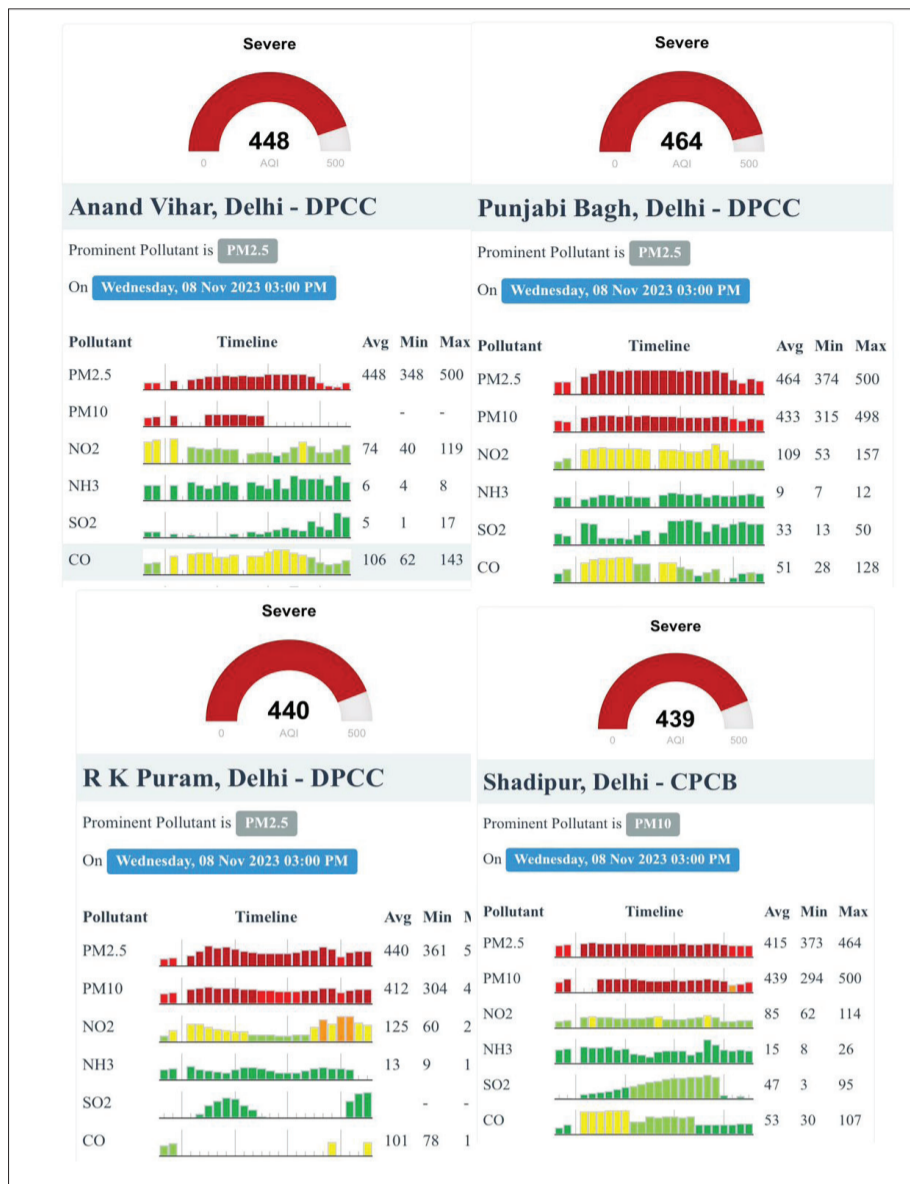
According to the data shared by the CPCB, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Anand Vihar was recorded at 452, while it was at 433, 460, 382, and 413 at RK Puram, Punjabi Bagh, Sri Aurobindo Marg and Shadipur, all in the 'severe' category.

Several residents and commuters in the national capital complained of breathing problems and urged the government and the authorities concerned to mobilise steps to curb the runaway air pollution at the earliest.

Voicing concerns over the deteriorating air quality, a commuter told ANI, "This toxic air is giving us breathing problems. The government should mobilise urgent steps to bring us some respite."

Gulab Singh Shukla, another resident, said, "The deteriorating air quality is proving to be a public health hazard. Residents, especially daily commuters, are suffering and the government should act at the earliest."

Jatin, a cyclist, told ANI, "The air pollution is getting worse and people are literally struggling to breathe.



The AQI is deteriorating by the day. The government and all agencies concerned should take note of our problems and announce further steps to curb pollution."

Satish Mishra, another resident, said the governments of the northern states were trading blame and pointing fingers at each other instead of trying to control the wors-

ening air pollution. "If not controlled now, this could have a more severe impact on public health than Covid. Masks are back on the faces of residents here as the

Air pollution level	Air quality index	Main pollutant
Hazardous	438 US AQI	PM10

Pollutants	Concentration
PM2.5	244 µg/m ³
PM10	542 µg/m ³
O3	7.7 µg/m ³ ▲
NO2	51.4 µg/m ³ ▲
SO2	7.6 µg/m ³ ▲
CO	3500 µg/m ³ ▲



air quality is going from bad to worse," said Mishra.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed grave concern over the hazardous air quality in the national capital and directed that farmers should stop stubble burning forthwith in Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh, saying it was one of

the major contributors to air pollution.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia made the local State House Officer, under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, responsible for preventing crop burning.

It further directed that a meeting be held on Wednesday between the states to ensure that crop burning is stopped forthwith.

Further, the top court noted that smog towers installed as per an earlier order are not working and directed the government to ensure they are repaired.

The top court also asked chief Secretaries of the states to hold a meeting either physically or by Zoom on the pollution issue. "Eminent Secretary should call for a meeting tomorrow, whether physically or via Zoom. All stakeholders will connect to ensure that we have a better picture and some redemption by Friday," it added.

It also observed that schemes like odd-even for vehicles to tackle pollution issues are mere optics.

Air pollution levels can be high during the winter

months for a number of reasons, including dust and vehicular pollution, dry-cold weather, stubble burning, burning crop residues after the harvest season, and commuting.

Cold air is denser and moves slower than warm air, so it traps pollution and doesn't whisk it away. This means that air pollution in winter remains in place for much longer than during the summer.

According to doctors, for any healthy person, a recommended AQI should be less than 50, but these days the AQI has spiked beyond 400, which could prove fatal for those suffering from lung-related diseases and even pose a risk of lung cancer.

Meanwhile, the air quality index (AQI) in Prayagraj district in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, slipped to the 'poor' category on Wednesday.

THRIVING INNOVATION

INDIA SEES RECORD 31.6% RISE IN PATENT APPLICATIONS IN 2022; AHEAD OF CHINA, U.K.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A recent study by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has revealed that patent applications from India experienced a remarkable 31.6% increase in 2022, reaching a total of 55,718. This achievement marks the sixth consecutive year of growth, highlighting India's thriving innovation landscape.

Despite this significant increase, India's total patent applications remained considerably lower than those of countries like China, the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Germany, which maintained their positions as the top patent-filing nations in 2022.

For India, this marks the sixth consecutive year of patent application growth, with 2022 registering the fastest increase since 2005. Notably, 13 out of the top 20 patent offices worldwide received a greater number of patent applications in 2022 compared to the previous year.

Globally, innovators submitted a record-breaking 3.46 million patent applications in 2022, marking the third consecutive year of growth at 1.7% over 2021. This positive trend followed a 3% decline in 2019 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the resilience of the global intellectual property landscape.

The substantial growth in patent applications can be attributed to a surge in filings by China, which submitted

33,605 more applications than in 2021. Additionally, India's intellectual property office contributed significantly with 15,495 additional applications. South Africa and the European Patent Office (EPO) also played a crucial role in driving global growth with 3,030 and 4,832 additional applications, respectively.

In terms of patent applications by area of innovation in large middle-income countries, the following sectors dominated: Brazil excelled in other special machines (8.4% of total published applications), Malaysia in computer technology (9.6%), Mexico in pharmaceuticals (12.1%), and Turkey in medical technology (7.5%).

China led the pack with around 1.58 million patent applications in 2022, covering both domestic and foreign jurisdictions. The United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Germany followed with 5,05,539, 4,05,361, 2,72,315, and 1,55,896 applications, respectively.

The report also highlighted India's remarkable growth in annual trademark applications, which rose from below 100,000 in 2006 to nearly 480,000 in 2022. Brazil and India were the only two offices among the top five to receive more trademark applications in 2022 compared to 2021.

An astounding 11.8 million trademark applications, covering 15.5 million classes, were filed in 2022. Notably, the number of classes specified in applications fell by 14.5% in 2022, marking the first annual reduction in

application class count since 2009.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated this achievement, emphasizing that the surge in patent applications reflects the nation's burgeoning innovation spirit. He shared a link to the WIPO post on social media, highlighting India's 31.6% growth in patent applications, extending an unmatched 11-year streak.

The WIPO report revealed that intellectual property filings have continued to grow despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Developing countries are increasingly driving innovation and creativity, showing the greatest growth rates. However, uncertainty continues to impact the global innovation ecosystem, with venture capital funding dropping in many parts of the world. The report calls for supporting good ideas that can change the world for the better without compromising on quality.

In addition to the remarkable surge in patent applications, the report noted a 14.5% decline in trademark application class counts and a 2.1% decline in industrial design filing activity in 2022, indicating changing patterns in work and life due to the pandemic.

The impressive growth of India's patent applications underscores the country's growing innovation prowess and its position as a key player in the global intellectual property landscape. With a focus on supporting innovation and creativity, India is poised to continue its remarkable journey in the world of patents and intellectual property.

IP Right applications	2021	2022	Growth (%), 2021-2022
Patents	3,400,500	3,457,400	+1.7
Trademarks *	18,182,300	15,543,300	-14.5
Industrial designs *	1,513,800	1,482,600	-2.1
Plant variety	25,200	27,260	+8.2

LOW PENDENCY

CENTRE, MINISTRIES REDRESS 1.23 LAKH PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN OCTOBER

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A total of 1,23,491 grievances were redressed by the central ministries and departments in October 2023, according to the 18th report on Central ministries and departments published by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) said.

As per the monthly report released by the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), the Central Secretariat recorded the lowest-ever pendency in grievances and appeals in October, the report mentioned.

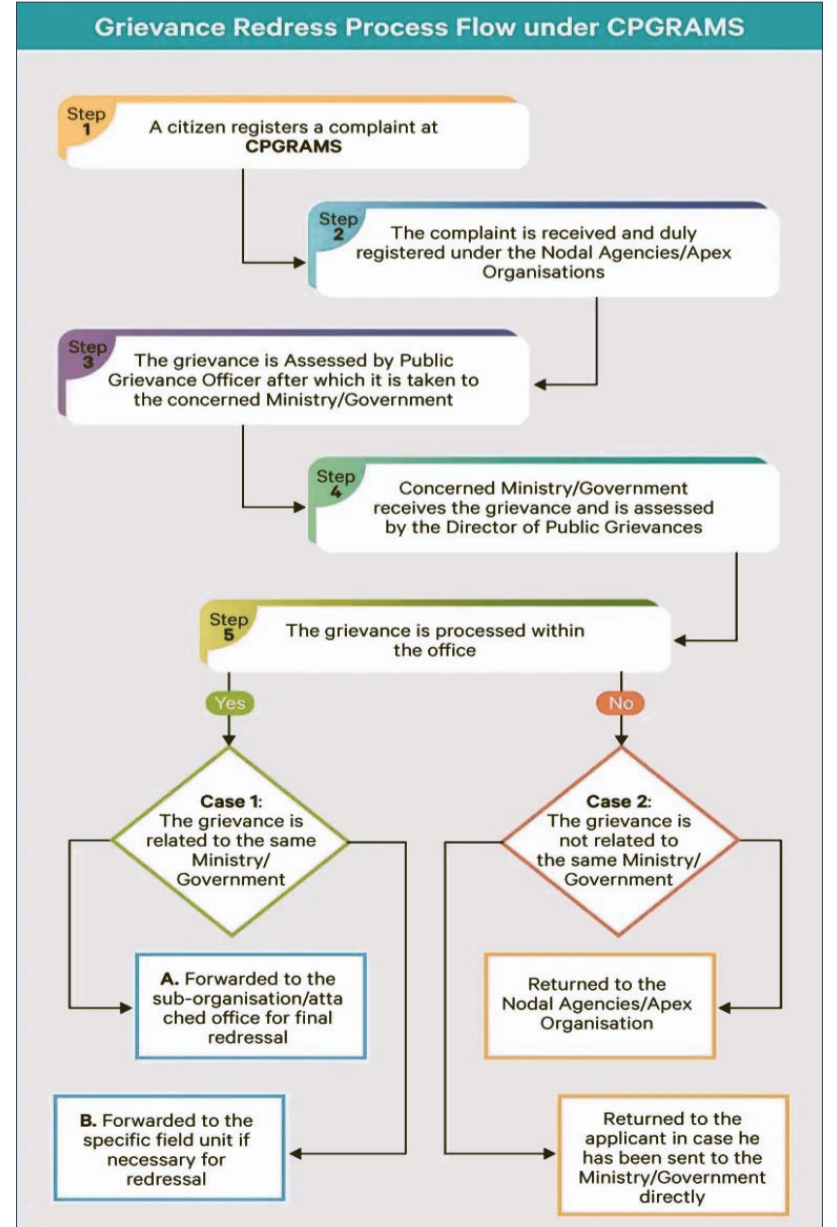
This monthly report provides a detailed analysis of types and categories of public grievances and the nature of disposal.

As per DARPG, the average grievance disposal time in the central ministries and departments in 2023, from January to October, is 19 days. These reports are part of the 10-step CPGRAMS reform process, which was adopted by DARPG to improve the quality of disposal and reduce timelines.

In October, the report says, the BSNL Feedback Call Centre collected 1,00,815 feedbacks, which is the highest number of feedbacks collected since its inception in July, 2022. Out of the total feedbacks collected, 38 per cent of citizens expressed satisfaction with the resolution provided to their respective grievances.

In the same report, it was submitted that the Common Service Centres has started organising CSC-CPGRAMS Grievance Day on the 20th of every month from October, 2023 to increase outreach of CPGRAMS through the CSC. It was also informed that DARPG signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Microsoft on October 16 as part of a larger project to collaborate on data sharing.

The report further states that 1,13,323 Public Grievance (PG) cases were received on the CPGRAMS portal. Of them, 1,23,491 PG cases were redressed and there exists a pendency of 57,211 PG



cases as of October 31.

The pendency in the Central Secretariat has decreased from 66,835 PG cases at the end of September this year to 57,211 PG cases at the end of October.

In the same month, the report says, a total of 23,561 appeals were received and 27,696 appeals were disposed of. The pendency of appeals in the Central Secretariat has decreased from 24,258 appeals at the end of September to 20,123

appeals at the end of October.

Department of Justice and the Department of Food and Public Distribution are the top performers in the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index within Group A for October.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Department of Legal Affairs are the top performers in the Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index within Group B for the last month.

RISK PREVENTION

Dengue and pregnancy: Balancing risk and prevention

OPINION

PRASAD PHADKE



making it challenging to diagnose promptly. This is because pregnancy is often accompanied by bodily aches and pains. Dengue fever during pregnancy is primarily treated conservatively, but complications such as preterm labour become a common concern, particularly in the third trimester. The ambiguity of symptoms and the physiological changes in pregnancy can lead to delayed diagnosis, highlighting the urgent need for effective management strategies to improve both maternal and foetal outcomes.

Dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral infection, has emerged as a serious public health concern globally, affecting nearly 400 million people worldwide. In India, where the burden of mosquito-borne diseases is significant, dengue poses a particular threat, especially to pregnant women. Recent research has shed light on the alarming statistics: dengue in pregnancy adversely affects both maternal and foetal outcomes, leading to a high maternal mortality rate of 15.9 percent.

The symptoms of dengue in pregnancy often manifest as fever and muscle aches,

One of the significant challenges in managing dengue in pregnancy is the under-reporting of cases and the lack of comprehensive studies. Available literature consists mostly of small cross-sectional studies or case series, indicating a gap in understanding the complexities of dengue infection during pregnancy. A recent meta-analysis emphasised the need to monitor pregnancies diagnosed as dengue-positive, as the most common adverse effects reported are preterm birth and low birth weight babies.

weight babies. When a person is infected with dengue, their immune system responds by releasing various substances like cytokines and chemokines. These substances, along with processes like endothelial cell autophagy and T cell apoptosis, lead to problems in the body. One significant issue is endothelial cell dysfunction, where the cells that line blood vessels don't work properly. This dysfunction causes plasma leakage, which is the seeping of fluid from blood vessels into surrounding tissues. It also leads to a decrease in the volume of blood circulating in the body (intravascular volume contraction) and fluid loss.

These complications can have severe consequences,

including plasma leakage, reduced blood volume, and fluid loss can result in shock, a critical condition where vital organs don't receive enough blood and oxygen, leading to organ failure. This multi-organ dysfunction can be fatal if not addressed promptly.

In pregnant women, these problems are particularly concerning. Conditions like acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), where the lungs can't provide the body's vital organs with enough oxygen, and acute kidney injury (AKI), where the kidneys can't filter waste products from the blood, become significant risks. To combat these complications and increase the chances of survival, pregnant women with dengue need careful and constant monitoring.

Intensive management, often provided in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), becomes essential to salvage lives in these critical situations.

In the context of childbirth, dengue-positive pregnant women face unique challenges. Surprisingly, the rate of caesarean deliveries in pregnant women with dengue is not significantly higher than in those without the infection. This finding suggests that dengue infection does not necessarily increase the rate of caesarean sections, providing a somewhat reassuring aspect amid the grim statistics. Additionally, the safety of regional anaesthetic techniques, even in cases of mild thrombocytopenia, has been reported, offering viable options for pain management during childbirth for dengue-positive women.

The period after childbirth can be especially risky for women who have had dengue. One significant concern arises from dengue-associated thrombocytopenia, a condition where the number of platelets in the blood is abnormally low. This makes women more susceptible to postpartum haemorrhage, a condition where there is excessive bleeding after childbirth. Studies in India have shown that 25% of women with dengue experience postpartum haemorrhage, underlining the critical need for active and attentive management during labour and

intense monitoring in the postpartum period. Ensuring that these women receive special care and attention is essential to prevent severe complications during this vulnerable time.

To address the growing concern of dengue in pregnancy, it is crucial to implement robust vector control strategies in affected areas. Preventive measures such as mosquito nets, insect repellents, and community education can play a pivotal role in reducing the incidence of dengue. Additionally, healthcare providers need to be vigilant about the signs and symptoms of dengue in pregnant women, enabling early diagnosis and prompt management.

In conclusion, dengue in pregnancy poses substantial risks to both mothers and their unborn babies, with high maternal mortality rates and severe foetal complications. The challenges faced during pregnancy and childbirth necessitate comprehensive and specialised care for dengue-positive pregnant women. By enhancing awareness, improving diagnostic methods, and implementing stringent preventive measures, India can take significant strides towards mitigating the impact of dengue on pregnant women, ensuring healthier outcomes for both mothers and their newborns.

Prasad Phadke is the Founder and CEO of Eco BioTraps.

PERSPECTIVE
WHAT'S IN A MAP?

CHINA'S MESSAGE TO THE ARAB-MUSLIM WORLD

A curious case of a distorted map has led to much speculation internationally. It was found last week that Chinese corporate entities Alibaba and Baidu have obliterated Israel from their online maps. Although a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said that the Chinese government had not derecognised Israel, the question is, will private entities in China have the gall to carry out such distortions without keeping their bosses in the Communist Party of China in the loop? China, it is well known, pays scrupulous attention to the maps that emanate from inside its borders. Also well known is the control that Xi Jinping exercises over private companies, to the extent that questioning his policies led to the disappearance of Alibaba owner Jack Ma. Given that every such minor "mistake" is amplified manifold on the global social media, were the maps Beijing's way of sending a message to the Arab-Muslim street that China supported their claim that Israel did not have the right to exist? At least that is how it is playing out on the pro-Palestinian section of social media, which is basking in the support it is getting from the world's "other superpower".

China's response to the Israel-Hamas war has been interesting. While calling for ceasefire and peace, China has not called out Hamas for the brutal 7 October attack. Later, apparently under pressure from the US, it spoke of every country's right to self-defence, but qualified its response by delivering Israel with a rap on the knuckles by asking it "to abide by international humanitarian law"—a travesty, given China's own track record of "following" humanitarian laws with not just the Tibetans and the Uyghurs but also the Han Chinese if they dare to stand up to the regime. Amid this, a push seems to be building up in certain quarters in the West, specifically the United States, to make China act as the peacemaker between Israelis and Palestinians. This seems similar to the Russia-Ukraine situation, where every western government official of any worth made a beeline to Beijing asking it to exercise its influence on Vladimir Putin and make him retreat from Ukraine. As many experts say, it's a case of asking the arsonist to act as the firefighter. There is only one country that is gaining from both wars, and it is China. Both wars have shifted the focus firmly from the Indo-Pacific where China continues to bully and terrorise smaller countries. Taiwan is no longer the world's focus, even though China's aggression against that island nation continues unabated. While the Ukraine war has made a hobbled Russia increasingly dependent on China, China's implicit support to the Palestinian cause may push the Arab world towards China. Even otherwise, Joe Biden's "values-based foreign policy"—which tried to pin the assassination of activist Jamal Khashoggi on Saudi Crown Prince MBS—has pushed Riyadh towards Beijing. It is only because of India's efforts that Saudi Arabia came on board with the US for the India Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC), which was announced at the Delhi G20, thus countering China's BRI and trying to limit the latter's influence in the Arab world. Post 7 October, what is the status of the IMEC, or for that matter the Abraham Accords that the US nudged UAE and Bahrain to sign with Israel? Both are staring at an uncertain future, with the Arab street fuming at Israel's actions in Gaza. In fact, Bahrain has recalled its ambassador from Israel and there is no certainty when the rapprochement between Israel and the Arab world will resume.

Joe Biden was partially right when he said that Hamas' action was backed by Iran to derail the mainstreaming of Israel in the Arab world—partially, because he missed the dragon in the room, China, which is one of Iran's biggest backers. China considers the Arab world to be one of its major strategic pillars, for power projection and also for what the region brings to the table—oil. Lest we forget, it is China that is trying to end the hostilities inside the Arab-Muslim world by trying to end the enmity between Iran and Saudi Arabia. If Saudi-Iran relations improve, while the Abraham Accords fall apart, who is the better peace-broker in the eyes of the Arab-Muslim world—China or the US? Western policymakers refuse to believe that the Arab world, with its deep ties with the US, will ever go out of the US' sphere of influence. But then if the US had really that much influence, how did Qatar, to give an instance, become the hub of Hamas activities, even while hosting a US military base? Qatar has also just signed a deal with a Chinese company to supply it with gas for 27 years and has increased the Chinese company's share in its North Field gas project. Qatar is happily playing all sides, while in the middle of all this, the US returns as the "Big Satan" in Arab-Muslim eyes—a narrative that suits China perfectly. It seems the US' ties with the Arab world are already fraying and China is winning.

But that is unlikely to deter Joe Biden from running across the dais next week on 15 November, with a smile on his face, to shake hands with Xi Jinping, when they meet in San Francisco on the sidelines of the APEC Summit, just the way the US President had done at the Bali G20 in November 2021. When he is smiling at Xi, will it strike Biden even once that the Chinese Emperor has a unipolar view of the world—there is only one power that matters, China?

JOYEETA BASU

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Unpacking India's ban on African Catfish and related health concerns

OPINION

PYALI CHATTERJEE



market. In 2000, the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Fisheries Division) invoked the Environment Protection Act to ban the African catfish due to its adverse environmental impact. Furthermore, the National Green Tribunal enforced a prohibition on the rearing of this species through order no. 435/2018 dated 22 January 2019, citing its significant threat to numerous local fish varieties and its contribution to water pollution. Originally introduced globally for aquaculture in 1980, this fish found its way into India without official authorisation. It is noteworthy for its ability to endure extended periods in shallow mud and its high tolerance for poorly oxygenated water. The warning emphasises that breeding this prohibited fish is a violation of the law, and appropriate legal action will be taken against offenders.

In June 2023, the Fisheries Department of Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, issued a stern warning against individuals involved in breeding African Catfish—also known as Thai Magur—reiterating the species' prohibited status in India. This is not the first instance of the fisheries department issuing such a ban related to this species of fish. Despite the ban, originally outlined in a 1997 government directive from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F), the Ministry of Agriculture, the farming and sale of African Catfish continue in the open

While the African Catfish—or *Clarias gariepinus*—is known for its nutritional value, offering a wealth of nutrients, it simultaneously poses

a serious risk to the aquatic ecosystem. This member of the Clariidae family covertly entered Indian states around 1994, subsequently spreading throughout the country, including temperate and coastal regions, with significant cultures established in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Its presence in India resulted from an unauthorised introduction following its global distribution for aquaculture in the 1980s. The catfish's invasive nature is marked by its adaptability and predatory habits. It preys on live and dead animals, fish, and other invertebrates, and occasionally even targets small birds. Capable of thriving in minimally oxygenated and shallow waters, this species outcompetes and endangers native fish populations due to its rapid growth rate.

Additionally, a close relative—*Clarias batrachus*, also part of the Clariidae family—is recognised as a freshwater species. A hybrid version, known as Hybrid Mangur (*C. gariepinus* x *C. macrocephalus*), is bred in Bangladesh and illicitly trafficked into Indian states such as Assam, West Bengal, and Bihar, fuelling an illegal but profitable trade. This hybrid variety is favoured for its rapid growth and cost-effective feed made from recycled chicken and slaughterhouse by-products, with West Bengal serving as the epicentre of African Catfish seed production.

For farmers, the African

Catfish presents an enticing economic opportunity, as a modest investment can yield significant returns. However, the species poses a considerable ecological threat, with the potential to decimate indigenous fish species and disrupt the delicate ecological balance. Although catfish are sometimes recommended by doctors for their medicinal properties and can meet daily nutritional needs with their high protein, iron, and low-fat content, the environmental consequences of their cultivation are too significant to overlook.

The African Catfish can have detrimental effects on aquatic ecosystems, and these impacts become evident through various scenarios. In one instance, the catfish's predatory nature comes to the forefront as it preys on native species, such as local perch or sunfish, leading to declines in these populations. The competitive advantage of African Catfish becomes apparent in another scenario, where they out-compete native species for vital resources like food and habitat. For example, in a pond, the introduction of African catfish may result in reduced availability of insects and aquatic plants, resources that native species depend on for sustenance and shelter. Moreover, the habitat alteration caused by the catfish is observable in wetlands and marshy areas. Their burrowing behavior and tolerance for shallow,

muddy waters can disrupt the natural structure of the habitat, impacting the breeding and sheltering grounds of native amphibians and fish species.

The African catfish is highly regarded by fish farmers for several practical reasons. This species requires minimal maintenance, which is economically advantageous for aquaculture operations. It is remarkably resilient, able to thrive in less than ideal water conditions, including those with low oxygen levels or higher levels of pollution. One of the unique aspects of African catfish farming is their ability to grow on a diet that includes poultry waste, making their feeding regime not only cost-effective but also an efficient way to recycle agricultural by-products. Their rapid growth rate is particularly beneficial; African Catfish can reach a substantial size of 3-4 kilograms within a month, allowing farmers to cycle their stock quickly and get products to market at a faster rate. This quick turnaround, coupled with their low production costs, means that catfish can be sold at competitive prices, providing a cheap source of protein to consumers and making the fish a lucrative commodity for farmers. These attributes make the African Catfish an attractive option for fish farming, especially in regions seeking affordable and sustainable ways to increase food production. However,

the ecological concerns associated with farming non-native species, such as the potential for them to escape and disrupt local ecosystems, must be managed carefully to prevent environmental impacts.

Regarding the nutritional benefits of African catfish, many are unaware that this fish is not good for human health, as numerous scientific studies have indicated that consuming it is associated with an increased risk of developing cancer. Due to its carcinogenic properties, medical professionals advise against consuming this fish. Furthermore, the Thai Magur can harbour disease-causing parasites, such as fish lice (*Argulus*), which can potentially lead to harmful outbreaks in aquaculture operations, causing adverse effects.

Even after the ban on African catfish in India, illegal cultivation continues, and this fish can still be found in the market. One of the reasons for this is that the public is not fully aware of the ban on African Catfish and its harmful effects on the human body. Awareness needs to be raised among both the general public and fish farmers. Despite its affordability, this fish has the potential to harm our aquatic ecosystems and our health.

Dr. Pyali Chatterjee is the Head of Department for the Faculty of Law, ICEAI University, Raipur Chhattisgarh

TOP OF THE DAY

INDONESIA
SENTENCES EX-MINISTER TO 15 YEARS

JAKARTA: Indonesia's anti-graft court on Wednesday sentenced a former Cabinet minister to 15 years in prison after finding him guilty of corruption linked to the construction of mobile phone transmission towers in remote parts of the country.

EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 6.9 JOLTS TIMOR-LESTE

DILI: On Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 10:22:57 IST, a significant earthquake with a magnitude of 6.9 struck the region located 507 kilometers ENE (East-Northeast) of Dili, Timor-Leste.

COURT REVIEWS MOTHER'S CONVICTIONS IN CHILD KILLINGS

SYDNEY: An Australian court will consider overturning a woman's convictions for killing her four children, a government inquiry reported on Wednesday months after she was pardoned for the crimes due to new evidence that the siblings had died of natural causes.

TERRORIST ATTACK KILLS 2 POLICEMEN IN PAKISTAN

PESHAWAR: Heavily armed militants attacked an oil and gas company in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing two policemen and injuring three others, police said.

MASS MURDER

GAZA TERMED 'GRAVEYARD FOR CHILDREN' BY UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

TDG NETWORK
NEW YORK

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said Gaza is "becoming a graveyard for children", CNN reported. Guterres told reporters in New York: "The nightmare in Gaza is more than a humanitarian crisis. It is a crisis of humanity."



The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

aid workers "have been killed in recent weeks than in any comparable period in the history of our organisation," he wrote on X on Monday night. "I join in the mourning of 89 of our @UNRWA colleagues who have been killed in Gaza-many of them with members of their family," he added, as per CNN.

CO-OPERATION

Blinken reiterates US support for Ukraine holding Russia accountable

TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON DC

United Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday reiterated US support for Ukraine and holding Russia accountable. He noted that Russia started the war against Ukraine and it could end the conflict at any time by withdrawing its forces.

Blinken made the statement in response to a post shared by US Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen on X. Yellen stated that she along with Blinken, Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and United States Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power had through a letter urged Congress to approve Biden Administration's request to provide USD 11.8 billion in direct budget support to Ukraine.



United Secretary of State Antony Blinken

which plays a critical role in bolstering their military efforts to win this war," Yellen posted on X.

LEGAL PROCEEDING

Ivanka Trump to testify in civil fraud trial after father

TDG NETWORK
NEW YORK

Her father gave caustic testimony. Her brothers each spent more than a day on the witness stand. Now it's Ivanka Trump's turn to face questioning in the civil fraud trial that is publicly probing into the family business.



Ivanka Trump.

Trump Jr., she is no longer a defendant in New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit.

fraudulently pumped up for years on financial statements that helped him get loans and insurance. The non-jury trial will decide allegations of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records — but Judge Arthur Engoron already has resolved the lawsuit's top claim by ruling that Trump engaged in fraud.

NEGATIVE IMPACT

PAKISTAN SEES 500% INCREASE IN SUICIDE BOMBINGS POST-TALIBAN POWER

TDG NETWORK
ISLAMABAD

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said on Wednesday that terror attacks in Pakistan rose 60 per cent and suicide bombings by 500 per cent after the Taliban came to power in neighbouring Afghanistan.

long-term peace in Afghanistan. Strict action would be taken against Pakistan-opposing groups, especially the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and they would absolutely not be allowed to use Afghan soil against Pakistan," Kakar said at a press conference in Islamabad.

in suicide attacks in Pakistan," he said. He said that 2,267 Pakistani citizens were killed in the past two years due to the attacks by the TTP using Afghan soil.

CLIMATE CHANGE

GREENLAND ICE-SHELF MELT MAY CAUSE 2-METER SEA LEVEL RISE

TDG NETWORK
NUUK

Published in 'Nature Communications' on Tuesday, a study into Greenland's huge northern glaciers found that melting of ice shelves may lift the sea levels by 2.1 meters, nearly 7 feet if the glaciers were to break down completely.



termann, Steensby, Ryder, Ostenfeld, Hagen Brae, Zachariae Isstrom and Storstrommen/Bistrup Brae glaciers.

ple remote sensing datasets and outputs from a regional climate model. Finally, we use Conductivity Temperature Depth (CTD) measurements and an Arctic Ocean Physics Reanalysis (AOPR) to compare the ice shelves' evolution with changes in ocean temperature."

Over the eight main ice shelves, the floating extensions of Zachariae Isstrom, Ostenfeld and Hagen Brae completely collapsed between 2003 and 2010, the study shows.

SUSPECTED CHEMICALS

CROATIA ADVISES TAP WATER CONSUMPTION DUE TO BOTTLED DRINK INCIDENTS

TDG NETWORK
ZAGREB

Authorities in Croatia on Wednesday recommended people drink only tap water as they investigated reports of several cases of people falling ill and suffering injuries allegedly after consuming bottled beverages.

DEADLY ATTACK

Almost 10,000 rockets fired from Gaza since October 7

TDG NETWORK
TEL AVIV

Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip have fired more than 9,500 rockets at Israeli territory since Hamas launched its multi-pronged attack on the Jewish state one month ago, according to data published by the Israeli Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

Jerusalem said the numbers are not final and are constantly being updated. Throughout Tuesday, multiple air-raid sirens were activated in central Israel and localities near the border with Gaza. Some 1,400 people have been murdered in Israel since October 7, while 7,198 more have been wounded.

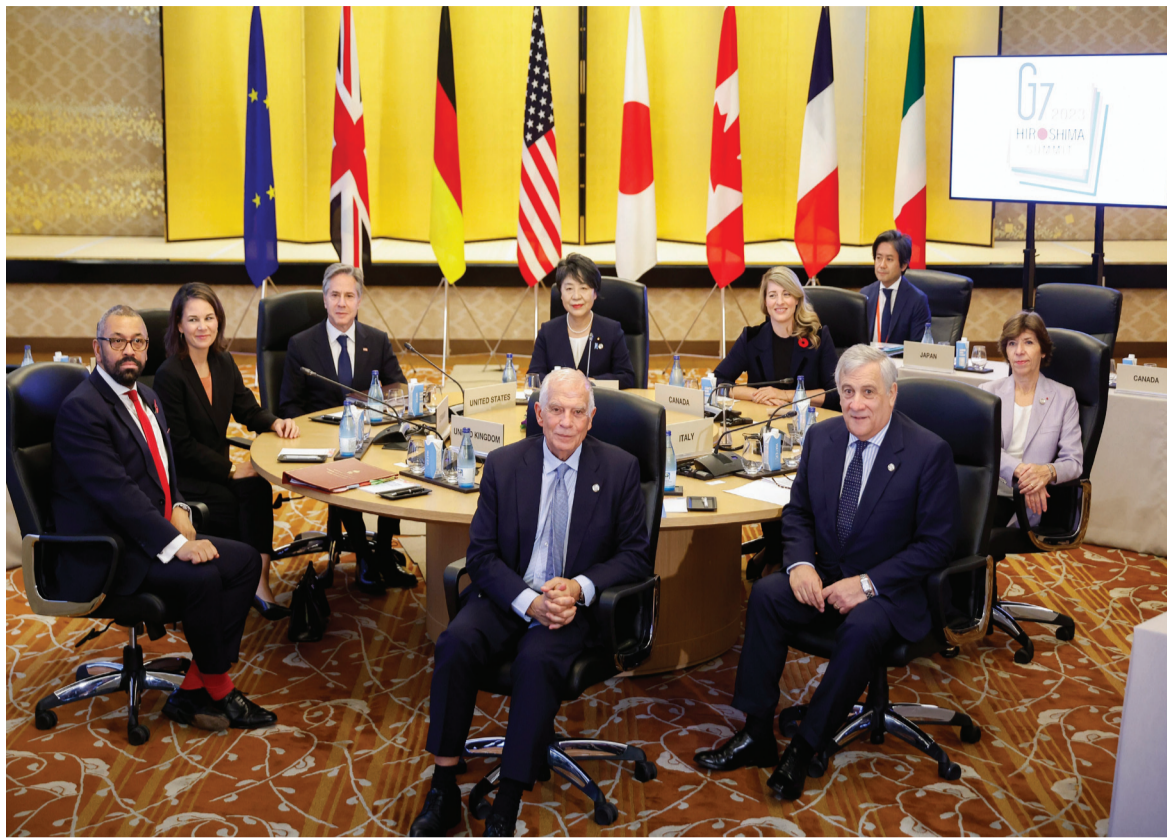


In addition, the terror group is holding hostage individual nationals of Canada, Austria, Brazil, China, South Africa, Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, Serbia, Ukraine and Uruguay. More than 330,000 Israeli citizens have returned from abroad since the start of "Operation Swords of Iron," the Israel Airports Authority announced on Tuesday, increasing the Jewish state's population by almost 3.5 per cent.

At the same time, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics recorded a sharp decrease in foreigners, including tourists, entering the country. Approximately 98,600 visitors traveled to Israel in October, a decrease of 73 per cent compared to the same month in 2022.

On Wednesday, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen is scheduled to travel to Brussels together with some of the families of the hostages, according to Hebrew media reports. As part of the visit, Israel's top diplomat will reportedly address the European Parliament and meet with senior E.U. officials.

WAR ROOM



Foreign ministers from U.S., Japan, Canada, France, Italy, EU, UK, and Germany attend a session on the war in Ukraine during the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Tokyo on Wednesday. (AP/PTI)

EQUALITY

UN Deputy Secretary-General urges action on Taliban's women's rights

TDG NETWORK
KABUL

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, has called for an assessment of the Taliban's stringent restrictions on women and girls in Afghanistan as well as the denial of fundamental rights granted by divine principles, the news channel reported.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the International Conference on Women in Islam in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina emphasized that investing in girls' education can ensure a promising future not only for the girls themselves but also for their families and communities.

Amina said: "The Taliban's harsh restrictions and denial of divinely granted rights must be addressed as a matter of urgency. By investing in the education of our girls, we are not just uplifting individuals; we are securing a brighter future for our families, our sisters, communities, and neighbourhoods."

Indonesia's foreign minister, participating in the same



conference, called on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to suspend its engagement with Afghanistan due to the restrictions imposed on women and girls. The Asian Group, which includes Indonesia, advocates for women's access to education and full participation in Afghan society, which they believe will greatly benefit Afghanistan's recovery efforts.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said: "The Asian Group calls on the OIC ... to suspend the engagement in Afghanistan spearheaded by ulema's mission. We want access

of women to education and all aspects of Afghan society. This will result in tremendous results for Afghanistan's recovery programmes."

Meanwhile, the Taliban's spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid, asserted that women's rights are guaranteed in Afghanistan, citing Islamic and Sharia principles as the foundation for these rights. He acknowledged some isolated issues that still need to be addressed.

"The issue of human rights, particularly, the rights of women, has been resolved. The rights that

have been given to sisters in Islam and Sharia, are the best rights which have never been seen elsewhere. We do have some problems in some areas which have not been addressed but these are exceptions," Mujahid said, as per the news channel.

Recently, several members of the United Nations Security Council expressed concerns about human rights violations and women's rights in Afghanistan, stating that women, including female journalists and human rights activists, are facing violence in public places, the news agency reported.

Members of the UN Security Council called for the "meaningful" participation of women in all decision-making processes.

Previously, members of the UNSC expressed concerns about human rights violations and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan through a joint statement, emphasising that these actions are contrary to the expectations of the global community.

CONCERNING

DOUYU CEO MISSING: CHINA'S TECH SECTOR WORRIES

TDG NETWORK
BEIJING

The CEO of a Chinese live-streaming service, backed by Tencent, has become the latest executive to go missing in the country, as reported by the news channel. Tencent Holdings Ltd. is a Chinese multinational technology and entertainment conglomerate. Dou Yu (DOYU) CEO Chen Shaojie has been unreachable in recent days. It also cited unconfirmed reports that Chen was being investigated and had been missing for nearly three weeks.

The 39-year-old CEO made his last public appearance in August when he spoke at the company's quarterly earnings conference call with financial analysts, the report said.

The Chinese live streaming service was listed on the Nasdaq in 2019, where it raised about USD 775 million in one of the largest share offerings by a Chinese company on Wall Street that year.

Dou Yu, which translates to "fighting fish" in Chinese, is often compared to Amazon's Twitch service. It hosts interactive live streams of video

CONFLICT

HAMAS OPERATIVE LINKED TO ROCKET PRODUCTION KILLED IN IDF STRIKE

TDG NETWORK
TEL AVIV

Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Wednesday said it has killed one of the top figures in Hamas's weapons manufacturing apparatus in an overnight airstrike.

The military and Shin Bet have called Muhsin Abu Zina "one of the leaders of weapons production" for Hamas, who specialised in manufacturing "strategic weapons and rockets," according to the newspaper report. The IDF has called him the head of Hamas's "industries and weaponry" division.

Taking to X, Israeli Defence Forces stated, "IDF fighters continue to operate deep in the Gaza Strip, eliminating terrorists and directing aircraft to attack terrorist infrastructure. An IDF fighter jet, guided by the intelligence of the Shin Bet and Amman, destroyed the Abu Zina warehouse,

which served as the head of the Industries and Weapons Department at the Hamas production headquarters."

"Abu-Zina is one of the leaders in the production of ammunition for the terrorist organization Hamas and specializes in the production of strategic ammunition and rockets for Hamas terrorists. During the night, IDF fighters identified a terrorist squad that planned to fire anti-tank missiles at our forces.

The fighters directed an aircraft that attacked the squad and eliminated several terrorists," it added.

Furthermore, IDF said that it directed an aircraft to target the terrorist squad responsible for firing rockets and killed a number of terrorists during the airstrike.

In a post shared on X, Israel Defence Forces stated, "In addition, the fighters directed an aircraft to attack a terrorist squad that is responsible for firing rockets into the country and eliminated

a number of terrorists."

Earlier, the Israeli Air Force said that it attacked targets of Hezbollah, including the Amlah warehouse. It said that the attack was conducted in response to firing from Lebanese territory.

Taking to X, Israeli Air Force stated, "Fighter jets of the Air Force attacked targets of the terrorist organization Hezbollah, among them the Amlah warehouse, launch positions, infrastructures for targeting terrorism and sites where technological means of the terrorist organization Hezbollah are located. The attack was carried out in response to firing from Lebanese territory earlier today."

Earlier, Israel Defence Forces shared a video showing some of the weapons used by Hamas, including explosive belts, firearms, hand grenades and rockets.

While sharing the video on X, IDF stated, "Raw footage: Here are some of the

weapons found on Hamas' terrorists on October 7th. 1,493 hand grenades and explosives, 760 RPGs, 427 explosive belts, 375 firearms, 106 rockets and missiles. These are just a few of the weapons used to massacre over 1,400 Israeli civilians. Weapons used for the killing of innocents."

Meanwhile, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said that Sgt First Class (res.) Yaacov Ozeri (28) of the 401st Armored Brigade was killed while fighting against Hamas terrorists in the northern Gaza Strip. He is the 31st soldier to be killed since Israel began its counter-offensive in response to Hamas's attack on October 7, the newspaper reported.

Furthermore, the IDF said three soldiers from the Golani Brigade's 13th Battalion, the 401st Brigade's 601st Battalion, and the Paratrooper's 890th Battalion were seriously injured during fighting in northern Gaza on Tuesday.

TRAGIC

KABUL BUS EXPLOSION: 7 DEAD, 20 INJURED

TDG NETWORK
KABUL

As many as seven people died, and 20 others were injured in a bus explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday, according to the police, as reported by the news agency.

According to Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran, the explosion occurred in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood of Kabul, an area known to be home to the marginalized Hazara Shia community.

The explosion occurred in a bus carrying civilian passengers in the Dasht-e-Barchi area of Kabul, resulting in the loss of seven lives and injuring 20 others, the Kabul police spokesman wrote on "X", as per the news agency.

Zadran said that security personnel were present at



the scene and had initiated an investigation into the incident.

Late in October, an explosion occurred in a sports club in the same neighbourhood. ISIS claimed responsibility for the same. Taliban authorities had confirmed four fatalities and seven injuries in the incident.

Earlier, at least 11 people

were killed when an explosion occurred near a mosque in northern Afghanistan at a memorial service for the Taliban's provincial deputy governor, who died in an attack earlier this week, officials said, according to the news channel.

The explosion happened during the memorial service for Nisar Ahmad Ahmadi,

the deputy governor of Badkhashan who was killed in a car bombing on Tuesday.

A former Taliban police official was among those killed and more than 30 others were wounded in the explosion near Nabawi Mosque on Thursday, according to Abdul Nafi Takor, the Taliban-appointed spokesman for the interior ministry.

BLAME

TALIBAN ACCUSES PAK OF HUMILIATING KABUL WITH IMMIGRANTS' EXPULSIONS

TDG NETWORK
KABUL

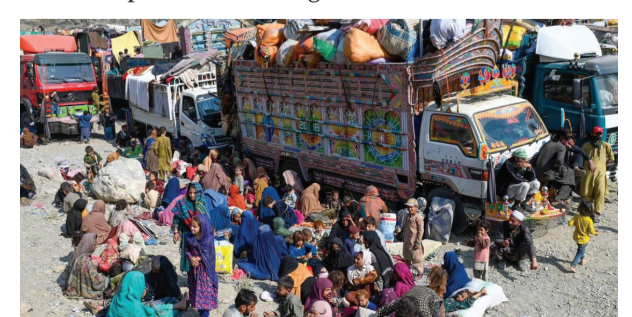
Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi, has accused Pakistan of humiliating Kabul through the expulsion of immigrants, as reported by the news agency.

Muttaqi mentioned that despite their concerns being communicated to Pakistani military and foreign affairs officials, no action has been taken to halt the deportation. He asserted that Pakistan's deportation of immigrants is an attempt to exert pressure on Kabul but emphasized that Afghanistan will not yield to such pressure.

Muttaqi expressed his concern about Pakistan's unilateral decision to deport Afghan refugees and migrants. He said the despite sharing their concerns with both civilian and military authorities in Pakistan, the decision to expel these vulnerable populations remains in effect, further straining the already complex relationship between the two neighbouring countries, as per the news agency.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has raised alarms about the severe problems and dangers faced by a significant number of Afghans forced to leave Pakistan.

Recent statistics indicate a significant flow of people returning to Afghanistan. Approximately 174,000 people have returned through the Torkham, Gholam Khan, and Angoor Ada crossings, while another 45,000 have returned via the Chaman-Spinboldak crossings.



DESTRUCTION

WWII-ERA BLIMP HANGAR DESTROYED IN CALIFORNIA FIRE

TDG NETWORK
CALIFORNIA

A raging fire destroyed a massive World War II-era wooden hangar that was built to house military blimps based in Southern California, and authorities said the blaze could burn for days. The Orange County Fire Authority said in a social media post that allowing the structure to collapse was the only way to fight the inferno, which was reported around 1 a.m. The cause was under investigation.

The agency released video of flames racing along the curved roof, which fell apart in sections. A huge plume of dark smoke was visible for miles around. "Due to the dynamic nature of the fire, and the imminent danger of collapse, we have determined the most operationally sound method is to allow the structure to collapse, at which point ground crews can move in closer, and aggressively work to extinguish the fire," the Fire Authority said.



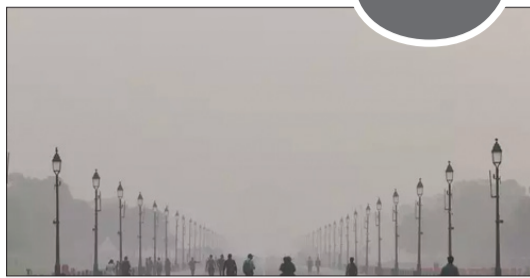
Fire Chief Brian Fennessy said no injuries were reported. The fire smouldered into the evening. The historic hangar was one of two built in 1942 for the U.S. Navy in the city of Tustin, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles. At the time, the Navy used lighter-than-air ships for patrol and antisubmarine defence.

According to the city, the hangars are 17 stories high, more than 1,000 feet (305 meters) long and 300 feet (91.4 meters) wide, putting them among the largest wooden structures ever built. The destroyed struc-

ture was known as the north hangar. The Navy installation became a Marine Corps air station in the 1950s and closed in 1999. Fennessy said his agency was in contact with the Navy, which still owns the property.

Hollywood productions have used the hangars for TV shows and movies including "JAG," "The X Files" and "Pearl Harbor," and they've also appeared in commercials. In 1993, the site was listed by the American Society of Civil Engineers as one of the historic civil engineering landmarks of the 20th century.

Take 5



5 INDIAN CITIES AMONG WORLD'S MOST POLLUTED

India, the world's second-most populous country, is facing a severe environmental crisis in the form of air pollution. Recent global reports have highlighted a grim reality: five Indian cities are consistently ranked among the most polluted in the world. This alarming situation not only raises concerns about public health but also emphasizes the urgent need for stringent measures to combat air pollution in urban centers.

1 DELHI: GASPING FOR BREATH IN THE CAPITAL CITY
Delhi, India's bustling capital, has earned the unfortunate reputation of being one of the most polluted cities globally. The city's air quality is primarily compromised by vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, construction activities, and crop burning in neighboring states. The dense population coupled with inadequate infrastructure exacerbates the problem, leading to respiratory diseases, allergies, and other health issues among its residents.

2 KANPUR: INDUSTRIES CLOUDING THE AIR
Kanpur, a major industrial city in Uttar Pradesh, faces severe air pollution due to emissions from factories and tanneries. Unregulated industrial activities, combined with a lack of proper waste management, contribute significantly to the city's polluted air. The toxic air not only affects the health of the people but also impacts the local flora and fauna, disrupting the delicate ecological balance.

3 LUCKNOW: THE CITY OF NAWABS UNDER A HAZY SKY
Lucknow, another prominent city in Uttar Pradesh, is grappling with high levels of air pollution caused by vehicular emissions, industrial pollutants, and dust particles from construction sites. The historical and cultural heritage of the city is overshadowed by the thick smog, adversely affecting tourism and the overall quality of life for its inhabitants. The city's administration has been striving to implement measures to improve air quality, but the challenges remain daunting.

4 BHOPAL: POLLUTION HAUNTING THE CITY OF LAKES
Bhopal, infamous for the tragic gas leak in 1984, continues to battle air pollution. Vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, and waste burning contribute to the city's deteriorating air quality. Despite efforts to enforce environmental regulations, the city struggles to provide its residents with clean air, leading to a myriad of health problems and environmental degradation.

5 FIROZABAD: THE GLASSMAKING TOWN CHOKED BY EMISSIONS
Firozabad, known for its glass industry, faces severe air pollution due to emissions from glass factories and other industrial units. The toxic air not only affects the health of the workers but also permeates the surrounding areas, posing a significant threat to the local population. Efforts to mitigate pollution in Firozabad are hindered by challenges such as outdated technology, lack of awareness, and economic constraints faced by the industries.

-Bharti Naidu

TRAILER

SUHANA KHAN, KHUSHI KAPOOR'S 'THE ARCHIES' TRAILER TO BE OUT ON THIS DATE

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Makers of the upcoming drama film 'The Archies' on Wednesday announced the official trailer release date of the film. Helmed by Zoya Akhtar, the film marks the acting debut of Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan, producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor, and Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda. Taking to Instagram, Zoya Akhtar shared a post which she captioned, "Ready to groove, move and raise the roof! The Archies TRAILER drops TOMORROW." The makers will be unveiling the official trailer of the film on November 9. 'The Archies', a coming-of-age musical, follows the lives of Archie, Betty, Veronica, Jughead, Reggie, Ethel and Dilton who will take audi-

ences to the fictional hilly town of Riverdale. The film explores friendship, freedom love, heartbreak and rebellion. The Indian adaptation of the beloved comics will see Dot play Ethel Muggs, Agastya Nanda as the charming and talented Archie Andrews, Khushi Kapoor taking the role of Betty Cooper, Mihir Ahuja as the always hungry Jughead Jones, Veronica Lodge portrayed by Suhana Khan, Heartthrob Reggie Mantle will be showcased by Vedang Raina and Yuvraj Menda will play Dilton Doiley. Recently the makers unveiled a new track of the film 'Va Va Voom' which received decent responses from the fans. 'Va Va Voom' is composed by the trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, penned by renowned lyricist Javed Akhtar and sung by Tejas Menon.

PICTURE PERFECT

Devotees take a dip at Sangam during the month of Kartik in Prayagraj on Wednesday. (ANI)



UPCOMING RELEASE

Manoj Bajpayee's 'Joram' gears up for theatrical release

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

The highly anticipated film Manoj Bajpayee and Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub-starrer 'Joram' is all set to make its theatrical release.

Taking to Instagram, Manoj Bajpayee shared an announcement poster and captioned it, "A man, chased by his haunting past, races for his life! Get ready to witness this survival thriller. #Joram in cinemas worldwide on 8th December."

'Joram', an Indian survival thriller drama, has already created a buzz on both national and international stages, earning acclaim at various film festivals. With its gripping storyline and outstanding cast, including Manoj Bajpayee, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Rajshree Deshpande, Tannishtha Chatterjee and Smita Tambe in lead roles, the film promises to deliver an emotional



experience. The film even received a standing ovation at its premiere screening in Mumbai. The immersive poster release with a motion logo along with the powerful teaser track sets the stage for an emotionally charged rural experience that will captivate audiences.

"It's a very special film. I heard Joram's script in 2016

and I was really moved by it. I had concerns about how to shoot with a three-month-old child but her mother and whole team managed the shooting so well and took proper care of the child. I also lost a lot of weight for my character in Joram...it's the best film," he shared.

Directed, written, and crafted by Devashish Makhija and produced by Shariq Patel, Ashima Avasthi Chaudhuri, Anupama Bose, and Devashish Makhija.

The film is under the cinematic vision of Piyush Puty and the editing mastery of Abhiro Banerjee. The soul-stirring music is composed by Mangesh Dhakde.

A collaborative effort between Zee Studios and MakhijaFilm, 'Joram' is set to become a cinematic milestone, eagerly awaited by fans and critics alike and is set to release on December 8.

Meanwhile, in the coming months, Manoj will also be seen in other projects including 'Bhaiyya Ji'. As per a statement, 'Bhaiyya Ji' is packed with "intense action, gripping revenge drama and heartfelt emotions of family bonding. Sharing details about the project, Manoj earlier said, "I am thrilled to step into the world of Bhaiyya Ji. It will be a raw and intense character that I am excited to bring to life.

ACTION MOVIE

'SINGHAM AGAIN': ROHIT SHETTY UNVEILS KAREENA KAPOOR'S FIRST LOOK

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Makers of the upcoming action thriller film 'Singham Again' unveiled actor Kareena Kapoor Khan's first look from the film on Wednesday.

Taking to Instagram, Rohit shared the first look poster which he captioned, "Meet the strength behind Singham...Avni Bajirao Singham..."

Rohit also recalled working with Kareena in previous projects and wrote, "We first worked together in 2007...3 blockbusters till now Golmaal Returns. Golmaal 3. Singham returns... And now working on our fourth project... Singham Again...16 year long association. Nothing has changed. Bebo is still the same, simple, sweet and hardworking."

In the poster, Kareena could be seen in a fierce look holding a gun in her hands and with some injury marks on her forehead. Soon after the director shared the poster, fan swamped down the comment section and dropped red hearts and fire emoticons.

Helmed by Rohit Shetty 'Singham Again' also stars Ajay Devgn, Deepika Padukone, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Ranveer Singh in



the lead roles.

'Singham Again' is the third instalment of the super-hit franchise and the film is all set to hit theatres on the occasion of Independence Day 2024. It will face a big clash with Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa 2'.

'Singham' was released in 2011, starring Kajal Aggarwal and Prakash Raj in lead roles, followed by 'Singham Returns' in 2014. Both projects were declared box office hits.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kareena recently attended the premiere of her film 'The Buckingham Murders' at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film

Festival in a black dress with pink sleeves. She went for nude makeup and tied her hair in a bun. On the other hand, Karisma and Saif twinned in white. Karisma looked exquisite in a white saree, while Saif looked royal in a white kurta-pyjama with a white Nehru jacket.

'The Buckingham Murders' is helmed by Hansal Mehta. It also stars Ash Tandon, Ranveer Brar, and Keith Allen.

It is written by Aseem Arrora, Kashyap Kapoor, and Raghav Raj Kakker and produced by Balaji Telefilms and TBM Films alongside Shobha Kapoor, Ekta R Kapoor, and Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Apart from this, Kareena will also be seen in 'The Crew' alongside Tabu, Kriti Sanon and Diljit Dosanjh. It is a story of three women and is touted as a laugh-riot, set against the backdrop of the struggling airline industry.

However, their destinies lead to some unwarranted situations and they get caught in a web of lies. Actor Kapil Sharma will also be seen in a special cameo role in the film. It is all set to hit the theatres on March 22, 2024.

NEW PROJECT

UTKARSH SHARMA BEGINS SHOOTING FOR HIS NEXT 'JOURNEY'

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

After the massive success of the action-drama film 'Gadar 2' actor Utkarsh Sharma has begun the shooting of his next project. Titled 'Journey' the project is produced by 'Gadar 2' director Anil Sharma.

Taking to Instagram, Utkarsh shared a picture from

the sets of the film which he captioned, "With your blessing we embark on a new -- #Journey."

In the picture, he can be seen facing against the camera and holding the clapboard of the film. He donned a white t-shirt paired with denims and a black jacket. Further deets about the project is still awaited. Utkarsh was recently seen

in the action-drama film 'Gadar 2' which also starred Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel in the lead roles.

The film received massive responses from the fans and is currently the second-highest-grossing Hindi film and has surpassed the lifetime collection of 'Pathaan'. Helmed by Anil Sharma, 'Gadar 2' is a sequel to the hit film which was released

in theatres in 2001. Sunny Deol played the role of Tara, a truck driver, while Ameesha Patel played Sakina in the film that was set during the partition of India in 1947. 'Gadar 2' follows Tara Singh as he ventures across the border in a daring attempt to rescue his son, portrayed by Utkarsh Sharma, who has been captured in Pakistan.

BRAIN PICKING



I think what you achieve in your life is the result of your own talent and hard work.



-DEEPIKA PADUKONE (Bollywood Actress)

TELOGU CINEMA

ALLU ARJUN'S DAD TAKES A SWIPE AT YASH, ASKS 'WHO WAS HE BEFORE KGF?'

LATHA SRINIVASAN

Filmmakers in the south film industry have been known to always support each other but a recent statement by Telugu star Allu Arjun's father, Allu Arvind, created a storm on social media. Allu Arvind, who is Megastar Chiranjeevi's brother-in-law, is a top producer in Telugu cinema and he has now stepped into Bollywood as well.

During a recent event, Allu Arvind touched upon the topic of a star's salary and how it impacted the budget of a film. The producer stated that Kannada star Yash was not well-known in India before the success of Prashanth Neel's KGF.

He added that a big star alone cannot deliver a success but the making of the movie was also important and a star's salary didn't inflate the budget.

Allu Arvind explained, "The lead actor of a movie gets only 20 to 25 per cent of the film's budget as remuneration. So, it is not true that the bud-

get of a film will increase because of his fees alone. On top of actors' fees, a lot of money is spent to make the movie on a big-scale."

Pointing out Kannada star Yash as an example, he asked, "Who was Yash before KGF? How big was he? Why did KGF become so huge? He was able to elevate the film only because of its making and grandeur. The grand scale on which it was made, made it a success. This is just one example. Whoever the hero of the movie is, it is because of the making that it attracts the audience. It is also important to give quality."

Many of Yash's fans who saw the video on social media were unhappy and slammed these comments.

One user named Tarun, wrote, "Allu Arvind #alluarvind don't be jealous sir you will know the level when Yash 19 Announcement will be made just wait and watch." Others commented about nepotism in the Telugu film industry.

QUIZOHOLIC



1. Which international organization promotes World Freedom Day?

- United Nations
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

2. In what year was the first World Freedom Day celebrated?

- 1991
- 2001
- 2011
- 2021

3. Which of the following principles does World Freedom Day promote?

- Democracy and Human Rights
- Economic Growth and Development
- Environmental Conservation
- Technological Innovation

4. Which country is credited with the concept of World Freedom Day?

- United States
- United Kingdom
- France
- Germany

5. World Freedom Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about

- Climate Change
- Gender Equality
- Freedom of Speech and Expression
- Space Exploration

1. United Nations, 2. 1991, 3. Democracy and Human Rights, 4. United States, 5. Freedom of Speech

A LUXURY SUV AND A PERFORMANCE SEDAN 2 NEW MERCS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

SHAMS RAZA NAQVI

India's biggest luxury car-maker, Mercedes-Benz, has launched two new cars in the Indian market just before Diwali. These are the 2023 facelift of the GLE SUV and the AMG C 43 4MATIC performance sedan. While the former has been launched at a price that ranges between Rs. 96.40 lakh and Rs. 1.15 crore, ex-showroom, the AMG C 43 has been priced at Rs. 98 lakh.

2023 MERCEDES-BENZ GLE

The higher variants of the SUV, the GLE 450 d and GLE 450, come with AMG body styling which brings the vehicle visually close to the models from Mercedes-AMG. The SUV gets four and six-cylinder engines with ISG technology while 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission has come as standard. It also gets the new second generation of the MBUX infotainment system, something that was missing on the pre-facelift car. You also have a new steering wheel with capacitive buttons borrowed from the bigger GLS SUV. Inside, you get a Burmester surround sound system with 13 speakers and a system output of 590 watts. Apart from this, the SUV comes with 4-zone climate control, panoramic sunroof, wireless charger, and heating and ventilation functions on the front row.



You get both Diesel and Petrol engine options on the SUV. The GLE 450 d gets an engine upgrade from the previous GLE 400 d. This upgrade gives additional power of 27 kW, which takes the total output to 270 kW. The torque is also upped to 750 Nm from the previous 700 Nm. The GLE 450d and 450 are also equipped with AIRMATIC suspension. In the AIRMATIC Package, an adaptive damping system meets an air suspension which results in an intelligent comfort suspension that can adjust automatically to the driving conditions, speed, and load. This allows you to benefit from counter-

balancing driving stability with first-class comfort. In all, there are 7 metallic paint options and 3 MANUFATUR paint options on the SUV.

MERCEDES-AMG C 43 4MATIC

At the heart of the new Mercedes-AMG C 43 4MATIC is the AMG 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine. The internally named M139 engine is the world's first series-production engine to be turbocharged with an electric exhaust gas turbocharger. The system is a direct derivative of the technology that the Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team has been using in

motorsport for many years. The car is also powered by the 48-volt onboard electrical system, and the electric exhaust gas turbocharger operates at speeds of up to 175,000 rpm, which enables a very high airflow rate. This significantly improves the response directly from idle speed and across the entire rev range. The C 43 4MATIC accelerates from a standstill to 100 km/h in just 4.6 seconds.

The 2.0 Petrol engine here makes 408 hp at 6750 rpm. Depending on the situation, the system also briefly provides an additional boost of 14 hp through the belt-driven starter generator. Due to



The 2.0 Petrol engine here makes 408 hp at 6750 rpm. Depending on the situation, the system also briefly provides an additional boost of 14 hp through the belt-driven starter generator. Due to this, the car gets a fuel efficiency of 9.1-8.7 litres/100 km. The steering layout of the C 43 4MATIC contributes to the improvement in both dynamics and comfort, according to the brand.

the C 43 4MATIC contributes to the improvement in both dynamics and comfort,



according to the brand. At high speeds, the steering power assistance decreases while at low speeds, it is steadily increased. The car also gets rear-axle steering which operates with a maximum steering angle of 2.5 degrees. The rear wheels turn in the opposite direction to the front wheels at speeds of up to 60 km/h, leading to a virtual shortening of the wheelbase, which in turn results in significantly more agile turn-in, less steering effort, and improved maneuverability.

Mercedes says the AMG ride control steel-spring suspension with Adaptive Damping System combines

decidedly sporty driving dynamics with long-distance comfort. The basis for this is provided by the front axle, with specially developed steering knuckles and suspension joints on the spring control arm. Additionally, the Adaptive Damping System continuously adapts the damping at each individual wheel to the current demand - always taking into account the preselected suspension level, the driving style, and the condition of the road surface. Apart from an improvement in ride quality and comfort, these also lead to an increase in driving safety. The author is a Senior Editor at carandbike.com.

THE DAWN OF AI IN SEARCH: LET'S EXPLORE GOOGLE'S SEARCH GENERATIVE EXPERIENCE (SGE)



THE NEXT
ABHISHEKANAND

In the digital age, where the quest for information is as boundless as it is relentless, Google has once again redefined the horizon. With the unveiling of the Search Generative Experience (SGE), the tech giant has not just raised the bar; it has crafted a new one.

This article tunes into the heart of SGE, exploring its nuances, implications, and the vibrant future it heralds for search technology.

THE GENESIS OF SGE A Leap into the Future of Search

The Search Generative Experience is not merely an update; it's a revolution. Born out of the necessity to evolve and the ambition to lead, SGE is Google's answer to the burgeoning field of generative AI. It's a feature that synthesizes information with the finesse of a poet and the precision of a scholar, delivering summaries that are as informative as they are concise.

The AI Engine Behind the Magic

At its core, SGE is powered by a sophisticated AI that understands the context, extracts essence and presents knowledge in a nutshell. It's like having a personal librarian who not only knows where every book is but can also tell you what each one is about in a sentence or two.

THE MECHANICS OF SGE How SGE Weaves Its Spell

Imagine typing a query into

Google Search, and instead of a list of links, you're presented with a crisp, clear summary that feels like it's been written just for you. That's SGE in action. It's a seamless blend of technology and utility designed to enhance the user's journey from question to answer.

The Algorithmic Alchemy
SGE's algorithm is a tapestry of language models, data patterns, and user intent. It doesn't just search; it understands. It's a digital alchemist turning the lead of raw data into the gold of distilled information.

THE HUMAN TOUCH IN AI SUMMARIES Bridging the Gap Between Man and Machine

What sets SGE apart is its uncanny ability to mimic the human touch. The summaries are not cold, robotic responses but rather engaging, almost conversational pieces of text that resonate with the user's quest for understanding.

The Art of Precision and Brevity

In the economy of words, SGE is a master. It knows that in the fast-paced world we live in, brevity is not just the soul of wit but also of wisdom. The AI behind SGE is trained to be laconic yet comprehensive, a balancing act that it performs with aplomb.

THE IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS OF SGE Revolutionizing the User Experience

SGE is changing the game. It's transforming the way we interact with the ocean of data that is the internet. With AI-generated summaries, the experience becomes smoother, faster, and decidedly more pleasant. It's like having a fast-forward button for search.

resources and intellect it has poured into making SGE a reality.

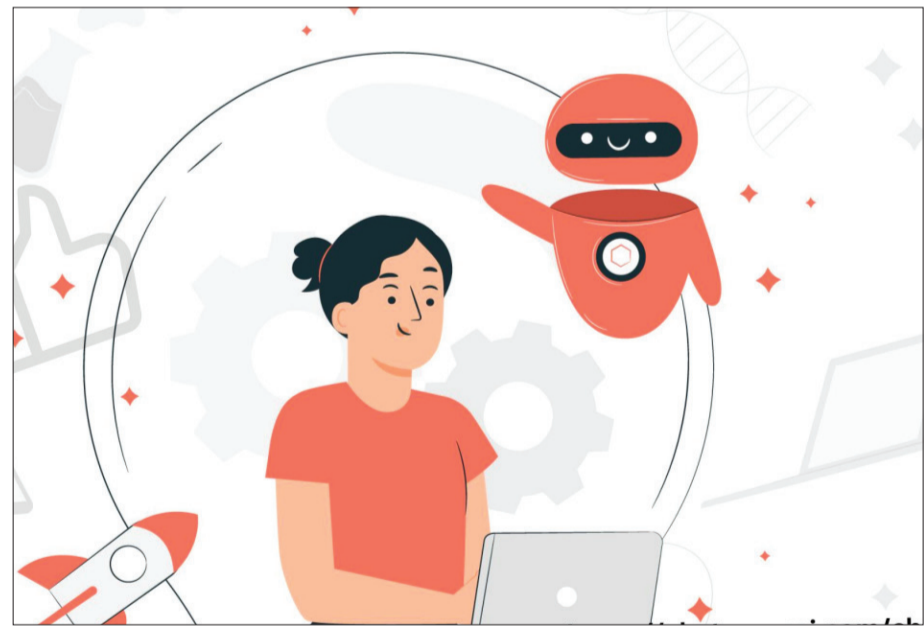
A Response to the Generative AI Challenge

The emergence of tools like OpenAI's ChatGPT has undoubtedly stirred the pot. Google's SGE is a response that echoes not with defen-

sion but with the confidence of a market leader. It's a feature that says, "We see your AI, and we raise you one."

IN CONCLUSION: THE AI-POWERED ODYSSEY

The Search Generative Ex-



The Ripple Effect on SEO and Content Creation

The advent of SGE is sending waves across the digital marketing landscape. SEO strategies and content creation tactics are bound to evolve as the focus shifts from just ranking on search engines to being effectively summarized by them.

GOOGLE'S STRATEGIC PLAY IN THE AI ARENA Staying Ahead of the AI Curve

SGE is Google's strategic move to stay at the forefront of the AI revolution. It's a clear signal that the company is not just adapting to the AI wave but is intent on surfing it. Google's commitment to AI is evident in the

line between searching and finding becomes increasingly blurred, where the journey from query to clarity is almost instantaneous.

THE ROAD AHEAD FOR SGE

The Experimental Phase and Beyond
Currently in its experimental phase, and launched in India & Japan after the US, SGE is like a sapling that's expected to grow into a towering tree. The potential is immense, and the direction it will take is as exciting as it is unpredictable.

Envisioning the Future of AI-Driven Search

The future with SGE promises a landscape where AI is not just an assistant but a guide. It's a future where the

experience is more than a feature; it's a voyage into the future of search—a future where AI is the compass, the map, and the journey itself. As we stand on the cusp of this new era, one thing is clear: the search will never be the same again.

Perhaps, in this brave new world, the actual search is not for information but for meaning, and with SGE, Google has taken a bold step towards that horizon.

Abhishek Anand is the founder of Skill Bud Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a tech company that specializes in Web 2.0, Web 3.0, NFT, Metaverse and digital marketing. He is also an Author, Speaker, Mentor and helps startups & businesses grow with technology.

CYBERSECURITY IN THE AGE OF AI: HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ENHANCES THREAT DEFENSE

TDG NETWORK

The incorporation of Artificial Intelligence is a major changer in the dynamic domain of cybersecurity. AI-powered systems detect and fight developing threats, but they also raise worries about hostile AI. This is an iconic moment in which effective defense demands accepting AI as a sentinel against digital threats.



LALIT MEHETA, CO-FOUNDER & CEO, DECIMAL TECHNOLOGIES

"Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the cybersecurity landscape, becoming a powerful tool to defend against threats. Large numbers of data sets can be analyzed using AI to predict what could potentially pose a threat, automate incident response, rank risks and give personalized information to employees on security awareness training.

Thus, organizations will be able to use AI to enhance their cybersecurity defense through need identification, selection of appropriate AI based security tools, careful implementation as well as monitor and optimize their performance.

Through employing AI in defense, these organizations will massively cut the chances of compromise."

RATAN DARGAN IS CO-FOUNDER AND CTO OF THOUGHTSOL INFOTECH,

"The advancement of Artificial Intelligence has resulted in an evolution in the field of cybersecurity. The integration of expertise and AI's remarkable capabilities represents an advancement in our capacity to combat online risks. AI acts as a protector, known for its response times and precision. It has become a blueprint for security systems always evolving and staying ahead of the most cunning dangers. Our engagement with technology goes beyond usage; we actively employ AI as a guardian that safeguards our data, privacy and guides the path of our digital progress."

BHASKAR GANGULI, DIRECTOR, MARKETING AND SALES, MASS SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PVT. LTD.

"Our most effective defense is to utilize the potential of artificial intelligence in terms of cybersecurity. AI presents both challenges and opportunities. AI-powered systems can detect and prevent cyberattacks in real time while learning and adapting to new threats. However, it raises issues since hackers can use AI to improve their own strategies. It's a race between good and bad artificial intelligence. To win, we must invest in AI-driven security, train our algorithms regularly, and create collaboration within the cybersecurity industry. Our survival in this new century is dependent on our capacity to use AI as a vigilant guard against the forces of digital wickedness."

SAURABH ANAND, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, QUARKS TECHNOFT

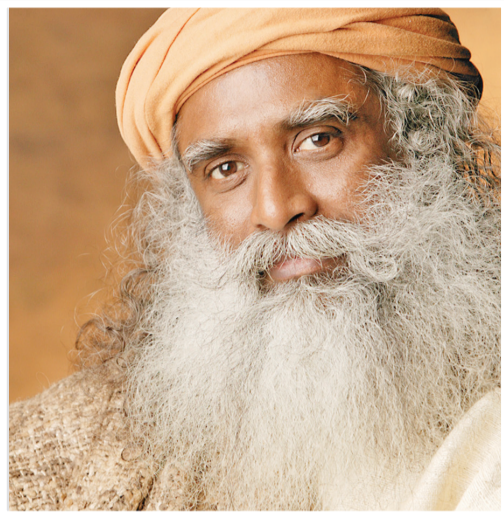
"Cybersecurity has taken center stage, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a game-changer. AI has emerged as a powerful ally in defending against evolving cyber threats. Its ability to analyze vast datasets, detect anomalies, and respond in real-time provides a robust defense mechanism. Machine learning algorithms can adapt to new threats, identifying patterns and vulnerabilities that human experts may overlook. Furthermore, AI-driven security solutions enhance incident response and reduce false positives, saving time and resources. As threats grow in sophistication, AI's predictive capabilities can anticipate attacks and bolster proactive security measures. However, it's crucial to strike a balance, as AI can also be exploited by malicious actors. Employing AI in cybersecurity is a dynamic and evolving strategy, offering both promise and challenges in the ever-evolving battle against cyber threats."

GURU SPEAK

DIWALI SPECIAL



SADHGURU



In the Indian culture, there was a time when there used to be a festival every day of the year – 365 festivals in a year. The idea behind this was to make our whole life into a celebration. Today, maybe only thirty or forty festivals remain. We are not able to celebrate even those now because we have to go to office or do something else daily. So, people usually celebrate only around eight or ten festivals annually. If we leave it like this, the next generation will not have any festival. They will not know what a festival is. They will just earn and eat, earn and eat – they will go on and on with just this. It has already become like this for many people. A festival means they give you a holiday, and you wake up only at noon. Then you just eat more, go for a movie or watch television at home. And only if they take some external stimulants, will these people dance a little. Otherwise they will not sing or dance. It was not like that before. A festival meant that the whole town would gather in a place, and there would be a big celebration. A festival meant we got up at four in the morning, and very actively, lots of things happened all over the house. To bring back this culture in people, Isha celebrates four important festivals: Pongal or Makar Sankranti, Mahashivratri, Dussehra and Diwali.

OSHO

Thoughts are like dirt, clinging to the mirror of the mind. Thoughts, desires, imaginations, memories – all are forms of dirt. Because of them, the purity of the mind is lost. Because of them, the capacity to reflect, the mirror-like quality of the mind is lost. A continuous cleaning is needed. So, meditation is not something that you do once and forget about, because each moment of life you go on gathering dust. It is just like a traveler who is travelling. Each day he goes on gathering dust on his clothes, on his body. Every day he has to take a bath to cleanse his body. Again the next day he will be gathering.

If your meditation is going right, your dreams will by and by disappear. Your night will become a peaceful sleep with no dreams. And if the night is without dreams, in the morning you will be able to come up very fresh, very young, virgin. Then meditate again, because even if there have been no dreams, with the very passage of time, dust collects. Even if you have not been travelling on dusty roads, just sitting in your house, dust collects. Even if your windows are closed, and doors are closed, in the morning you will find your room has gathered a little dust. Dust collects. The very passage of time is dust-collecting. In the morning, again meditate.

And if you meditate rightly and you become a silent pool of energy, you will move in the world in a totally different way – non-conflicting, non-aggressive, in harmony. Even if somebody hates you, you will

transform that energy into love. Then you will move in the world deeply skillfully... with the attitude of a fakiro. Whatsoever is happening, you will take it, receive it, in a deep love and gratitude. Even if somebody insults you, you will accept it in deep love. And then the insult will be no more an insult. And then you will be nourished by it. By the insult he has thrown a certain amount of energy. He is losing it, you can gain it. You can simply receive it, welcome it. And if this becomes your natural way of life – the way of the Sannyasin, not the way of the soldier – every moment you will feel things are growing into a new light and your mind is becoming more and more illuminating.

When your mind is pure, uncontaminated, unpolluted, when not even a thought flickers in your mind, and there is no smoke around your mind – your mind is like a clear sky without clouds – Buddha says you will be able to see everything that is. You will be able to know everything that is. Your sensitivity will be in-



finite. And whatsoever has existed from the very beginning of time will become available to you. Your knowing will become perfect.

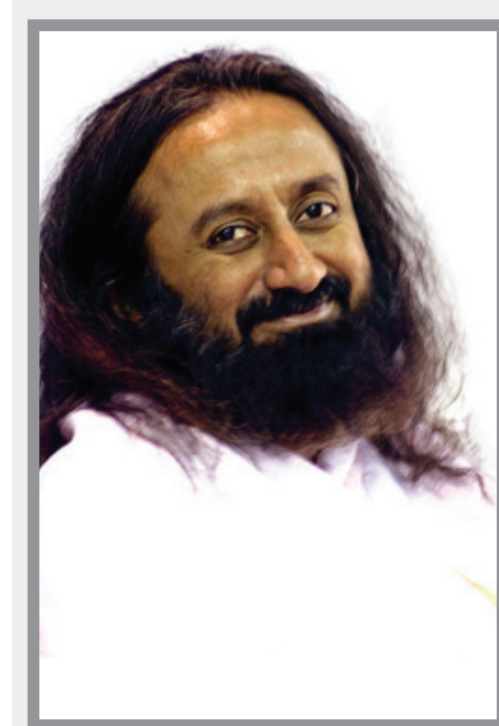
And this illumination, this luminosity, does not come from anything outside you. It explodes from your innermost core. You are like a lamp which is covered by many curtains, dark curtains, and no light comes out of it. Then by and by you remove one curtain, then another curtain, then another curtain. And slowly rays start coming – not clear, but a glow. More curtains are removed – the glow becomes more penetrating, more clear. More curtains are removed... one day when all curtains are dropped, you suddenly see that you are a lamp unto yourself.

That source of luminosity is within you. It is not outside you. If you seek it outside, you seek in vain. Close your eyes and go within yourself. It is there... waiting since eternity. It is your innermost nature. You are luminosity, your being is luminous. This luminosity is not borrowed, it is your innermost core. It is you. You are light – a light unto yourself.

Meekness is power and meditation is illumination. Both are two aspects of the same coin. On one side it is meekness, egolessness; on another side it is purity of mind, illumination. They both go together. You will have to work on both these things simultaneously, together. Become more and more egoless, and become more and more meditative. And the greatest power will be yours, and the greatest knowing will be yours, and the greatest light will be yours.

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

Time and space are infinite. Grains of sand are countless. Atoms in the universe are innumerable. So also the stars and the galaxies. The same is with life on this planet, neither is there a beginning nor is there an end because life is all spherical. A sphere has neither a beginning nor an end, nor a goal nor a direction. Truth has no direction and no goal. Truth itself is the goal and truth is infinite.



Feeling or experiencing the infinity within this finite body, living the timelessness within the time span of life, uncovering the bliss within the misery, this is what we are here for.

Today is Diwali, the festival of lights. The streets and buildings are lit up with colorful lights.

There are four aspects of Diwali:

- *Lighting of lamps.* The lights on Diwali are symbolic of spreading knowledge
- *Fire crackers.* When an explosion

happens on the outside the explosion inside is diffused. This is the significance of fire crackers

- *Gift exchange and distribution of sweets.* Sweets dispel any bitterness and is symbolic of a renewed friendship
- *Feeling the abundance.* It is a day to feel grateful for all that we have. When true wisdom dawns it gives rise to celebration, and in celebration we may lose focus or awareness. The ancient rishis knew this, so to maintain awareness in the midst of gaiety of celebration they brought sacredness and puja to every celebration. So let us celebrate this Diwali with knowledge and feel the abundance, for those who have will be given more!

DIWALI'S INNER JOURNEY: FIVE TIPS FOR SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT AND ENERGY RENEWAL

DR. MADHU KOTIYA

Diwali, the jubilant festival of lights, is celebrated with grandeur and gaiety across the world. While the skies shimmer with fireworks and homes glisten with candles and lamps, the true essence of Diwali lies in its ability to illuminate the inner corridors of our being. This year, as the festival unfolds its tapestry of lights, let us embark on an inward odyssey, exploring pathways to spiritual enlightenment and energy renewal. Following are the five soulful tips to revitalize your spirit during this auspicious time.

TIP 1: LIGHT A DIYA FOR INNER CLARITY

In the flicker of each diya lies a dance of divine clarity. Lighting a diya this Diwali can become an intimate ritual for personal awakening. As you strike a match to light the wick, set a heartfelt intention for what you wish to manifest in your life. Let each diya represent a beacon of hope, a commitment to overcome challenges, or an aspiration for wisdom. Watch as the light grows, symbolizing the expansion of consciousness and the dispelling of inner shadows. In this simple act, you align yourself with the cosmic energies of creation and purity.

TIP 2: MEDITATIVE REFLECTION WITH RANGOLI

Rangoli, the artful patterns adorning the thresholds of homes during Diwali, is a celebration of impermanence and beauty. This year, as you bend to the earth, sprinkling colored powders or grains, let this process become a moving meditation. Concentrate on the flow of your breath and the sweep of your hands. Each symmetrical de-



sign can mirror the balance you seek in life. Allow the rangoli to become a mandala of mindfulness, drawing you into a state of tranquility and present-moment awareness.

TIP 3: CLEANSE YOUR SPACE, CLEAR YOUR ENERGY

Diwali cleaning is not just about dusting and decluttering your external space but is also an opportune moment for internal cleansing. Energetic space clearing can be a profound practice during Diwali. Smudging your

home with sage or palosanto can help dissipate stagnant energies, making room for fresh beginnings. As the smoke ascends, envision your personal space being infused with serenity and positivity. This ritual acts as a symbolic gesture, reaffirming your intention to let go of the old, making way for new patterns of thought and energy to enter your life.

TIP 4: PRACTICE GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY

The spirit of Diwali is encap-

sulated in sharing and gratitude. Embrace this festival by engaging in a gratitude ritual—take a moment to jot down all that you're thankful for. Reflect on the year's bounty, the lessons learned, and the love received. Extend this heartfelt gratitude to acts of generosity. Sharing your time, resources, or knowledge with those less fortunate not only multiplies your own abundance but also strengthens the collective vibration of gratitude and giving within the community.

TIP 5: EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF RENEWAL

Diwali represents the triumph of radiance over shadow and the ascent of wisdom over unawareness. In tune with this theme, create personal rituals that signify renewal. Write down the fears, doubts, or negative beliefs that you are ready to release. Then, in a safe environment, allow the transformative power of fire to turn these papers to ash, symbolizing the liberation from past bur-

dens. This powerful act is not just about purging but is also about setting the stage for the new: new aspirations, new habits, and a rejuvenated sense of being.

Diwali is much more than its outward spectacle; it is a time for inward reflection and transformation. As we illuminate our homes with lamps, let us also kindle the flame of self-awareness within. Through these five tips for spiritual renewal, may your Diwali be a journey of personal growth, peace, and enlightenment. May each light you kindle awaken a thousand more within, leading to an abundance of joy and a reinvigorated soul. Wishing you a Diwali that's as radiant as the light within you. Happy Diwali!

Madhu Kotiya is a renowned Spiritual and Psychic Healer, Wiccan High Priestess, Tarot Mentor, Numerologist and Vastu Expert. She is also the founder of India's First Wicca and Tarot School viz., Wicca India School and Msbezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination

RISING ABOVE DESIRES



MYSTIC MUSING
RAJESH M. IYER

The night was frighteningly dark, and the thunder in the sky was enough to send shivers down the spines of the bravest. Tulsiram considered his options. His wife, Ratnavali, had gone to her father's house in the neighbouring village. However, he had no idea what all acts the desires rising in one's mind can propel one to perform. The dark, mysterious and dangerous night didn't have the strength to dilute the passion that brewed in him. At that moment, the desperation to meet her was intense.

The river that Tulsiram needed to cross was brimming, and dangerous waves made it difficult for boats to ply. There was no way he could reach the other end until the storm subsided. But the same desire that led him to the riverfront despite the storm egged him to jump into the river.

However, the tides were stronger and difficult to wade through. That's when he spotted a floating corpse. Clutching it, Tulsiram floated along as the corpse flowed with the tide. Before long, he found himself on the other side. He ran towards his in-law's house.

Despite the darkness, he managed to reach his in-law's house. Nevertheless, there was a problem. Banging the door at this unseemly hour would seem odd. He knew his wife would be

sleeping in the guest room on the upper floor. He looked around for a rope or a tree branch to help him climb up. Just then, he saw a snake slithering up the wall, with its upper body coiling on to a railing on the terrace. He caught its tail and climbed up.

Ratnavali was excited about finding him there but was flabbergasted to know what all he did to reach her. She immediately knew it wasn't love but desire that led him through such perils. She reprimanded him: 'If only you had such deep longing for Ram, you would reach the highest levels humans can.' Like it did to Valmiki thousands of years ago, a seemingly insignificant incident transformed Tulsiram into Tulsidas—an eternal servant to Ram.

There are two clear learnings from this story. One is that the best of philosophies can come from unexpected quarters. Two, we're stuck in a maze of desires, and it's up to us to move towards the higher forces. It's time we embarked on this quest—a voyage from cravings to consciousness, from trishna to Krishna, from kaam to Ram.

Rajesh M. Iyer is a storyteller who explores human relationships through meaningful anecdotes, parables, and stories; he shares his work on www.rajeshmeyer.com.



We're stuck in a maze of desires and it's up to us to move towards the higher forces—from trishna to Krishna, from kaam to Ram.

TOP OF THE DAY

BARCELONA'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE STREAK ENDS

HAMBURG: Barcelona missed its chance to reach the knockout round of the Champions League with games to spare after a 1-0 loss to Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday. It was Shakhtar's first win as a host in the group stage of the competition since it started playing away from Ukraine because of the war with Russia. A crowd of nearly 50,000 was in hand at Volksparkstadion in Hamburg. "The whole team, including myself, have worked hard for that," Shakhtar midfielder Georgiy Sudakov said.

DORTMUND FANS PROTEST WEALTH-DRIVEN UCL REFORMS

DORTMUND: Borussia Dortmund fans threw fake money and fake bars of gold onto the field during the team's 2-0 win over Newcastle in the Champions League to protest UEFA's planned reforms of the competition. The supporters held a huge banner across nearly the whole length of one of the goal-ends saying, "You don't care about the sport - all you care about is money!" Another banner depicted FIFA president Gianni Infantino flanked on either side by Paris Saint-Germain chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi and Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli.

GIAKOUMAKIS SPURS COMEBACK TO FORCE GAME 3

ATLANTA: Giorgos Giakoumakis had a goal and two assists and Atlanta United beat the Columbus Crew 4-2 on Tuesday night to force a deciding game in the best-of-three series. Atlanta (14-9-12) snapped a four-game winless stretch to continue its MLS playoff run at Columbus (16-10-9) on Sunday - with the winner clinching a spot in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Giakoumakis, who was named the MLS newcomer of the year with 17 goals, opened the scoring in the 38th minute. Giakoumakis was left alone inside the box and headed home Brooks Lennon's bending cross.

HAALAND'S DOUBLE HELPS MAN CITY CRUISE PAST YB

MANCHESTER: The Champions League is European club soccer's most testing stage. Try telling that to Erling Haaland. The Norway striker extended his record in the competition to 39 goals in 34 games as Manchester City advanced to the knockout round with a 3-0 win against Young Boys on Tuesday. Haaland scored twice, including a brilliant long-range effort in the second half, to move him to within two of City great Sergio Aguero's total of 41. It seems inevitable he will one day challenge Cristiano Ronaldo's record of 140 Champions League goals.

ANNOUNCEMENT

TIGER WOODS JOINS FLORIDA TEAM IN TECH-INFUSED GOLF LEAGUE

TGG NETWORK JACKSONVILLE (USA)

Tiger Woods couldn't be more involved with prime-time TGL unless he had built the arena. He helped develop the tech-infused golf league. He's playing in it. And now he's a team owner.

Woods and his TGR Ventures and David Blitzer, the investor who has ownership in all four major U.S. sports leagues, were announced Tuesday as owners of Jupiter Links GC, the sixth and final team for the first-of-its-kind golf league that starts in January.

Woods, Rory McIlroy and former Golf Channel presi-



dent Mike McCarley are founding partners in TMRW Sports, the sports and entertainment company behind TGL. "Having the opportunity to not only compete, but also own a team to represent Jupiter is an exciting next chapter for me," Woods said. Woods referred to TGL as a "modern twist of traditional golf" that ultimately will make it more accessible by leaning the glitz of technology. Key to the modernization is playing in SoFi Center in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, an arena that holds some 1,600 spectators. Teams will go head-to-head for nine holes of alternate shot and six holes of singles, starting off by hitting shots from real turf into a screen 20 times larger than a standard simulator, and then shifting to actual shots from 50 yards or closer to a green complex that can turn 360 degrees to create different angles. They putt on a synthetic surface in which contours can change. Play starts Jan. 9. The two-hour matches — two teams at a time — will be televised on ESPN on Mondays and/or Tuesday, ending before the Masters. The prize fund is \$21 million, with \$9 mil-

lion going to the winning team and players eventually getting equity in the league. Technology is one thing. Woods also said the two-hour window is key to attracting fans. "Generally, golf takes about five or six hours to play. In today's world, with all of our smartphones, it is hard for anybody to go five to six hours without looking at their phones. So, the shorter the time, the better it is." Three players from the four-man teams compete in each match. Woods hasn't competed since the Masters because of lingering leg injuries from a February 2021 car crash outside of Los Angeles. But he expects to be front and centre for TGL.

DISMISSAL

AIFF ousts secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran over conflict

TGG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday announced that it has sacked secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran due to "breach of trust". Prabhakaran's sacking comes 14 months after his appointment to the high-profile job even as the national federation did not mention what the breach of trust was that prompted the action. "The All India Football Federation hereby announces that the services of Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran have been terminated due to breach of trust with immediate effect as of November 7, 2023," the AIFF statement read. "The AIFF Deputy Secre-



tary, Mr M Satyanarayan, will take charge as Acting Secretary General of AIFF with immediate effect," the statement added. AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey served the termination letter on Tuesday to Prabhakaran, who was appointed on September 3 in 2022 and took charge on September 6. Prabhakaran has not yet reacted to the development but is expected to give his version soon. AIFF vice-president NA Haris told that even the AIFF executive committee members were not happy with the way Prabhakaran worked. In a cryptic post on X on Monday night, Prabhakaran had hinted that all was not well within the AIFF. "We have to remain true to our game and when we have the position of power and influence then our responsibility is far higher to do our work with sincerity and dedication without any personal interests," he had written on his X page. "Never allow personal interests to dominate the mind and decisions. Let's focus on our mission to transform football and make India proud. There can't be a bigger satisfaction in life than to see India shining on the pitch on a bigger stage," he wrote. Prabhakaran was appointed at the first executive committee meeting of the new dispensation which took charge after the elec-

tions on September 2. He was earlier serving as Football Delhi president. He resigned from that post and took charge as AIFF secretary general on September 6, 2022. A meeting of the executive committee has been called here on Thursday and the members are expected to be officially apprised of the development, besides discussing other matters. Haris said there is no need for the AIFF executive committee to ratify the decision of the president. "The post of the secretary general is a paid post and he was not appointed by the executive committee. The president has the power to appoint and remove the secretary general. So, the president issued the termination letter," said Haris.

WORLD CUP

Palestinians set to play against Australia in 'Home' Game in Kuwait

TGG NETWORK SYDNEY



Football Australia says its Socceroos will play Palestine in a second-round 2026 World Cup qualifier at the neutral venue of Kuwait on Nov. 21. "As a result of current circumstances in the region, the Asian Football Confederation formally requested that this designated home fixture for Palestine be held at a neutral venue," Football Australia said in a statement. Australian soccer administrators said the match would be played at Jaber Al-Ahmed International Stadium in Kuwait, five days after the Socceroos open the second round of Asian qualifying against Bangladesh in Melbourne.

Hamas militants killed 1,400 people during an Oct. 7 rampage in southern Israel, sparking the ongoing war. Some 240 people Hamas abducted during the attack remain in Gaza, and more than 250,000 Israelis have evacuated homes near the borders of Gaza and Lebanon amid continuous rockets fired into Israel. A month of relentless bombardment in Gaza has killed more than 10,300 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run territory. More than 2,300 are believed buried from strikes that reduced entire city blocks to rubble.

AMID CONTROVERSY

TIMBERS APPOINT NEVILLE AS NEW HEAD COACH

TGG NETWORK PORTLAND (USA)

Phil Neville was introduced as the new head coach of the Portland Timbers amid concerns from the Major League Soccer team's fan base over some of his past posts on social media, as well as his coaching record. Neville, who has apologized before for sexist Twitter posts from more than a decade ago, addressed them during a press conference. "The tweets that I put out were wrong in 2011 and they're wrong today," the former Manchester United and Everton defender said. The tweets have since been deleted. Neville, who coached Inter Miami before his dismissal in June, signed a deal with Portland that will keep him as the head coach through the 2026 season. When word of his hiring leaked last week, fans of the team were critical. The Timbers Army supporters group issued a statement asking the club to reconsider. "We are deeply disappointed that the club has reportedly settled on a finalist for head coach who has a history of sexist public statements that run counter to our ethos as a club, city and supporters' group, and who also lacks a proven track record as a



manager," the statement said. Neville said he would like to meet with the supporters to address concerns personally. "I think the big part of this city is the supporters. And I think the statement that they put out showed that this club cares about their people," he said. "In reference to the tweets that I made in 2011, I think I addressed these in 2019 when I was named the head coach of the England women's team, that by no means are they a reflection of me as a person and my character." The Timbers organization was also widely criticized for past missteps involving the Portland Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League and its handling of sexual harassment and misconduct allegations against former Thorns coach Paul Riley. Riley denied the claims, which were outlined last year in a pair of reports commissioned by U.S. Soccer and the NWSL. Neville replaces Giovanni Savarese, who was let go by the Timbers in August after more than five seasons with the club. Portland went to the playoffs in four of those seasons and reached the MLS Cup title game in 2018 and 2021. The 46-year-old Neville was 35-42-13 as coach of Inter Miami. But he said he was hampered over his time there, in part because of sanctions imposed on the team by the league for violating salary budget and roster guidelines during the 2020 season. Neville was also coach of the English women's national team from January 2018 to January 2021, leading the team at the 2019 Women's World Cup.

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Al-Nassr edge Al-Duhail with Talisca hat-trick

TGG NETWORK DOHA (QATAR)



Anderson Talisca's hat trick gave Al-Nassr a 3-2 win over Al-Duhail in the Asian Champions League on Tuesday with Philippe Coutinho scoring both goals for the Qatari team. The victory puts the Saudi Arabian team, which rested Cristiano Ronaldo, in control of Group E with four wins from four and needing just a point from the two remaining games to reach knockout stage. Al-Duhail was eliminated. Coutinho, the former Liverpool and Barcelona star who joined Al-Duhail on loan in September, put the team ahead after eight minutes. Talisca leveled after 27 minutes and then added a second ten minutes later. Talisca completed his hat trick just after the hour to put Al-Nassr, still searching for a first continental championship, 3-1 ahead. Coutinho converted a late penalty.

On Monday, Saudi Arabian title-holder Al-Ittihad lost 2-0 to Al Quwa Al Jawiya of Iraq. Despite the defeat, Al-Ittihad is still atop Group C with nine points from four games, two above Iranian team Sepahan, which routed AGMK of Uzbekistan 9-0. Four-time winner Al-Hilal is without the injured Neymar but Aleksandar Mitrovic has been in fine form. The Serbian striker scored the second in a 2-0 win at Mumbai City, his 16th goal for the Saudi Arabian team in 16 games since joining from the English Premier League club Fulham. Brazilian forward Michael opened the scoring as Al-Hilal stayed on top of Group D. The tournament is divided into two geographic halves until the final.

SPORTS MEET

ELA PANDEY WINS GOLD IN GIRLS' LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

TGG NETWORK AHMEDABAD



The Lawn Tennis Girls' category in the 52nd Kendriya Vidyalaya National Sports Meet 2023-24 was organized at Vastrapur Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ahmedabad, Gujarat from November 2 to 6. In the National Sports Meet, Ela Pandey, representing Delhi, won the gold in the final match of the Lawn Tennis Under-17 category by defeating Santushti from Uttar Pradesh with a score of 6-2. The runner-up was Santushti from Lucknow. It's worth mentioning that Ela Pandey had secured the title in the Under-17 category for Delhi last year, defeating the four-time champion Chennai team in both singles and doubles. Ela continued her good form this year by winning the singles final against Santushti from Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, in the semi-finals, Ela defeated Abhilasha from Rajasthan with a score of 5-3 to advance to the finals. In the same sequence, Vaishnavi Pandey, Ela's younger sister and last year's champion in the Under-14 category

of the Delhi team, performed brilliantly, making her way to the semi-finals. However, she lost 3-7 in the tiebreak to Guwahati's Sanskriti Bora in the semi-finals. It's worth mentioning that Ela and Vaishnavi are students of Gol Market Kendriya Vidyalaya in Delhi and are real sisters. They both secured gold medals in different age groups in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Regional Sports Meet, Delhi Region, held recently. Ela receives tennis training in Delhi under the supervision of coach Pallav Roshia, while Vaishnavi is learning tennis from coach Gaurav Sharma. Both sisters have achieved success in numerous national-level tennis competitions organized by the All-India Tennis Association (AITA).

IN SPAIN

Czech Republic beats Switzerland in BJK Cup Finals

TGG NETWORK SEVILLE



The Czech Republic beat defending champion Switzerland 3-0 on the first day of the group stage at the Bille Jean King Cup Finals. Debutant Linda Noskova defeated Celine Naef 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-4 in the first singles match, and another debutant Marie Bouzkova beat Viktorija Golubic 6-4, 6-4 in the second match of the Group A tie. The third point came with Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Sinikova defeating Golubic and Jil Teichmann 7-6 (3), 6-2 in the doubles match. Bouzkova was a late addition to the Czech team following the withdrawal of world No. 8 Karolina Muchova because of a wrist injury. Switzerland was without Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic, who announced on Friday that she is pregnant. The United States is the

other team in Group A and will face Switzerland on Thursday. In Group B, Slovenia defeated last year's runner-up Australia 2-1 after Kaja Juvan defeated Ajla Tomljanovic 7-5, 6-7 (2), 10-5 in the doubles match. Australia's point came when Kimberly Birrell and Storm Hunter beat Veronika Erjavec and Ela Nala Milic 7-5, 6-7 (2), 10-5 in the doubles match. The 12-team BJK Cup Finals is being played at La Cartuja Stadium in the southern Spanish city of Seville.

