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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 traffick-

ing.

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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

TDG EXCLUSIVE

NITISH ASSEMBLY REMARKS: COMPLAINT FILED WITH BIHAR ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

A complaint has been filed with the Bihar Legislative Assembly Speaker, Awadh Bihari Choudhary, against the State Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar.

The complaint pertains to remarks made by the Bihar CM concerning women's education and population control during his speech in the state assembly on 7 November, 2023.

According to the complaint filed by social activist Charu Jindal, Nitish Kumar's statement is deeply offensive, objectionable, and condemnable, and it has seriously compromised the dignity of the women repre-



sentatives in the assembly, as well as all the women who witnessed the video.

Jindal expressed her dismay, stating, "It is shameful

that the CM, as a representative of the people, failed to choose appropriate words to express his thoughts and instead made statements and gestures that are indecent, vulgar, and humiliating. It is disgraceful that individuals in such high positions are publicly undermining the dignity of women."

Subsequently, on 8 November, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar issued an apology for his remarks. He told reporters that he did not intend to show disrespect to women and offered to retract his words if they had offended anyone.

In response to his apology, Jindal asserted, "A mere apology, after publicly shaming the dignity of women in the Vidhan Sabha, where his remarks were accompanied by the laughter of other representatives, has placed all women in an embarrassing situation. Apologies alone are insufficient in addressing the consequences of this."

Therefore, the complainant is urging the Bihar Assembly Speaker to take strict action against Nitish Kumar for making highly vulgar and humiliating statements.

CLARIFICATION

BJP CANNOT STOP DMK FROM WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE: TN MINISTER EV VELU

LATHA SRINIVASAN
CHENNAI

Income tax raids have been on since 3 November on the residences, offices and other premises of Tamil Nadu Minister for Public Works Department, Highways and Minor Ports, EV Velu. It was reported that Rs 22 crore had been seized in cash in the IT raids conducted.

EV Velu, speaking to the media at Tiruvannamalai on Tuesday night, said, "BJP cannot stop us from doing the work for the people by conducting an income tax audit. It was only because of the five-day raid by the Income Tax department that you were able to freeze the work of the corporation and the government. The income tax department works as a team in BJP."

The Minister denied knowing the owners of Casagrand Builders and Appaswamy Real Estate as well. He said, "I don't know who runs Casagrand. The only relationship I have with Appaswamy realtors is that I used to stay in their hotels, sometimes, when I visited Coimbatore."

Velu further stated that not one paisa was seized from his house by IT officials. As



for the educational institutions, he said they were run by his family members and he was not on any of the boards or a trust member.

"I have 48.33-acre land in Tiruvannamalai and a house in Chennai which I have mentioned in the election affidavit. I have no other properties. Myself, my wife, and two sons are income tax assesseees", clarified Velu.

According to ANI on 7 November, sources told them, "Income Tax department has seized a total of Rs 29 crore, including Rs 22 crore in cash and incriminating documents, from the premises linked to Tamil Nadu Public Works and Highways Department Minister EV Velu and his Associates."

Searches were also conducted at the educational in-

stitutions reportedly owned by EV Velu - the Arunai Medical College Hospital, Arunai Engineering College, Karan Arts College and Jeeva Velu Matriculation School. The IT raids at Appaswamy Real Estate and Casagrand Builder Pvt Ltd, apparently resulted in the seizure of Rs 7 crore cash.

EV Velu started out as a lorry driver, became a movie distributor and then entered politics with the AIADMK. He joined the DMK in the early 1990s and is a six-time MLA.

Earlier IT raids were conducted on three other senior DMK leaders—Minister V Senthil Balaji, who is currently in Puzhal Prison; Minister K Ponnudiy and DMK MP S Jagathrakshakan.

CASH FOR QUERY ROW

'CBI PROBE ORDERED AGAINST MAHUA MOITRA' CLAIMS BJP'S NISHIKANT DUBEY

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Wednesday claimed that the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal has ordered a CBI based on his complaint in the 'Cash for Query' row.

In a post on X, Nishikant Dubey stated, "Lokpal today, based on my complaint, ordered a CBI inquiry against MP Mahua ji, who committed corruption by mortgaging national security."

Earlier, Dubey lodged a complaint with the Lokpal against the Trinamool Congress leader on 21 October.

Nishikant Dubey stated, "(I am) tired of hearing CBI, CBI. I filed a complaint (against Mahua Moitra) with the Lokpal today. The Lokpal is the only authority that is mandated to look into complaints of corruption or impropriety against MPs, ministers, or other people's representatives."

Meanwhile, the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha,

which is investigating the cash-for-query allegations against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, will now meet on November 9 for the "consideration & adoption" of its draft report.

Earlier, the meeting of the panel headed by Vinod Kumar Sonkar was scheduled to be convened on 7 November.

Moitra appeared before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee on 2 November over

the cash-for-query allegations against her. Along with opposition members of the panel, she "walked out" of the meeting on Thursday. Opposition members raised questions over the line of questioning and alleged that "personal questions" were posed to the Trinamool Congress MP.

Moitra alleged that she was subjected to humiliating personal questions from the panel.

Under the 'Cash for Query' charges made by Nishikant

Dubey against Mahua Moitra, Dubey alleged that the Trinamool MP took bribes from Dubai-based businessman Hiranandani to raise questions in Parliament to target the Adani Group.

Dubey wrote a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla last month titled "Re-emergence of nasty 'Cash for Query' in Parliament", seeking a probe into his allegations. He also claimed that Advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai provided him with proof of alleged bribes.

FARM FIRES

PUNJAB DGP TELLS POLICE OFFICERS TO WORK IN TANDEM WITH CIVIL ADMINISTRATION TO STOP STUBBLE BURNING

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

A day after the Supreme Court issued directions to ensure stopping of crop residue burning "forthwith", Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday asked the police officers to work in tandem with the civil administration to prevent stubble burning in the state.

The DGP also appointed Special DGP (Law and Order) Arpit Shukla as the police nodal officer to monitor action against stubble burning.

"The police nodal officer shall issue suitable directions, hold meetings, conduct tours and collect and collate relevant information and put up to the DGP Punjab and the Chief Secretary so that monitoring of the actions being undertaken by the police to ensure compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is done in an effective manner," the order reads.

Amid a spike in pollution levels in



Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court had on Tuesday directed Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to ensure crop residue burning was stopped "forthwith", saying it cannot let "people die" due to pollution.

The apex court bench also made the local station house officer (SHO) concerned, under the overall supervision of the chief secretary, responsible for stopping crop residue

burning.

The DGP ordered all the commissioners of police (CPs) and senior superintendents of police (SSPs) to devise a foolproof action plan against stubble burning, organised crime and drug trafficking, and stubble burning in Punjab.

He stressed the need for working in tandem with the civil administration to prevent stubble burning in the state.

Yadav ordered all the CPs and SSPs to hold daily meetings with the district magistrates besides ensuring that the SHOs should personally patrol the areas in their jurisdictions and take steps to stop stubble burning immediately.

He also directed all the CPs and SSPs to divide the districts into sectors and depute a gazetted officer as the in-charge of the sector.

The DGP was holding a state-level law and order review meeting via video conference to review the action against organised crime, drug

trafficking and stubble burning in the state.

The meeting was attended by all the senior police officers, additional DGPs, SSPs and the SHOs.

An official spokesperson of the Punjab Police said that depending on the area and size of the police station, a sufficient number of additional patrolling parties are being activated with immediate effect.

He said the civil administration and local district police have been working together to prevent stubble burning in the state.

Liaison and coordination is maintained with the fire department for the deployment of fire tenders, he added.

The spokesperson also said the district police has been directed to engage the farmers, citizens and various stakeholders to sensitise them about the ill-effects of stubble burning, which is also a violation of law and action, and action could be initiated against them.

COURT TRIALS

FORMER J&K MINISTER CHOUDHARY LAL SINGH UNDER ED SCANNER

TDG NETWORK
TEL AVIV

A court here on Wednesday remanded former Jammu and Kashmir minister Lal Singh in seven-day custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), a day after the agency arrested him in a money laundering case.

Singh, the chairman of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP), was arrested from a house in Chawadi area of Sainik Colony here on Tuesday evening within hours after a special court dismissed his anticipatory bail application.

Singh was under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a case against an educational trust run by his wife and former legislator Kanta Andotra.

Special public prosecutor Ashwani Khajuria said the arrested accused was produced before the special court which granted the ED his seven-day remand instead of 14 days sought by the agency.

The special judge took note of the complaint of

physical discomfort made by the accused and asked for his proper medical checkup, Khajuria told PTI, quoting the order.

Officials said Singh was shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in the early hours of the day after he complained of uneasiness.

He was discharged from the hospital around 3 pm and straightway taken to the court.

However, Singh alleged that though he was taken to the hospital, he was not given proper medical aid.

"I was present in the emergency ward of the hospital but was denied proper medical treatment and even my admit file was not prepared and several tests not done.

They have compelled the doctors to say that it is me who refused to take a CT scan", he told reporters while being escorted to the court.

Scores of his supporters had assembled outside the hospital and chanted slogans against the BJP, claiming that their leader was being framed in a baseless

case ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year.

Singh, a two-time MP and three-time MLA, switched from the Congress to the BJP in 2014 and was also a minister in the previous PDP-BJP government which collapsed in June 2018 after the national party pulled out of the alliance.

Several months before the fall of the government, Singh resigned from the BJP and floated the DSSP, following an uproar over his participation in a rally in support of the accused in the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua in January 2018.

However, he defended his participation in the rally stating that he was there to "defuse the situation".

Last month, the Enforcement Directorate had conducted searches in Jammu and its adjoining areas as part of the money laundering probe against the educational trust of Andotra and a former government official in connection with alleged irregularities in land purchase to set up the trust.

PETITION

DELHI HC SEEKS CENTRE, GOVT'S STAND ON PIL TO DISTINGUISH RELIGION FROM DHARMA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the stand of the Centre and city government on a PIL seeking a direction to the authorities to use the "proper meaning" of the term "religion" and not use it as a synonym of "dharma" in the official documents.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma granted time to the governments for responding to the petition by lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay. The petition also sought a direction to include a chapter

on "dharma" & "religion" in the syllabus of primary and secondary schools "in order to educate the masses and control the religion-based hatred and hate speeches".

"There is a colonial mindset which is being continued," stated the petitioner before the bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela. In his petition, the petitioner asserted that "dharma" is not religion as the former is "non-divisive", "non-exclusive" and "transcends narrow boundaries of religion".

"If we try to define religion then we can say that religion is a tradition, not

dharma. Religion is a cult or a spiritual lineage that is called a 'sampradaya' (community). So, religion means community," the plea said as it prayed that "dharma" shouldn't be used as synonym of "religion" in documents like birth certificate, aadhaar card, school certificate, ration card, driving licence, domicile certificate, death certificate and bank account etc.

The petition submitted, "In daily life, we say this person follows 'Vaishnav dharma' or Jain dharma, or someone follows Buddhism or Islam or Christianity that's not right.

IN MAHARASHTRA

QUOTA DEMAND, LS AND ASSEMBLY POLLS DISCUSSED IN THACKERAY-PAWAR MEETING: RAUT

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The political situation in Maharashtra arising out of the Maratha quota demand and the Opposition's preparedness for the next year's Lok Sabha and state assembly polls were some of the issues that Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar discussed during their meeting held a day ago, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said on Wednesday.

Talking to reporters, he said the meeting between Sena (UBT) chief Thackeray and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Pawar took

place at the latter's residence 'Silver Oak' here on Tuesday, and lasted for over one-and-a-half hours.

"Congress leaders were not present for the meeting since they are busy with election campaigns in the five states. Uddhavji and Pawar saheb discussed the political situation in Maharashtra after the agitation over Maratha quota demand and the stand that the opposition needs to take", he said.

If the assembly elections in Maharashtra are held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls, what should be the strategy of the opposition and its seat-sharing formula

was also discussed, the Sena (UBT) MP said.

The final meeting will be held in Delhi, he said, adding that there is no disagreement among the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies and everything will be finalised smoothly, he said.

The MVA comprises Shiv Sena (UBT), Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress. The three parties (when Shiv Sena and NCP were undivided) were in power in Maharashtra from November 2019, but the dispensation led by Uddhav Thackeray collapsed following the rebellion by Eknath Shinde in June 2022.

MILESTONES

CJI CHANDRACHUD'S ACHIEVEMENTS: ADVANCEMENTS IN JUDICIAL TECHNOLOGY

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, has marked his one-year anniversary in the role, and his accomplishments during this time are noteworthy.

These achievements include the introduction of live streaming for constitution bench hearings, streamlining case listings, and enhancing the Supreme Court's technological accessibility.

Under his leadership, the Supreme Court has achieved its full strength of 34 judges at one point. Notably, the implementation of a Hybrid

hearing system stands out as a significant achievement during Chief Justice Chandrachud's tenure.

The CJI has issued directives for the daily listing of 10 transfer petitions and 10 Bail applications before each Court. A novel mechanism has been introduced, designating specific days of the week for addressing cases pertaining to specific categories, such as Criminal matters, MACT matters, and Arbitration matters.

Furthermore, a new system for mentioning matters has been established, ensuring the organized and timely presentation of urgent matters before the court.

TWEET OF THE DAY

BCCI @BCCI



No. 1 Batter in the latest ICC Men's ODI Rankings for Batters, No. 1 Bowler in the latest ICC Men's ODI Rankings for Bowlers. Congratulations to Shubman Gill & Mohd. Siraj

Narendra Modi @narendramodi



You have to be careful with Congress, because it does not want the children of the poor to study and move ahead.

Congress @INCIndia



Within 7 months, Shivraj government ate Rs 2,300 crore of 54 lakh women of Madhya Pradesh. The BJP government of Madhya Pradesh has taken away the rights of old people, disabled people and widowed women. When Congress was in power at the Centre, we had created 'Social Security Circle'. In this cycle, monthly pension was given to old people, disabled people, widows and mentally underdeveloped people. But the BJP government ended it.

BJP @BJP4India



In the Congress government, the powerful used to capture the houses of the poor, but Modi, the son of the poor, understood this pain and we decided that every family should be given the legal documents of their land and their house, for this we started the PM Swamitva Yojana. Has been.

Amit Shah @AmitShah



Happy birthday to respected Lal Krishna Advani ji. Advani ji, with his tireless hard work and organizational skills, worked to nourish the party and build workers. Advani ji's incomparable contribution from the inception of BJP to coming to power is an eternal source of inspiration for every worker. I pray to God for his long life and good health.

POOR AIR QUALITY

DELHI PLANS TO INDUCE ARTIFICIAL RAIN TO CURB BAD AIR: GOPAL RAI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government plans to induce artificial rain through cloud seeding this month to combat air pollution in the national capital, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday.

Rai held a meeting with scientists from IIT-Kanpur, who explained that cloud seeding can only be attempted when there are clouds or moisture in the atmosphere.

"Experts anticipate that such conditions could develop around November 20-21. We have asked the scientists to prepare a proposal by Thursday that will be submitted to the Supreme Court," the minister told reporters.

Rai emphasised that obtaining the necessary clearances and permissions for using this technology from both the central and state governments is a time-sensitive



Delhi government's proposal to use artificial rainfall to mitigate poor air quality.

matter. The IIT-Kanpur scientists, who have conducted research on artificial rain, delivered a presentation to the minister on September 12.

India Meteorological Department Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that inducing artificial rain can only be attempted when there are clouds or moisture available. "There have been a few attempts in India in

this regard—in Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. Globally, research is being conducted on artificial rain; the basic requirement is clouds or moisture. In India, research on artificial rain is ongoing, but it has not made significant progress so far," he said. Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena said in a post on X, "A delegation from CII and IIT, Kanpur, met today

to discuss the possibility of cloud seeding—artificial rain in the capital—for mitigating the prevalent air pollution." "Enquired about the effectiveness of the technology and asked them to submit a concrete proposal," he added. Cloud seeding involves dispersing substances into the air to encourage condensation, resulting in precipitation.

AT YAMUNA

HC REJECTS PLEA SEEKING PERMISSION TO PERFORM CHHATH PUJA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a petition seeking permission to allow Chhath Puja at the banks of the Yamuna river.

A bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad cited the ban's purpose in preventing

pollution in the Yamuna. As the court appeared inclined to dismiss the plea, the petitioner requested the liberty to withdraw it, which was granted.

The petition was filed by the Chhath Pooja Sangharsh Samiti and Purwanchal Jagriti Manch, seeking to set aside a Delhi Disaster Man-

agement Authority (DDMA) order from October 29, 2021, which prohibited the celebration of Chhath Puja on the Yamuna riverbanks in Delhi.

The plea, represented by advocate Vijay Shankar Dubey, sought to direct the authorities to permit and grant permission for the ob-

servance of Chhath Puja at various ghats and along the banks of the Yamuna river. The counsel for the Delhi government also opposed the petition.

The plea argued that the notification had an adverse impact on the 30-40 lakh devotees who participate in Chhath Puja in Delhi.

NON-OPERATIONAL

DELHI GOVT SENDS TEAM TO INSPECT SHUT CONNAUGHT PLACE SMOG TOWER

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Wednesday sent a team to inspect the smog tower located in Connaught Place, which stopped operating following 'unilateral' directions by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) chairperson Ashwani Kumar. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court directed that the smog tower be made operational. The air quality in Delhi and its suburbs dropped to the severe category again on Wednesday morning, with smoke from post-harvest paddy straw burning in neighbouring states account-



ing for one-third of the air pollution here. The city's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 421, worsening from 395 at 4 pm on Tuesday.

An official said, "A team of Delhi government officers has been dispatched

to inspect the smog tower and ensure its prompt operationalisation." Earlier, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai had claimed that Kumar, who assumed the role of DPCC chairperson in December,

"stopped the release of funds to IIT-Bombay and other agencies working on the smog tower project without informing the government." Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the over 24-metre-high smog tower at Connaught Place on August 23, 2021. The city government had formed a team of experts from IIT-Bombay to study its impact over two years. Sharing smog tower data, Rai said that last year, the giant air purifier could reduce air pollution by 70 to 80 per cent within a radius of 50 metres and by 15 to 20 per cent up to 300 metres.

PARLIAMENT

WINTER SESSION LIKELY TO BEGIN IN SECOND WEEK OF DECEMBER

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Winter session of Parliament is likely to commence in the second week of December and could conclude ahead of Christmas, sources said on Wednesday.

The session, they said, could commence days after the counting of votes in five states on December 3.

Three key bills that seek to

replace the IPC, CrPC, and the Evidence Act are likely to be taken up for consideration during the session, as the Standing Committee on Home has already adopted the three reports recently.

The Winter session usually commences in the third week of November and concludes ahead of December 25. Another key bill pending in Parliament relates to the appointment of the chief election

commissioner and election commissioners. Introduced in the Monsoon session, the government had not pushed for its passage in the special session of Parliament amid protests from the opposition and former chief election commissioners as it seeks to bring on a par the status of the CEC and ECs with that of the cabinet secretary. At present, they enjoy the status of a Supreme Court judge.

LUCKY ESCAPE

DELHI: FIRE ERUPTS IN 5-STORY BUILDING

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A blaze erupted in a 5-story residential building in Kabir Nagar, North East Delhi, on Wednesday morning. A 5-year-old girl suffered burn injuries

and was promptly taken to the hospital.

Police officials from Welcome police station reported that the fire, which broke out at 3:22 am on November 8 at B5/14, Street No. 4, Kabir Nagar, likely originated from a short circuit on

the ground floor, resulting in the ignition of five motorcycles and one bicycle. The police officials confirmed the safe evacuation of all other residents in the building and stated that the exact cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

DEADLINE

DELHI METRO'S 5TH BRIDGE OVER YAMUNA SET FOR SEPT COMPLETION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Construction of one module of the first metro bridge over the Yamuna being built using the cantilever construction technique has been completed, DMRC Managing Director Vikas Kumar has said, adding that the entire work is expected to be completed by September.

The bridge—the fifth metro bridge over the Yamuna—is being built under Delhi Metro's ongoing Phase IV project. In a recent interview, Kumar said that this state-of-the-art bridge would be "visually appealing" and become an iconic landmark similar to the Signature Bridge, which connects Wazirabad to the inner city, is "India's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge". Its pylon is the tallest structure in Delhi, at double the height



of the Qutub Minar. The bridge boasts a viewing box at a height of 154 metres that acts as a selfie point. It shortens travel time between north and northeast Delhi, according to the website of the North East district. Work on the under-construction bridge over the Yamuna was halted for a few days in July when the river had become swollen due to the rising water level. "The status is

that almost 50 per cent of the work is complete. It is in two modules of 290 metres each; the total length is 580 metres. And, one module is complete, having four spans," Kumar said. "Otherwise, the sub-structure is complete. The other module again comprises four spans; this stretch... so, the entire stretch is expected to be completed by September 2024," he added.

IN POLICE NET

DELHI POLICE SEIZES 510 KG OF FIRECRACKERS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Wednesday seized 510 kg of firecrackers and nabbed two from the Kartar Nagar and the Sonia Vihar areas of northeast Delhi.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Joy Tirkey stated that officers at the New Usmanpur police station were tipped

off about a man selling firecrackers near the Hanuman temple in Kartar Nagar. Tirkey stated, "A police team was formed that raided the location and seized 390 kg of firecrackers from one Ankur Sharma (23). He disclosed that he intended to sell the crackers and was expecting a handsome margin."

In another raid, a special team of Khajuri Khas

police station, acting on a tip-off, arrested one Rajesh Gupta (47) from Sonia Vihar and seized 120 kg of firecrackers.

Tirkey stated, "So far, we have seized 1,690 kg of firecrackers from the northeast area. Storing such a huge quantity of crackers in densely populated areas might be a serious threat for the residents."

ASSESSMENT

'Odd-even scheme's fate hinges on SC reviews': AAP govt

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government said on Wednesday that the implementation of the odd-even car rationing scheme in the national capital will depend on a review of its effectiveness by the Supreme Court and the issuance of an order.

During a press conference, Environment Minister Gopal Rai stated that the city government would present the findings of two significant studies conducted by the Energy Policy Institute of the University of Chicago and the Delhi Technical University to assess the scheme's effectiveness for the Supreme Court's review.

Minister Rai emphasized that the decision to put the odd-even scheme into action would be contingent on the Supreme Court's

evaluation and the issuance of an order. The matter is scheduled for the next hearing on Friday.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court questioned the efficacy of the Delhi government's scheme, which aims to reduce vehicular pollution, and referred to it as mere "optics." Rai had previously announced the flagship scheme, allowing cars to operate on alternate days based on their odd or even number plates, to be enforced from November 13 to November 20.

In 2016, the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago and Evidence for Policy Design assessed the impact of the odd-even system and determined that Delhi experienced a 14-16% reduction in PM2.5 levels during the hours when the scheme was in effect in January of

that year. However, there was no reduction in pollution when the scheme was reintroduced in April.

The entry of app-based taxis into Delhi has also been prohibited in accordance with the Supreme Court's directive, the minister confirmed. Rai further mentioned that the Delhi government has instructed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to resume full operation of the Connaught Place smog tower and release the remaining funds to IIT Kanpur to restart a study aimed at identifying various sources of pollution in the capital.

Additionally, Rai announced that a special campaign would be conducted to monitor the open burning of waste in Delhi, with 611 teams established for this purpose.

REMARKS ON WOMEN

DELHI BJP DEMANDS NITISH KUMAR RESIGNATION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP activists staged a demonstration near the Bihar Bhawan in Chanakya-puri here on Wednesday and demanded Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's resignation over his remarks on the importance of women's education to control the population.

A large number of women leaders and workers, including those from the Delhi BJP's Mahila Morcha, raised slogans against the chief minister and demanded him to step down for his "vulgar" remarks.

Leading the protesters outside the Bihar Bhawan, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said Kumar "cannot be forgiven for his



remarks".

The Delhi BJP workers will continue their struggle till Kumar steps down from the chief minister's post, he added.

The chief minister, however, on Wednesday offered his apologies both inside and

outside the Bihar Assembly for comments made a day before. The Bihar Assembly was adjourned on Wednesday till 2 pm, soon after the proceedings started, as the opposition BJP kept demanding Kumar's resignation. The chief minister, who

was present in the House, rose to offer his explanation and said, "I have expressed my regret while talking to journalists outside the House. I am ready to do so again. If my words have caused any hurt, I condemn myself (main apni ninda karta hoon)." Regretting his remarks in the Bihar Assembly, Kumar clarified that it was made in the context of women's education and its correlation with the fertility rate. "The context in which I made the remarks must not be lost sight of. I have always been a strong supporter of women's education, and it was a eureka moment for me when I saw a direct correlation between education levels among women and fertility rate," he added.

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.

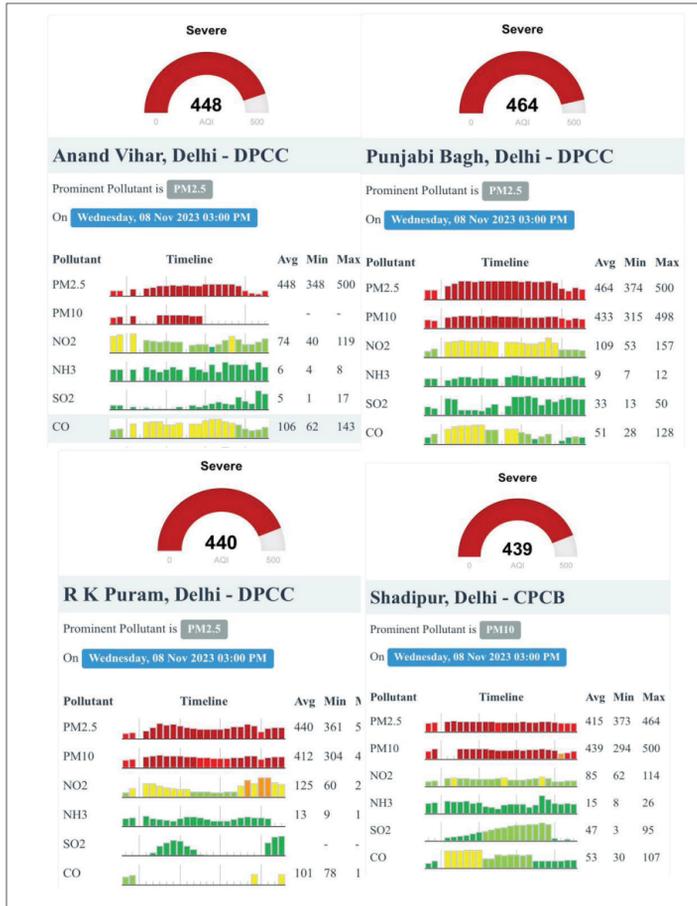
According to the data shared by the CPCB, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Anand Vihar was recorded at 452, while it was at 433, 460, 382, and 413 at RK Puram, Punjabi Bagh, Sri Aurobindo Marg and Shadipur, all in the 'severe' category.

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.

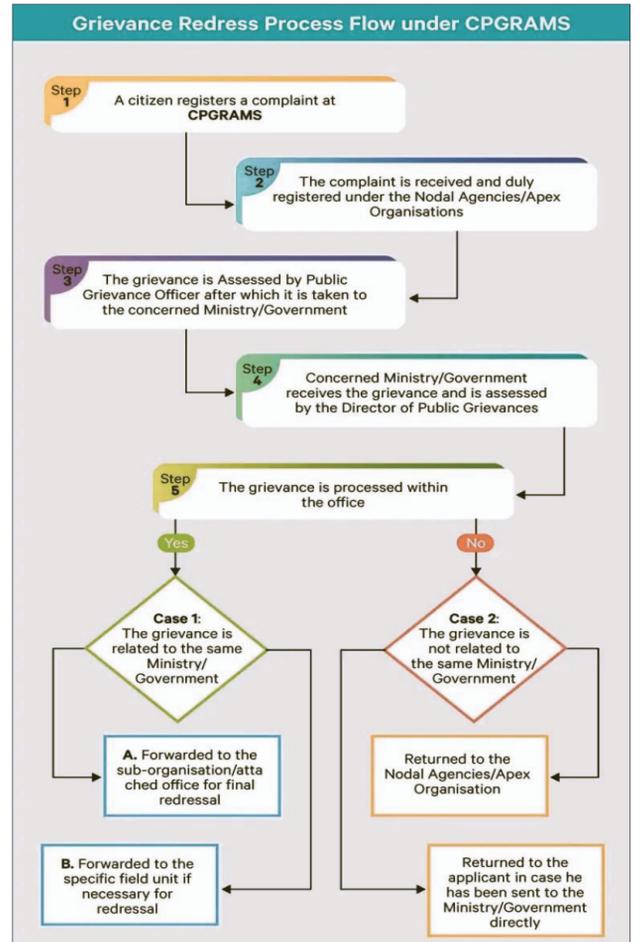
This monthly report provides a detailed analysis of types and categories of public grievances and the nature of disposal.

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.

'AGAMIC' TRADITION

SC UPHOLDS ORDER ON PRIESTS' APPOINTMENT IN TN TEMPLES

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to vacate its September 25 order, which directed the Tamil Nadu government to maintain the existing conditions regarding the appointment of priests ('archakas') in temples following the 'Agamic' tradition in the state.

A bench comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and M.M. Sundresh prima facie did not agree to submissions of senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government, that the state was entitled to appoint "archakas".

Dave argued that the ap-

pointment of 'archakas' is a secular function, and therefore, the state has the authority to make these appointments. The bench pointed out that the issue revolves around the state government not adhering to the procedures prescribed under the 'agama' tradition when appointing 'archakas' in temples of a specific denomination. The 'agamas' consist of tantric literature within Hindu schools, with three branches: 'Shaiva, Vaishnava, and Shakta.' The top court was hearing petitions which alleged that the state government was interfering with the hereditary appointment system of 'archakas' in 'Agama temples' by permit-

ting individuals from other denominations to become 'archakas' after completing a one-year certificate course in 'archakas' offered by schools under the Tamil Nadu administration. On September 25, the bench ordered a status quo, which, according to the state government, would halt the appointment of 2,405 'archakas' in temples across the state. The SC has set the petitions for further hearing on January 25, 2024, and clarified that it will not stay the ongoing proceedings before the Madras High Court on a similar issue. The bench asked the lawyer to inform the high court that the Supreme Court is seized of the matter.

CONGRESS CRITICISED

BJP unleashes star campaigners in MP to ensure party's victory in polls

TDG NETWORK
BHOPAL

In view of the soon-to-be-held Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has dispatched its star campaigners to triumph over Opposition parties in the state.

Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur visited Indore and criticised the Congress, claiming that their promises were empty. He expressed concerns that the same situation may occur in Madhya Pradesh as in Himachal Pradesh. Thakur spoke with journalists at the BJP's media centre in Indore and highlighted various unfulfilled



promises made by the Congress in Himachal Pradesh. These included pledges of 300 units of free electricity, financial support for women, and job opportunities for the youth, all of which were not delivered. He also mentioned that the Congress was losing elections across the states, stressing the development under Prime Minister Mo-



di's leadership in Madhya Pradesh. He highlighted the government's achievements, such as providing cooking gas connections to impoverished women and reserving 33% of seats for women. Yogi encouraged the electorate to vote for BJP candidates and linked the significance of Sachi to enlightenment and the presence of stupas on the



200-rupee note. Following the suit, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who participated in election meetings in Madhya Pradesh, met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Guna and flayed the Congress during a public meeting, praising Modi as a globally popular leader who has genuinely worked to improve the lives of the poor. He mentioned various government schemes, including free food distribution and the Ayushman Card for healthcare. He also talked about initiatives like the Ujjwala scheme, providing free gas connections, and financial support for farmers and women.

BAD TO WORSE

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

CONTINUED FROM P1

ordered to be pre-ordered so that schools can be totally closed and both children and teachers can stay at home," it said.

Heads of schools have been directed to convey this information to parents immediately. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday chaired a meeting of all departments concerned to ensure compliance with the instructions given by the Supreme Court yesterday regarding pollution. Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot and Revenue Minister Atishi were also present.

"I want to thank the SC for giving the instruction to restart the smog tower, which was shut down by the DPCC Chairman. I want to thank the SC for giving instructions for the real-time study data to be published," Rai said.

"I have been continuously appealing to the Centre that there should be a joint work. In Delhi, we are continuously implementing the rules of GRAP. But the way

our neighbouring governments are sitting silently, I think that after the order of the Supreme Court, meetings will now be held and rules will be implemented...I have been continuously demanding that firecrackers be banned in the states around us. BJP wants to control pollution only by making statements. I think the Supreme Court order regarding the ban on firecrackers will have an impact," he added. Gopal Rai further said that the Delhi government will give complete information regarding the odd-even vehicle plan to the Supreme Court on Friday, after which a decision will be taken on whether odd-even will be implemented from November 13 or not. Delhi Education Minister Atishi on Sunday announced the closure of primary classes of all schools until November 10 and said schools have the option of teaching online for classes 6 to 12.

"The Supreme Court has given its observations of what needs to be implemented in

Delhi and we have called for a meeting with the concerned ministers and officers so that we can implement whatever instructions Delhi has got. The SC has given the order to end stubble burning in whichever state it has been happening," Rai said.

Despite worsening air quality in several parts of the country and pollution levels posing a threat to the health of people, stubble-burning incidents were reported in the Mamdot area of Ferozepur, Punjab.

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) said. 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.

EXCLUSIVE

CURBING POLLUTION IS EVERYBODY'S DUTY: GOPAL RAI

CONTINUED FROM P1

the orders of the SC only. Q: Why is there a political blame game over the grim pollution situation?

A: The AAP government has never involved itself in any sort of blame game. It is the Centre which puts blame on

the Delhi government for not controlling the bad air situation.

In fact, it is a collective responsibility for everybody—be it the Delhi government, Centre, common people. So, just to blame the AAP government is not a good proposition. Stubble burn-

ing is a recurring issue that has its origin in Haryana and Punjab.

The government must devise a plan for farmers so that they do not indulge in any kind of stubble burning and unless and until it is done, no permanent solution of pollution can be expected.

STAGE VANDALIZED

BJP INFIGHTING TAKES UGLY TURN IN BENGAL

CONTINUED FROM P1

state leaders with whom Hazra had never had comfortable relations.

In the past few months, Anupam Hazra's statements before media and supporters have created a lot of controversy.

It is also reported that the state BJP leadership has lodged a complaint with the central BJP against Hazra.

On the other hand, Anupam Hazra also made various allegations against a section of the state and district leadership. He went live on Facebook about this on Wednesday

morning and when several people expressed their anger against the State leaders, Anupam said that even though he was a central leader of the BJP who was specifically sent to Bengal by BJP president Nadda, he was not invited to any state BJP meeting or function. If invited, it was timed in such a way that the ceremony would get over before he arrived, he remarked.

Hazra also expressed apprehensions about the state of affairs within the party and wondered if state president Sukanta Majumdar would be able to retain his own

Lok Sabha seat in the 2024 general elections. Shamik Chakraborty, state spokesperson of the BJP, refused to comment on remarks made by "a central leader" but said that "this kind of behaviour was not expected nor desirable in a disciplined party like ours".

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh likened the visit of Anupam Hazra to a "circus which comes to town in the winter," and without naming Hazra who was a Trinamool MP earlier, said: "the BJP is now feeling the pain of having a madman in their midst."

CHANGE OF TACK

IN STRATEGY REJIG, KCR REDIRECTS HIS ATTENTION TOWARDS KARNATAKA

CONTINUED FROM P1

Congress's hope of winning Telangana, combined with the TDP and YSRCP's decision to sit out the Telangana Assembly elections.

While the sentiment related to Andhra occasionally comes up, particularly during visits to the Andhra-Telangana border regions, it is no longer the central focus of the campaign. Rather, discussions in Telangana politics now revolve around any repercussions or protests against the government in Karnataka. Recent incidents, such as protests by farmers in Karnataka demanding a stable power supply and the Income Tax Department seizing cash from a contractor in Bengaluru, have reverberated in Telangana.

The most recent controversy involves an alleged fake letter from Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief DK Shivakumar, supposedly urging Foxconn Hyderabad to move their Apple manufacturing unit, which is under construction, to Bengaluru. This letter has circulated widely in political circles.

K.T. Rama Rao, Telangana's IT Minister and the son of KCR, has emphasized the essential role of K Chandrashekar Rao's leadership in safeguarding Telangana's interests, using the D.K. Shivakumar letter as an example. It is evident that even with Andhra regional parties stepping back, the BRS (formerly TRS) continues to champion the Telangana sentiment.

GRAFT LINKS

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

CONTINUED FROM P1

come from the godowns of central agency FCI to the Chandaks' mills.

The source also claimed that the Chandaks' complicity in the PDS scam became evident when investigation revealed that the company would sell the rice and flour in the open market after being packaged through this company. Sources said

that the name of Chandak cropped up during the course of interrogations of the present and former personal assistant of the ED sleuths in this connection. The Chandak brothers were found to have been close to the arrested former Food & Supplies Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick.

The Enforcement Directorate also circulated an official media release about the ar-

rest of Jyoti Priya Mallick. The release stated that investigations had revealed that approximately 30% of PDS ration intended for Priority Households (PHH), RSKY and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries was diverted to the open market and the proceeds of crime generated from the same were shared between the millers and the PDS distributors.

COURT'S MANDATE

KARNATAKA GOVT TO FULLY IMPLEMENT SC'S CAUVERY WATER ALLOCATION TO BENGALURU

R. JAYAPRAKASH
NEW DELHI

In a significant development, the Karnataka government has issued an order to fully implement the Supreme Court's 2018 directive, reserving 24 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic Feet) of Cauvery water annually for drinking water purposes in Bangalore and its surrounding areas. This decision comes after years of non-compliance with the court's mandate, which previously allowed only 18 TMC of water for the city.

Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) D.K. Shivakumar announced the government's intention to comply with the Supreme Court order at Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi. He stated, "In 2018, the Supreme Court had stipulated that 24 TMC of water could be used for drinking water purposes in Bangalore. But until now, no action had been taken in this matter. Now, by utilizing the remaining 6 TMC water, we have decided to use the full 24 TMC for drinking purposes."

Shivakumar also revealed that the Karnataka government is actively discussing the Mekedatu Dam issue during the 89th meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority. He stressed that the issue of water distribution and availability would be fully disclosed during a demonstration before the authority.

Addressing concerns raised by Tamil Nadu, Shivakumar stated, "Our first priority is to ensure drinking water supply in Bangalore, as directed by the Supreme Court. We will not relinquish our rights and will adhere to the court's order. We are making every effort to reserve an adequate amount of water in the KRS (Krishnarajasagara) reservoir and throughout the Cauvery basin."

Regarding Tamil Nadu's proposals to link rivers within their state, Shivakumar noted, "It is an internal matter for Tamil Nadu. We also plan and allocate a fixed amount of water to them. Therefore, Tamil Nadu should not pose any impediment to us."

This decision by the Karnataka government to adhere to the Supreme Court's water allocation order is expected to significantly impact water distribution in the region, ensuring a more equitable supply for Bangalore and its surroundings. The authorities have called on the Supreme Court and concerned parties to support and facilitate the Mekedatu project, which aims to alleviate water scarcity issues and benefit the state of Tamil Nadu as well.

IN CUSTODY

COURT TAKES COGNIZANCE OF CHARGE-SHEET AGAINST KHAKHA, WIFE IN MINOR'S RAPE CASE

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Tis Hazari court on Wednesday took cognizance of the charge sheet filed against the Delhi government's former Deputy director Premoday Khakha and his wife.

They have been in custody for the alleged rape of a minor. Special Judge (POCSO) Richa Parihar took cognizance of the charge sheet. The copy of the charge has also been supplied to the accused. The matter has been listed on December 5 for the scrutiny of documents. According to the sources, Delhi Police is likely to file a Supplementary charge sheet against the son and daughter of Khakha. They have been granted protection from arrest from the Supreme Court. Premoday Khakha and his wife Seema Rani are in judicial custody. Delhi police produced both the accused persons before the court. The mother of the victim was also called by the judge. The judge conducted the hearing in a closed courtroom.

Accused Premoday Khakha allegedly sexually harassed his friend's minor daughter for several months and impregnated her. The minor girl told the police she moved to Khakha's house in Burari to overcome the grief of losing her father. Khakha allegedly first raped her on October 31, 2020, and then several times until January 21, 2021, when she got pregnant. She was given abortion pills when she told Khakha's wife about the sexual abuse. The Delhi Police in August arrested Khakha and his wife. Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Khalsi stated that Khakha's wife threatened the victim and made the minor victim undergo an abortion.

MISOGYNIST REMARKS

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

CONTINUED FROM P1

and will not do any good for the damage he caused yesterday in the Bihar Assembly."

Annamalai also posted the video of Nitish Kumar speaking on the Assembly floor on his social media and wrote, "It is disheartening to hear such language on the floor of the Assembly by the CM of Bihar, Thiru Nitish Kumar. The effect of being in alliance with the RJD & the I.N.D.I.A bloc is felt and has redefined his idea of women's empowerment."

The National Commission for Women (NCW) put out a statement on X (formerly Twitter) on November 7, saying, "National Commission for Women, vehemently condemns the recent statements made by Nitish Kumar in the Vidhan Sabha concerning women's fertility and education and linking it to the population of the country. Such remarks are not only regressive but also egregiously insensitive to women's rights and choices. Bihar's Chief Minister should issue an apology to women across

the country for these deeply offensive remarks."

However, Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav has defended the Bihar CM's statement and said, "It is wrong if someone misinterprets it. The Chief Minister's remarks pertained to sex education. People are often hesitant when it comes to sex education. It is now being taught in schools just as other subjects are. Children are learning about it. He only said what should be done to control the population. His words should be taken in their proper sense."

POPULATION CONTROL

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

CONTINUED FROM P1

Bihar Chief Minister has lost his "mental stability."

"It's objectionable; Nitish Kumar has lost his mental stability the way he spoke about women. Tejashwi Yadav's statement in its support is also objectionable. Nitish Kumar is no longer worthy of holding the position of CM. You have destroyed the culture of this country. He should apologise and detach himself from politics," Rai said.

Defending Nitish Kumar, Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav said on Tuesday that it was

wrong to misinterpret the Chief Minister's remarks as he was speaking about sex education. "Let me tell you one thing. It is wrong if someone misinterprets it. The remarks of the CM were regarding sex education. People are hesitant whenever the topic of sex education is discussed. This is now taught in schools. Science and biology are taught in schools. Children learn it. He said what should be done practically to stop the increase in population. This should not be taken in a wrong manner. It should be taken as a sex education," Yadav said.

TOP OF THE DAY

SEARCH FOR MISSING ASSAM COP ON

AIZAWL: A search is on for the Assam policeman who went missing while on election duty for the November 7 Mizoram assembly poll, a senior police officer said on Wednesday. Sabin Nath, a 43-year-old constable in the 9th battalion of Assam Police, went missing from Ngopa village in Saitual district near the Manipur border, Mizoram Inspector General of Police (Headquarters) Lalbiakthanga Kiangte told PTI. He along with other security personnel were deployed for election duty in the village. Saitual deputy commissioner said that a commandant of the 9th battalion of Assam police arrived from Guwahati.

WOMAN DIED BY ELEPHANT, CM OFFERS 15 LAKHS

CHIKKAMAGALURU: A 29-year-old woman plantation worker was trampled to death by a wild elephant near Hedadalu in this district on Wednesday, officials said. Meena and her fellow workers were on their way to a coffee estate when the incident took place. Suddenly, as they got near the estate, they encountered a wild elephant. While other workers managed to escape, she was attacked by the tusker. Meena sustained serious injuries and died. Following the incident, the locals protested with her body and refused to hand it over to officials for post-mortem unless the MLA came to the spot.

SIA INVESTIGATES TERROR FUNDING IN J-K, DELHI

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Investigation Agency (SIA) on Wednesday raided multiple locations in the union territory and Delhi in connection with a terror funding case, the agency said. "Continuing with its endeavour to dismantle terror support systems in J&K, the SIA Kashmir conducted searches at houses and offices at 22 locations in J&K and Delhi," the investigating agency said. These locations include 18 in Srinagar, one each in Anantnag and Pulwama, and two in Delhi. During the search operation, incriminating material in the shape of bank documents, cash books, credit cards, debit cards, etc., was seized, which will be analysed for further investigation," the SIA said.

MURUGHA MATH HEAD GRANTED BAIL AFTER APPEAL

BENGALURU: The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday granted bail to Shivamurthy Sharana, the pontiff of the Chitradurga Murugharajendra Bruhan Math who has been in custody since September last year, facing charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Justice Srinivas Harish Kumar, who had reserved the judgment on the criminal petition filed by the pontiff, dictated the order on Wednesday afternoon. The high court has imposed several conditions for the bail in the two POCSO cases against the seer.

MP REPORT CARD

ASSESSING RENUKA SINGH'S PERFORMANCE AS SURGUJA'S MP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A ground-level survey of the Surguja parliamentary constituency was conducted by India News to analyse the performance of Renuka Singh, the Member of Parliament from Surguja, and to gather voters' feedback about her.

Renuka Singh Saruta is an Indian politician from Chhattisgarh who currently serving as the current Minister of State Tribal Affairs of India from 30 May 2019. She is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The Surguja Lok Sabha seat has been won by Congress 10 times, BJP 6 times, and Janata Dal once. The Bastar Lok Sabha constituency has a voter base of around 17 lakhs.

Renuka Singh's parliamentary attendance and her commitment to addressing her constituency's issues have fallen significantly short of expectations. This underperformance has generated widespread discontent among the electorate, casting doubt on her prospects for re-election in the upcoming polls.



MP REPORT CARD

HISTORY OF SURGUJA SEAT				
1999	2004	2009	2014	2019
Khelsai Singh (Congress)	Nand Kumar Sai (BJP)	Murari Lal Singh (BJP)	Kamalban Marabi (BJP)	Renuka Singh (BJP)

ASSEMBLY SEATS (8)	
■ Premnagar	■ Samri
■ Bhatgaon	■ Lundra
■ Pratappur	■ Ambikapur
■ Ramanujaganj	■ Seetapur

REPORT CARD OF MP (PARLIAMENT)	
■ Attendance in Parliament-50%	
■ Questions in the House-51%	
■ Utilization of MP funds - 85%	
■ Special contribution-40%	



ISSUES

- Naxal terrorism
- Extreme unemployment
- Migration
- Substance abuse
- Drinking water crisis
- Education-health deprivation
- Poor local roads
- Connectivity issues
- Rural backwardness
- Lawlessness

VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS

■ Male-	51%
■ Female-	49%
■ Urban-	11%
■ Rural-	89%
■ SC-	5%
■ ST-	56%

MP REPORT CARD (GROUND)

1- Are you satisfied with your Member of Parliament's work?
A- Yes-53%
B-No-31%
C-Don't know-06%

2--Would you like to re-elect your MP?
A- Yes-52%
B-No-32%
C-Don't know-16%

3-If the candidate is changed, will you vote for the same party?
A- Yes-65%
B-No-20%
C-Don't know-15%

4-In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, what basis will you vote on?
A- Modi Factor-47%
B- MP Factor-19%
C- Party Factor-22%
D- Don't know-12%

5- Will Modi factor work in 2024 general elections?
A- Yes-70%
B-No-25%
C-Don't know-5%

Ground Survey Rating: 5.3/10

COMPENSATION

Siddaramaiah announces Rs 15 lakh compensation for family of elephant attack victim

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday announced a compensation of Rs 15 lakh to the family of the woman who was trampled by the wild elephant near Hedadalu village in Chikkamagaluru district, according to a press release by Chief Minister's Office. The press release further mentioned that the Karnataka CM held an emergency meeting with the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and senior officials of the Forest Department in Mudigere.

Siddaramaiah gave a clear instruction to the district administration to immediately take necessary action to send back the wild elephants to the forest. Speaking over the phone to the protestors who were fighting over the body of the deceased woman (Meena, 29 years old), Siddaramaiah said that instructions were given to take all necessary measures to avoid elephant attacks in the region. According to the press release, the Forest Minister will also arrive and hold a meeting regard-



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

ing the action on the rescue measures as wild elephants are entering coffee plantations that are adjacent to the forest area. The Karnataka CM, in the official release, further said that he has discussed the matter with the Forest Minister to direct the task force to take necessary measures including railway fencing. Siddaramaiah also calmed down the locals and protestors who were insisting that the wild elephants should be shot and killed, said the press release, adding that the CM asked these locals and protestors to not think to that extent as he has instructed the officials to take other effective measures.

"Steps will be taken to fence the areas and the task force has been asked to ensure that precautionary measures are taken," he said.

ALLEGATION

BRS CHEATED POOR IN THE NAME OF 2 BHK HOUSES : SALMAN KHURSHID

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader and former union minister Salman Khurshid on Wednesday accused the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS government in Telangana of 'not fulfilling' its election promise of constructing double-bedroom houses for the poor. Addressing a press conference here, Khurshid said the Congress government built more than 22.89 lakh new houses for the poor in Telangana between 2004-14. He said that while the BRS promised to construct 5.7 lakh 2 BHK houses by 2024, but it has been implementing the scheme only on a 'sample' basis.

'KCR commented that 'Indiramma Indulu' (houses) provided by the



Senior Congress leader and former union minister Salman Khurshid

Congress government from 2004-14 were of matchbox size, and he promised 2BHK houses as part of the 2014 manifesto,' Khurshid said, alleging that the BRS government, however, 'cheated' the poor in the name of constructing 2BHK houses for them.

'Why have you failed to distribute 5.7 lakh houses under 2 BHK housing scheme? How many houses have been constructed and allocated so far, and what is the timeline for completing the scheme,' the Congress leader asked. Khurshid pointed out there are enough funds to construct 'Pragati Bhavan', the CM's camp office-cum-official residence, and asked 'why there are no funds, time and land for construction of 2 BHK houses for the poor'.

The BRS government had allocated a total of Rs 23,679 crore for the 2 BHK scheme from the financial year 2016-17 till 2020-21, but it released only Rs 383 crore, as per an RTI report, he said. He alleged that the 2 BHK houses are being given to only a few loyalists of BRS leaders.

'Budgets have indicated that money has been allocated, but not released. The houses have not been built. The one that that have been built are lying vacant due to poor quality of construction. The fact is that people are homeless, people have not been given the homes they were promised,' the Congress leader alleged.

Khurshid sought to draw a contrast between the BRS and his party, saying in neighbouring Karnataka, and in Himachal Pradesh and other Congress-ruled states, it has fulfilled the promises it made to the people. He assured the people that if Congress comes to power in Telangana in the November 30 polls, it would fulfil its six guarantees in the state as well.

ALLIANCE

H D KUMARASWAMY UNITES JD(S) MLAS, RULES OUT DEFECTION

TDG NETWORK
HASSAN

JD(S) Karnataka President H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday expressed faith in the party's legislators and said none of them would jump ship to the Congress as claimed by the ruling party.

The former chief minister questioned the ruling party's "duplicity" in accusing the BJP of 'Operation Lotus' while its own leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, are making open claims about MLAs and leaders from the BJP and JD(S) joining the Congress. The JD(S) leadership convened a meeting of its legislators and party leaders in



JD(S) Karnataka President H D Kumaraswamy

this district headquarters town yesterday to convey a message of unity, amid reports that many of its legislators would defect to the Congress. All the legislators also visited the famous Hasanamba temple here and offered prayers. "Out of 19 MLAs in yesterday's meeting, 18 MLAs have attended. The 19th MLA -- who has not come -- Sharanagouda Kandakur (Gurmitkal MLA) is like a son of our house. He is in a bit of confusion. Will set things right; it is not a big issue," Kumaraswamy said. There is none in the par-

ty who is disgruntled and wants to quit "falling prey to the allurements of the Congress government", he said.

"Despite the hate politics of this government, by not supporting development in their constituencies (of JDS MLAs), none of our MLAs will quit the party under pressure from the Congress." However, Kandakur, who is unhappy over JD(S)'s alliance with BJP, speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, said he did not attend the party meeting as he had to attend a "committee meeting" in Bengaluru. He said he had "not informed" the party about his inability to attend. Asked whether he was disgruntled with the party, the MLA said,

"There is no such thing. Even if it is there, such a thing cannot be shared before the media... I have already shared my unhappiness over the alliance with BJP with the leadership."

He said he met the chief minister and other ministers but it was only to talk about development works, and that no one from the Congress has contacted him. "According to me, Congress has no such need as they have 136 MLAs."

Party president Kumaraswamy asserted that all JD(S) workers are united like a family and said the meeting was called to give clarity and to send a message of unity, amid a misinformation campaign that five to eight legislators might quit the party.

COURT CASE

ED SUMMONS ABHISHEK BANERJEE AGAIN IN SCHOOL JOBS SCAM CASE

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

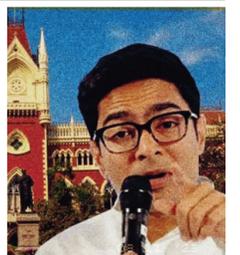
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Abhishek Banerjee, Trinamool Congress number two and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew, for a fresh round of questioning on Thursday in connection with the school jobs for cash scam case in which former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee has spent more than 16 months in custody.

Abhishek Banerjee is the Trinamool Congress national general secretary and party's Lok Sabha MP from Diamond Harbour constituency. Shashi Panja, the State's Women & Child Development and Social Welfare Minister and TMC spokesperson, confirmed that Abhishek Banerjee would be going to ED's Salt Lake office on Thursday.

"Abhishek Banerjee has been called by the ED yet again tomorrow. He has to appear, and he has confirmed that he will go to the agency's office. It was his birthday yesterday and a birthday present from the ED—the summons—came to his office", Panja said.

"He has been very responsible in the matter since the very first day," Panja said, adding that the party national general secretary is a "victim of vendetta politics."

The Minister claimed that the Trinamool Congress is the BJP's "target", and the developments are in the context of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. She said that Abhishek would appear and respond to the ED's questions, but the investigation would have no end. "It's a witch hunt", Panja alleged.



Abhishek Banerjee

She added that such summons were agenda-driven and politically motivated to disturb his political programmes in the wake of the Lok Sabha elections next year. "This is also an attempt to malign the image of the party as well as to malign the image of West Bengal. Such attempts are going on for quite some time", she added.

However, state BJP spokesman Samik Bhattacharya rubbished the allegation of political vendetta. "The central agency investigation in the school job case is going as per the order of the court and is also court-monitored. What has BJP to do with that? If Trinamool Congress smells anything wrong in the summons, they can approach the court", he said.

Banerjee has been questioned by the agency in the case in the past as well. He was interrogated by the financial probe agency for nine hours over the alleged school jobs scam in Bengal, following which the parliamentarian had asserted that the interrogation was an attempt to stop him from attending the coordination committee meeting of the Opposition's INDIA bloc.

THE MEETING

Silent Conversation exhibition by NTCA and Sankala Foundation conclude

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The first ever art exhibition of its kind, the 'Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre' organized by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt of India and Sankala Foundation at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on from 3 - 5 November, 2023 concluded

successfully.

The 'Silent Conversation' was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu on 3rd November, 2023. In her address, the President emphasized the necessity for a comprehensive and united approach in light of the pressing issue of climate change. This approach is imperative not only for safeguarding the environment but also for the very survival of humanity. She underscored the impor-

tance of embracing the life principles practiced by tribal communities, noting that there are valuable lessons to be learned from them on how to lead a prosperous and contented life while coexisting harmoniously with nature.

The President was presented with a memento by an artist belonging to the Mahar community of Kanha Tiger Reserve. The painting titled Baghdev in dot/ bindu style represents how Mahars engage in night

time worship rituals under the blue sky, seeking the tiger's eternal protection.

The inaugural was also graced by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS, MoEF&CC, Smt. Leena Nandan, Secretary, MoEF&CC, Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General, NHRC, Shri C. P. Goel, DG (Forests)& Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, Shri S. P. Yadav, Additional DGF (Project

Tiger) & Member Secretary, NTCA and senior officials from the government. A number of ambassadors/ high commissioner and other diplomats, eminent people, art and wildlife lovers, attended the meet. The exhibition showcased the exceptional talent of 43 artists from 12 different states across India, representing a myriad of art styles such as Gond, Bhil, Patachitra, Khovar, Sohrai, Warli, and many more.

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.

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 (Argulosis), 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

IN COURT

PMLA CASE: ED ARRESTS EX-JAMMU AND KASHMIR MINISTER LAL SINGH

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former Jammu and Kashmir minister Lal Singh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday.

This occurred shortly after an anti-corruption court dismissed his anticipatory bail application related to a money laundering case.

The federal agency had been investigating Lal Singh in connection with a case filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The case focused on an educational trust operated by his wife, former legislator Kanta Andotra.

Choudhary Lal Singh, who chairs the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP),

was apprehended in the evening from a residence in the Chawadi area of Sainik Colony on the outskirts of the city (Jammu). Reportedly, the former minister made efforts to elude arrest.

Upon learning of Singh's arrest, a group of his supporters, led by Andotra, gathered outside the ED office in Narwal. They attempted to enter but were stopped by CRPF personnel. Andotra pleaded for permission to meet her husband. To maintain law and order, additional police reinforcements were dispatched to the scene.

Lal Singh, a two-time MP and three-time MLA, switched from the Congress to the BJP in 2014 and served as a minister in the previous PDP-BJP government in Jam-

mu and Kashmir. This coalition government fell apart in June 2018 when the national party withdrew its support.

Several months before the government's collapse, Singh resigned from the BJP and founded the DSSP after facing backlash for participating in a rally supporting the accused in a rape and murder case involving an eight-year-old girl in Kathua in January 2018. He defended his participation, stating that he was there to "defuse the situation."

Earlier on the same day, the anti-corruption court in Jammu rejected Singh's bail application. However, his wife and their daughter Kranti Singh received relief as their interim anticipatory bail was extended until November 30, with instructions



to cooperate fully with the investigation agency.

Special Judge Bala Jyoti issued three separate orders after considering arguments presented by Special Public Prosecutor Ashwani Khajuria, who represented the ED, and advocate Rajesh Kotwal, who represented the applicants.

On November 1, Singh, his wife, and their daughter filed separate applications seeking pre-arrest bail for

and its surrounding areas as part of the money laundering investigation involving the educational trust of Andotra and a former government official. This investigation pertains to alleged irregularities in land acquisition for the trust.

The ED had questioned Singh on Saturday and Monday. On both days, scores of his supporters, led by his wife, protested outside the agency's headquarters, accusing the BJP of framing him in the case.

Last month, the ED conducted searches in Jammu

and its surrounding areas as part of the money laundering investigation involving the educational trust of Andotra and a former government official. This investigation pertains to alleged irregularities in land acquisition for the trust.

The money laundering case originated from a charge sheet filed by the CBI in October 2021, alleging criminal collusion in land issuance between January 4 and January 7, 2011. The charge sheet claimed that land was transferred to the trust without specifying the violation of the ceiling limit of 100 standard kanals under the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, resulting in undue financial gain to the trust.

In agreement with the ar-

guments presented by SPP Khujuria, the judge stated that due to the nature and gravity of the allegations and the stage of investigation, the investigating agency must be given adequate time for a thorough and effective investigation. Therefore, the court denied bail to Lal Singh, as it would hinder the ongoing investigation.

The court emphasized that the PMLA grants the ED extensive powers for search, seizure, and investigation, as money laundering is a serious threat not only to the financial system of the country but also to the global economy. Dismissing the former minister's bail application, the judge deemed it devoid of legal basis at this stage due to the serious nature of the al-

legations.

Regarding the application submitted by Andotra, the court noted that she already had absolute bail in the CBI charge sheet, which forms the basis of the predicate of offense. Furthermore, the court extended her interim bail until November 30, as the investigation was still ongoing, with a directive to cooperate with the investigating agency without fail.

Similarly, the court extended the interim bail of their daughter Kranti Singh, who serves as one of the trustees of the educational trust, until November 30. This extension came with instructions not to violate the conditions of the bail, including cooperating with the investigating agency without fail.

IN COURT

SC Upholds Order on 'Archakas' Appointment in TN Temples

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to vacate its September 25 order, which directed the Tamil Nadu government to maintain the existing conditions regarding the appointment of priests ('archakas') in temples following the 'Agamic' tradition in the state.

A bench comprising Justices A S Bopanna and M M Sundresh prima facie did not agree to submissions of senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government, that the state was entitled to appoint 'archakas'.

Mr. Dave argued that the appointment of 'archakas' is a secular function, and therefore, the state has the authority to make these appointments. The bench pointed out that the issue revolves around the state government not adhering to the procedures prescribed under the 'agama' tradition when appointing 'archakas' in temples of a specific denomination. The 'agamas' consist of tantric literature within Hindu schools, with three branches: 'Shaiva, Vaishnava, and Shakta.'



The top court was hearing petitions which alleged that the state government was interfering with the hereditary appointment system of 'archakas' in 'Agamic temples' by permitting individuals from other denominations to become 'archakas' after completing a one-year certificate course in 'archakas' offered by schools under the Tamil Nadu administration.

On September 25, the bench ordered a status quo, which, according to the state government, would halt the appointment of 2,405 'archakas' in temples across the state. The Supreme Court has set the petitions for further hearing on January 25, 2024, and clarified that it will not stay the ongoing

proceedings before the Madras High Court on a similar issue. The bench asked the lawyer to inform the high court that the Supreme Court is seized of the matter.

The state government, in its plea, has requested the vacation of the Supreme Court's order. It argued that since the 'agama' tradition does not specify qualifications, age, selection methods, or retirement criteria, the procedures outlined in Rules 7 and 9 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious Institutions Employees (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2020, should be followed to a certain extent. The suitable individuals, familiar with the 'agamas' followed in the relevant temple, should

be chosen following the procedures outlined in Rules 7 and 9.

The challenged government order concerns sending individuals who have completed 'Archakas Training schools' to receive practical training in temples under the guidance of senior 'Archakas' working in those temples. The state government argued that if the status quo order from September 25 is enforced, neither the 2,405 vacant 'archakas' positions in 'Agamic temples' can be filled, nor can the necessary training be provided to those who have completed courses at the Archakas Training School, causing significant difficulties in performing rituals in 'Agamic temples.'

Previously, the bench had issued notices to the state government and others based on a plea filed by the 'Srirangam Koil Miras Kainkaryaparagal Matrum Athanai Sarntha Koilgalin Miraskain-karyaparagalin Nalasangam,' an association of archakas. The plea sought the annulment of the state government's July 27 order and subsequent orders, alleging interference with the hereditary appointment of 'archakas.'

IN COURT

DELHI HC SEEKS CENTRE, GOVT STAND ON PIL TO DISTINGUISH RELIGION FROM DHARMA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the stand of the Centre and city government on a PIL seeking a direction to the authorities to use the "proper meaning" of the term "religion" and not use it as a synonym of "dharma" in the official documents.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma granted time to the governments for responding to the petition by lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay. The petition also sought a direction to include a chapter on "dharma" & "religion" in the syllabus of primary and secondary schools "in order to educate the masses and control the religion-based hatred and hate speeches."

"There is a colonial mindset which is being continued," stated the petitioner before the bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela. In his petition, the petitioner



asserted that "dharma" is not religion as the former is "non-divisive", "non-exclusive" and "transcends narrow boundaries of religion". "If we try to define religion then we can say that religion is a tradition, not dharma. Religion is a cult or a spiritual lineage that is called a 'sampradaya' (community). So, religion means community," the plea said as it prayed that "dharma" shouldn't be used as synonym of "religion" in documents like birth certificate, aadhaar card, school certificate, ration card, driving licence, domicile certificate,

death certificate and bank account etc.

The petition submitted, "In daily life, we say this person follows 'Vaishnav dharma' or Jain dharma, or someone follows Buddhism or Islam or Christianity that's not right. Instead, we should say that a person follows 'Vaishnav sampradaya' or this person follows 'Shiv sampradaya' or follows 'Buddha sampradaya'. This person follows Islam or Christian sampradaya."

It explained, "There have been many wars and warlike situations for religion. Religion works on a mass of

people. In religion, people follow someone or someone's path. On another side, dharma is a work of wisdom."

The petitioner further stated, "religion has been one of the most potent divisive forces in all history" while "dharma" is "different because it unites".

The petition stated, "There can never be divisions in dharma. Every interpretation is valid and welcome. No authority is too great to be questioned, too sacred to be touched. Unlimited interpretative freedom through free will is the quintessence of dharma, for dharma is as limitless as truth itself. No one can ever be its sole mouthpiece."

The petitioner therefore urged the court to pass appropriate directions considering the "present circumstances of religious wars, religious hatred and religious hate speeches". The matter would be heard next on January 16.

IN COURT

'ODD-EVEN SCHEME'S FATE DEPENDS ON SC REVIEWS': DELHI GOVT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Wednesday that the implementation of the odd-even car rationing scheme in the national capital will depend on a review of its effectiveness by the Supreme Court and the issuance of an order.

During a press conference, Environment Minister Gopal Rai stated that the city government would present the findings of two significant studies conducted by the Energy Policy Institute of the University of Chicago and the Delhi Technical University to assess the scheme's effectiveness for the Supreme Court's review.

Minister Rai emphasized that the decision to put the odd-even scheme into action would be contingent on the Supreme Court's evaluation and the issuance of an order. The matter is sched-



uled for the next hearing on Friday.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court questioned the efficacy of the Delhi government's scheme, which aims to reduce vehicular pollution, and referred to it as mere "optics." Rai had previously announced the flagship scheme, allowing cars to operate on alternate days based on their odd or

even number plates, to be enforced from November 13 to November 20.

In 2016, the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago and Evidence for Policy Design had assessed the impact of the odd-even system and determined that Delhi experienced a 14-16% reduction in PM2.5 levels during the hours when the scheme

was in effect in January of that year. However, there was no reduction in pollution when the scheme was reintroduced in April.

The entry of app-based taxis into Delhi has also been prohibited in accordance with the Supreme Court's directive, the minister confirmed.

Rai further mentioned that the Delhi government has instructed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to resume full operation of the Connaught Place smog tower and release the remaining funds to IIT Kanpur to restart a study aimed at identifying various sources of pollution in the capital.

Additionally, Rai announced that a special campaign would be conducted to monitor open burning of waste in Delhi, with 611 teams established for this purpose.

IN COURT

Manipur Transnational Conspiracy Case: M. Anand Singh Withdraws Bail Plea from NIA Court

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Special NIA court on Wednesday informed that the bail application of the accused, Moirangthem Anand Singh, who was arrested in connection with the Manipur Transnational Conspiracy case, has been withdrawn.

The lawyers of Moirangthem Anand Singh informed Additional Sessions Judge Sachin Gupta that the bail application was withdrawn without pressing or pursuing it on its merits.

The NIA had recently opposed the bail plea, citing Moirangthem Anand Singh's association with a proscribed organization and his arrest with sophisticated arms and ammunition in an area affected by ongoing strife. The NIA argued that releasing the accused on bail would hinder the ongoing investigation and that there was a high likelihood



that he would engage in the same activities again, exacerbating the security situation in Manipur.

The NIA also stated that the accused was in communication with several associates during a period of ethnic unrest in Manipur, and there was a high probability that he might abscond or engage in detrimental activities to influence other suspects and witnesses, including tampering with evidence, if

not kept in judicial custody during the investigation.

According to the NIA, Moirangthem Anand Singh was arrested on September 22, 2023, in Imphal West Police Station. He was brought to New Delhi after his arrest and produced before the Delhi Court on September 23, 2023. Subsequently, the court remanded him to judicial custody.

The case is related to a transnational conspiracy

allegedly orchestrated by Myanmar-based leadership of terror outfits with the aim of waging war against the government of India by exploiting ethnic unrest in Manipur.

The NIA had registered a suo moto case in New Delhi on July 19, 2023, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The investigation revealed that the leadership based in Myanmar of insurgent groups and proscribed terrorist organizations was recruiting overground workers (OGWs), cadres, and sympathizers to strengthen their ranks and carry out attacks on security forces and opposing ethnic groups in Manipur. To achieve this, the leadership collected arms, ammunition, and explosives through unlawful means, including the plunder and pillage of government facilities and resources.

IN COURT

PLEA IN ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT: MATHURA JANMABHOOMI DISPUTE; LORD KRISHNA'S BIRTHPLACE LIES BENEATH IDGAH MOSQUE, APPOINTED COMMISSION TO INSPECT IT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case was hearing the plea moved concerning the Mathura's Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah Mosque dispute, wherein an application has been moved in High Court seeking the appointment of the court commissioner in order to inspect the Mosque.



The bench headed by Justice Mayank Kumar Jain in the case observed and give liberty to the defendants (which includes the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board) for filing its objections to the same on November 07, 2023.

which has been filed by the deity (the Bhagwan Shri Krishna Virajman) and 7 others through advocates Hari Shankar Jain, Vishnu Shankar Jain, Prabhash Pandey, and Devki Nandan, wherein the application claimed that the Lord Sri Krishna's birthplace lies beneath the Mosque and that there are

many signs which establish that the Mosque is a Hindu temple.

Further, it has been submitted before the court that there exists a lotus-shaped pillar which is a classic characteristic of Hindu temples and an image of Sheshnaag, one of the Hindu deities who protected Lord Krishna on

the night of his birth, is also present there.

It has also been added in the application that at the base of the pillar of the Mosque, Hindu religious symbols and engravings are also visible.

The court observed that it has been prayed before the Allahabad High Court to appoint a Commission which consist of three advocates with specific directions to them for submitting its report.

Further, the court seek direction for photography and videography of the entire proceedings.

The court also noted that the said application has been filed while advancing the argument that the factual aspects of the disputed structure have to be brought before the court for proper

adjudication of the dispute as without the actual factual position of the disputed areas, thus, the effective adjudication of the case is not possible.

Therefore, the application in question has been moved in a pending original suit pending in the High Court, inter alia, wherein seeking the declaration that the land in dispute (which includes the area where Shahi Idgah Mosque is situated) vests in the deity Lord Shree Krishna Virajman and to direct the defendants (which includes UP Sunni U.P. Sunni Central Waqf Board) to remove the Mosque.

It has also been claimed in the suit that the Mathura's Shahi Idgah mosque was built under the orders of Emperor Aurangzeb, adjacent to the Krishna Janmabhumi,

the place which is believed to be the place where Lord Krishna was born, after demolishing a Hindu temple.

The Supreme Court is presently hearing the special leave petition filed by the mosque committee wherein it challenged the May 2023 order of the Allahabad High Court transferring to itself a clutch of suits over the ongoing land dispute.

The High Court in the case observed and has dismissed the public interest litigation, PIL wherein seeking the recognition of the disputed site as Krishna Janmabhoomi and the removal of the mosque after noting that several suits for declaration, injunction, and the right to worship at the site as well as for removal of the structure was already pending before it.

IN COURT

Delhi High Court Granted Divorce To Singer Honey Singh, His Wife

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI



The Delhi High Court in the case observed and has granted divorce to Bollywood Singer and Actor Honey Singh and his wife.

The bench headed by principal judge (Family Court) Paramjit Singh in the case observed and has granted the decree of divorce to the parties after a settlement agreement was arrived between them to put an end to all the disputes, which includes a domestic violence case filed against the singer by his wife.

In the present case, Singh's wife withdrew the domestic violence case after the settlement. Thus, it has been alleged by her that Singh and his family members were brash and violent towards her and that the singer has a history of criminal intimidation, hurt, brutal violence

towards people who do not give into his demands.

The Principal Judge while pronouncing the order asked Singh if he wants to try and live with the wife, to which he replied that there was no such further chance of them living together.

Accordingly, the court granted the divorce.

The counsel, Advocates Ishaan Mukherjee along with Advocates Amrita Chatterjee and Jaspal Singh appeared for Honey Singh. The counsel, Advocate Vivek Singh appeared for Shalini Talwar.

IN COURT

Delhi High Court Refused To Take Custody Of Minor Daughter Recovered Pregnant; Mother Moved Habeas Corpus Plea In Delhi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case S. v. State of GNCT Delhi and Ors observed and has recently disposed of the plea moved of habeas corpus, wherein the missing girl, a minor, was recovered but her parents/petitioner refused to take custody in view of her pregnancy.

In the present case, the petition was moved by the mother of the girl, seeking directions for her production before the court.

It was alleged before the court that the boy had lured the daughter away, established physical relations with her and made public certain illicit videos that he had made of her.

The petitioner in the case also averred that an FIR un-

der section 463 of the Indian Penal Code, IPC had been registered at her behest.

However, the police kept telling her that her daughter was enjoying family life with her husband.

The Standing Counsel appearing for the State appraised the said court that the accused had been sent to judicial custody and the missing girl had been recovered.

Further, he also informed the court that the said girl was pregnant by 6 weeks.

The bench comprising of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Shalinder Kaur in the case observed and has interacted with the recovered girl, who was present in court. The court observed that during the investigation, the girl admitted that she was 6 weeks' pregnant and expressed a willingness to go

with her parents.

Therefore, the court observed that at this stage, her parents refused to take her with them and they explained their refusal by stating that it was not the first time that their daughter had been allured or was carrying pregnancy. Thus, on the said occasion, they said, they did not wish to take her with them.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has directed for the recovered girl to be taken to a women's shelter.

The counsel, Mr. Akshay Raj & Mr. Hunny Sharma, Advocates appeared for petitioner.

The counsel, Mr. Sanjay Lao, Standing Counsel (Crl.) with Mr. Abhinav Arya & Mr. Priyam Aggarwal, Advocates represented the respondent(s).

IN COURT

DELHI HIGH COURT RESTRAINED MANUFACTURERS FROM USING 'NILKRANTI' DEVICE MARK IN SUIT BY 'NILKAMAL', BUT HOLDS NO SIMILARITY BETWEEN BOTH MARKS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Nilkamal Crates and Containers and Anr. v. Ms. Reena Rajpal and Anr observed and has restrained two plastic chair manufacturers from using 'Nilkranti' device mark or any other device mark which is confusingly or deceptively similar to the device marks of Nilkamal.

The bench headed by Justice C Hari Shankar in the case observed and has rejected the Nilkamal's prayer in its trademark infringement suit in order to restrain the manufacturers from using "Nilkranti" as a word mark, either for chairs or for any other item manufactured by them. The court stated that there being no such similarity between NILKAMAL and NILKRANTI. Therefore, the



latter half of the two marks 'KAMAL' and 'KRANTI', individually have their own distinct etymological connotations in vernacular, with the one meaning a lotus and the other a revolution.

The bench of Justice C Hari Shankar stated that the mark NILKRANTI, seen as a word mark, cannot be regarded as confusingly similar to NILKAMAL mark, while adding that the common prefix "NIL" is merely the first of three syllables which constituted the word. The court in the case ob-

served that it being the well-settled that the rival marks are to be considered as whole marks, and not by vivisectioning them into their individual components. Thus, the principal also finds its statutory avatar in Section 177 of the Trade Marks Act, which specifically holds that plaintiffs are entitled to claim exclusivity over a registered mark as a whole and not over individual parts of the mark, unless such parts are registered by themselves as marks and the plaintiff in the matter do not have any

registration for the 'NIL' prefix of the NILKAMAL mark.

In the present case, the Nilkamal Crates and Containers filed the suit against two manufacturers who were using 'Nilkranti' mark for making plastic moulded chairs, as also done by the former. The court in the case observed that while Nilkamal made out a prima facie for injuncting the defendant manufacturers, pending the disposal of the suit, from using the device mark Nilkranti.

However, no such case for injuncting the defendants from using the word mark NILKRANTI was made out.

Therefore, the plaintiff claims a monopoly over the prefix "NIL" so as to injunct all others from using "NIL" as a prefix for the marks in respect of plastic moulded chairs or any other item or furniture for that mat-

ter. Thus, the marks have to be compared as a whole mark and there being no such phonetic similarity between NILKAMAL and NILKRANTI.

Further, the bench of Justice Shankar stated that there being no such reason as to why the court should presume that a consumer of average intelligence and imperfect recollection will either confuse NILKAMAL with NILKRANTI or believe that there some association between the two marks.

The counsel, Advocates Ms. Anju Agrawal, Dr. Mohan Dewan, Mr. Rahul Maratha, Mr. D. Pawar, Mr. B. Ghosh, Mr. Vardhman Jain and Mr. M.K. Bhargava appeared for the Plaintiff.

The counsel, Advocates Mr. Satish Kumar, Mr. Sreejan Pankaj and Mr. Anil Kumar Sahu represented the defendants.

IN COURT

PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT DIRECTED NDPS ACCUSED TO SURRENDER ALL WEAPONS AS PRE-CONDITION TO BAIL; PARAMOUNT TO PROTECT DRUG DETECTION SQUAD

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case Ravinder Singh v. State of Punjab observed and has directed the accused person under NDPS Act to surrender all his weapons as a pre-bail condition to bail.

The court in the case observed that the given the background of allegations against him, it becomes 'paramount to protect the drug detection squad, their family members, as well as the members of society.'

The bench headed by Anoop Chitkara in the case stated that incapacitating the accused would be one of the primary options until the filing of the closure report or discharge, or acquittal.

The court stated that it would be appropriate to restrict the possession of firearms.

The bench in the case observed and has clarified that the sad restriction is being



imposed based on the preponderance of evidence of probability and not of evidence of certainty, i.e., beyond reasonable doubt; and as such, it is not to be construed as an intermediate sanction.

The court stated that while giving the nature of the allegations and the other circumstances peculiar to this case, the petitioner shall surrender all weapons, firearms, ammunition, if any, along with the arms license

to the concerned authority within fifteen days from release from prison and inform the Investigator about the compliance.

However, the court stated that subject to the Indian Arms Act, 1959, the petitioner shall be entitled to renew and take it back in case of acquittal in this case, provided otherwise permissible in the concerned rules.

Adding to it, the court stated that while restricting the firearms would instill

confidence in the victim(s), their families, and society; it would also restrain the accused from influencing the witnesses and repeating the offence.

The court made the said observations while hearing the bail application moved by the man accused of trading contraband and found in possession of 1 kg of heroin.

Thereafter, an FIR was lodged under sections 21, 21(c), 22, 25 & 29 of NDPS Act, 1985.

It has also been noted by the said court that as per the custody certificate, the petitioner's total custody is 03 years, 02 months, and 19 days. Thus, the indisputably has no criminal antecedents and has already complete pre-trial custody exceeding two years and six months and he is entitled to bail based on Dheeraj Kumar Shukla v. The State of Uttar Pradesh.

The court stated that as per the judgement in Dheeraj Kumar's, the bail can be granted even when the case

involves commercial quantity under NDPS Act when the following three conditions are fulfilled:

1. The custody of more than 2 years and 6 months and the delay was not attributable to the accused.
2. The trial is at an initial stage.
3. The petitioner being the first offender.

The bench headed by Justice Chitkara in the case observed and has noted that the applicant fulfils all the three criteria's and granted him the relief by imposing certain conditions.

The court placed Reliance upon Mohammed Zubair v. State of NCT of Delhi, wherein it has been held by the Supreme Court that the bail conditions imposed by the Court must not only have a nexus to the purpose that they seek to serve but must also be proportional to the purpose of imposing them.

Accordingly, the court disposed of the plea.

IN COURT

SC Summoned Chairperson Of Delhi Pollution Control Committee; Ludicrous That Smog Towers Are Not Working

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case has summoned the the Chairperson of Delhi Pollution Control Committee, DPCC on next date of its hearing in air pollution matter i.e., November 10, 2023.

The bench in its order stated that the smog tower which has been instituted in pursuance to the directions issued earlier albeit on experimental basis, is not working. Thus, on the query, the answer is some disciplinary action is proposed against an officer, who being the Chairman of DPCC. This being ludicrous and we want the tower to be working, as to against which officer what they do is their business.

The counsel, Senior Advocate Aparajitha Singh (Amicus), pointed out the aspect of smog towers being non-functional.



In the present case, the intervention application was filed in the case MC Mehta v. Union of India matter seeking the following prayers:

1. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee is directed to immediately release data from the study on 'Real Time Source Apportionment and Forecasting for Advance Air Pollution Management in Delhi, commissioned by it,
2. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee is directed to publish real time source apportionment data for the sources of air pollution in

Delhi on an ongoing basis, at least for this Winter Season of 2023-2024.

3. The Government of NCT of Delhi as well as the Delhi Pollution Control Committee is directed to re-open and operationalize the Smog Tower installed at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi.

The court in the case observed and has directed the Chairperson of DPCC to remain personally present in Court on Friday.

It has also been submitted during the hearing with regards to smog towers that as per a direction of the Supreme Court a smog tower was set up, at the expense to 20 crores to exchequer in CP. Now, I have read newspapers reports that it is not functioning.... Let the Delhi Govt. in order to ensure that the smog tower starts functioning.

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. Johnny G Plate, former communication and information technology minister, was arrested in May after being questioned as part of an investigation by the attorney general's office in Jakarta. He was detained with five other suspects, including three from the private sector, after some 60 people were questioned about the procurement process.

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. The National Center for Seismology reported that the earthquake had a depth of 45 kilometers. The earthquake's coordinates were recorded at a latitude of -6.35 and a longitude of 129.59. This seismic event was a notable occurrence, and its impact may have been felt across the region, potentially prompting emergency response efforts and assessment of potential damages and risks.

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. Overturning Kathleen Folbigg's convictions would end a legal battle that has reached the highest level of Australia's court system to clear her of responsibility for her children's deaths, which happened over a decade between 1989 and 1999.

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. The attack occurred late on Tuesday night at the Alhaj Oil and Gas Company in the Dera Ismail Khan district bordering the South Waziristan tribal district. Following the shootout, two policemen were killed and

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." He added that the need for a ceasefire is becoming "more urgent with every passing hour."

"The parties to the conflict-and, indeed, the international community--face an immediate and fundamental responsibility: to stop this inhuman collective suffering and dramatically expand humanitarian aid to Gaza," he said.

The UN chief said 89 staff members of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) have been killed since the Israel-Hamas war began a month ago. More UN



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.

UNRWA on Tuesday said that at least 26 members had been injured.

"We are beyond devastated. Our colleagues will be greatly missed, and they will not be

forgotten. We share this grief with each other and with the families," the agency said on X.

The UN Secretary-General's comments come four weeks after Israel declared war on Hamas, following the terrorist organisation's October 7 attack that killed 1,400 people in Israel and saw about 240 others kidnapped.

Israel retaliated by launching an air and ground offensive on Gaza, vowing to eliminate the militant group. Meanwhile, Israeli Defence

Minister Yoav Gallant has declared that Israel will retain "complete freedom of action to respond to any situation in the Gaza Strip" once the ongoing war ends, CNN reported on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Gallant emphasised that "at the end of this 'campaign,' Hamas, as a military organisation or governing body in Gaza, will cease to exist," CNN reported citing Ynet news website.

"There will be no security threat to Israel from Gaza, and Israel will retain complete freedom of action to respond to any situation in the Gaza Strip that poses any kind of threat," Gallant was heard saying on the Ynet recording.

These statements align with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent remarks that Israel would have overall security responsibility in Gaza for an indefinite period following

the war. However, the Israeli government has not provided detailed plans for governing Gaza should Hamas be eliminated.

The situation in Gaza post-war remains uncertain, with concerns about how Israel plans to manage it. The latest violence has caused more than 1,400 deaths in Israel and at least 10,022 in Gaza as of November 6, according to authorities on both sides. Israel will have "security responsibility" over the Gaza Strip for an indefinite period following its war against Hamas, Netanyahu announced in an interview aired Monday night, The Times of Israel reported.

"I think Israel will for an indefinite period have security responsibility," Netanyahu told ABC News. "We've seen what happens when we don't have that... security responsibility, what we have is the eruption of Hamas terror on a scale that we couldn't imagine."

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. As of Tuesday evening, 342 people remain hospitalized, of whom 51 are in serious condition, according to Israeli Health Ministry data.

Hamas is believed to be holding at least 239 people hostage in Gaza. Along with Israeli citizens, this figure includes 25 Thai nationals, 21 Argentinians, 18 Germans, 10 Americans, seven French, seven Russians, four Hungarians, three Poles, three Portuguese, two Brits, two Filipinos, two Romanians and two Tanzanians.



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. Since Oct. 7, the Israel Defense Forces has attacked over 14,000 terror targets in Gaza, IDF Spokesman Brig. Gen. Daniel Hagari said on Tuesday night. Troops have killed "thousands of terrorists above and beneath the ground" in the coastal enclave, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

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.

"Today, we mark one month since the terrible massacre committed by Hamas terrorists who infiltrated Israel. They committed the most horrible atrocities imaginable, murdered children, harmed women and kidnapped hundreds of civilians, including elderly people and children," Cohen posted on X on Tuesday.

"We will never forget and never forgive. We will destroy Hamas, a terrorist organization worse than ISIS, and we will do everything in our power for the return of the hostages."

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 for 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. Taking to X, Blinken stated, "Russia started the war in Ukraine and could end it at any time by withdrawing its forces and stopping its brutal attacks. Until it does, the United States has a clear way forward: Help Ukraine defend itself. Support the Ukrainian people. Hold Russia accountable."

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

"I joined @SecDef, @SecBlinken, and @PowerUSAID in a letter urging Congress to fully support @POTUS' request to sustain our 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.

The four leaders sent a letter to US House of Representa-

tives Speaker Mike Johnson, US House of Representatives Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, US Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and US Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.

The letter stated, "We therefore strongly urge you to provide USD 11.8 billion to Ukraine in direct budget support, a cornerstone of the President's supplemental request. Our investments in Ukraine's success and our work to secure assistance from others will allow us to reduce our budget support from USD 14.4 billion in FY2023 to USD 11.8 billion in FY2024."

The leaders noted, "The Ad-

ministration's request of USD 11.8 billion for direct budget support represents the minimum amount needed to help cover Ukraine's baseline needs, after accounting for other possible international support. We urge you to fully support the Administration's request to provide USD 11.8 billion in direct budget support now to help Ukraine win the war, thereby advancing US national security."

"A successful Ukraine will demonstrate the resolve of the United States and its partners to defend the territorial sovereignty and fundamental freedoms of democratic countries against authoritarian aggression.

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. Ex-President Donald Trump's eldest daughter, who has been in his inner circle in both business and politics, is due on the stand Wednesday, after trying unsuccessfully to block her testimony. Unlike her father and her brothers, Eric Trump and Donald



Ivanka Trump.

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

James alleges that Donald Trump's asset values were

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. That decision came with provisions that could strip the ex-president of oversight of such marquee properties as Trump Tower, though an appeals court is allowing him continued control of his holdings, at least for now.

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. The report suggests that since 1978, ice shelves in North Greenland have lost more than 35 per cent of their total volume, with three of them collapsing completely.

The study examines eight ice shelves, which act as floating extensions of Pe-



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

The authors of the study used thousands of satellite images, along with climate models and measurements

from the field. The study describes the scientist's methods stating, "We document the evolution of basal melting rates, calving fluxes, ice front/grounding line (GL) positions, ice shelf volume, velocity and discharge using a combination of multi-

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. With the collapse of the Zachariae Isstrom glacier's ice shelf in 2003, the ice discharge into the ocean doubled, accord-

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.

"After the establishment of the interim Afghan government in August 2021, we had a strong hope that there would be

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.

"But unfortunately, after the establishment of the interim Afghan govt, there has been a 60 per cent increase in terror incidents and a 500 per cent rise

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.

"During this time, 15 Afghan citizens were also among the people involved in suicide attacks. Other than this, till now, 64 Afghan citizens were killed while fighting Pakistan's law enforcement agencies during the counterterrorism campaign," he said.

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. Health Minister Vili Beros

said several people have sought medical help for "injuries inflicted by suspected chemical elements." Most have had mild symptoms and will be released home, he said.

Health authorities ordered the "suspected" products pulled out from shops, restaurants and elsewhere. They did not say which

products were being withdrawn, but photos on social media from shops suggested they were Coca-Cola brands.

"Preliminary we can say that two (cases) were directly linked to the consuming of certain drinks while we are yet to determine the rest," Beros said. "There is no need for panic but there is for caution." The Coca-Cola Co. in

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 clapperboard 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-

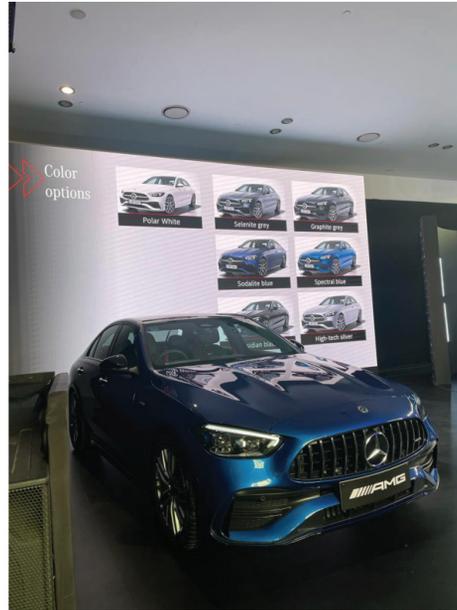
balancing driving stability with first-class comfort. In all, there are 7 metallic paint options and 3 MANUFATUR paint options on the SUV.

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.

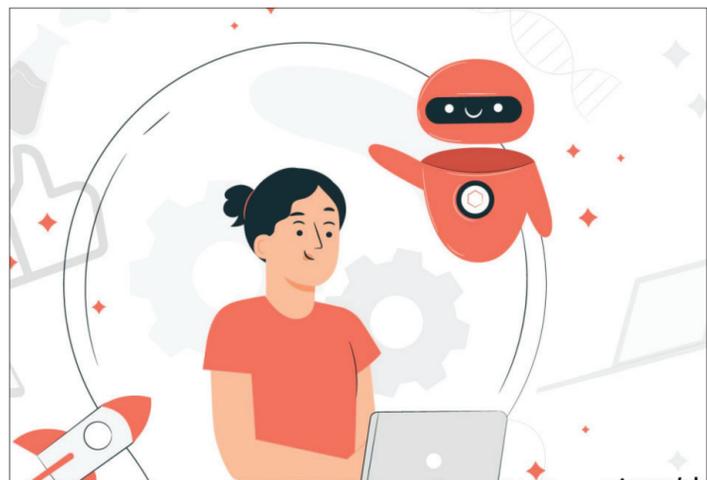
A Response to the Generative AI Challenge

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

siveness 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 change 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

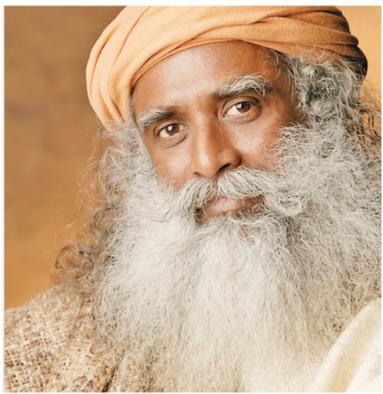
"Cybersecurity has taken center stage, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a game-changer. AI has emerged as a powerful ally in defending against evolving cyber threats. Its ability to analyze vast datasets, detect anomalies, and respond in real-time provides a robust defense 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.

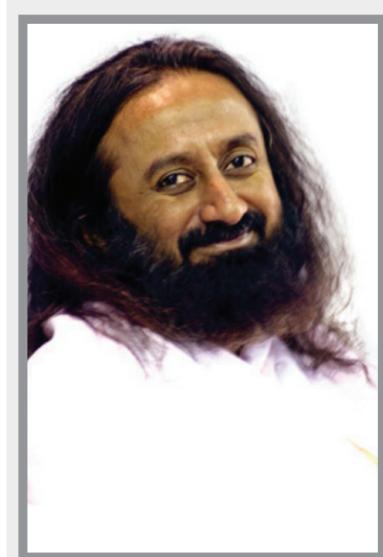
And this illumination, this luminosity, does not come from anything outside you. It explodes from your innermost core. You are like a lamp which is covered by many curtains, dark curtains, and no light comes out of it. Then by and by you remove one curtain, then another curtain, then another curtain. 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

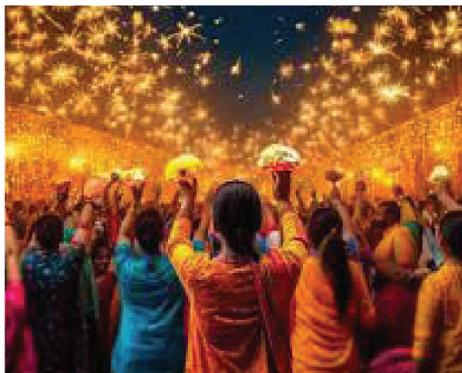
Diwali, the jubilant festival of lights, is celebrated with grandeur and gaiety across the world. While the skies shimmer with fireworks and homes glisten with candles and lamps, the true essence of Diwali lies in its ability to illuminate the inner corridors of our being. This year, as the festival 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.rajeshmiiyer.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, Prab-

hakaran 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 Bile 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.

CAKEWALK

ENGLAND'S SPINNERS LEAD THEIR TEAM TO A RESOUNDING VICTORY

TDG NETWORK
PUNE

After a disappointing tournament, the England team finally had a reason to celebrate. They secured a convincing 160-run victory over the Netherlands, propelling them from the last position in the standings to the seventh spot. The Netherlands might rue a missed chance, considering they had England in a tough spot at 192/6.

On a good batting pitch, England suffered their usual collapse, but Ben Stokes, in his typical fashion, played a heroic role by scoring his first World Cup century. He formed a crucial partnership of 129 runs for the 7th wicket with Chris Woakes, who contributed a rapid fifty.

The game took a dramatic turn with 124 runs scored in the final 10 overs. Subsequently, Woakes, after his batting heroics, delivered an exceptional new-ball spell



England's team found redemption with a convincing 160-run victory over the Netherlands.

alongside Willey. They applied pressure on the Netherlands, taking early wickets and disrupting their run rate.

By the time the spin bowlers came into play, the Netherlands were considerably behind and had a substantial deficit to cover. As a result, they took risks against Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali, which did not pay off. The last five

wickets fell for a mere 15 runs. Ben Stokes was declared player of the match for his stupendous century.

England captain Jos Buttler won the toss and opted to bat against the Netherlands in the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023 here at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Wednesday. The England innings had

three distinct phases, resulting in them reaching a formidable total of 339. They made a strong start, with Dawid Malan playing excellently and scoring 87 off 74 balls before getting run out.

After 20 overs, England was in a strong position at 133/1. However, they then experienced a familiar batting collapse, losing five

wickets for just 59 runs, putting them in a difficult situation. Nevertheless, it was Ben Stokes, as usual, who came to the rescue.

He found a capable partner in Chris Woakes, and together they added 129 runs for the 7th wicket. Significantly, they helped England score 124 runs in the final 10 overs. Stokes went from 50 to 100 in just 20 balls, and Woakes quickly reached his fifty.

In the end, the Netherlands struggled to bowl effectively in the death overs, failing to execute their deliveries properly on what was a great batting pitch.

After the innings, Dawid Malan went on to say that we always try to take the aggressive option. I just got a few nice half-volleys early on, which I was lucky to put away. After that start, we were looking for a really big score, and I think the Netherlands bowled really well in the middle overs.

INDIAN DOMINANCE

Gill and Siraj achieve top spots in ICC ODI rankings

TDG NETWORK
DUBAI

India opener Shubman Gill and pacer Mohammed Siraj grabbed the top positions in the batting and bowling charts, respectively, in the ICC ODI rankings on Wednesday. While Gill replaced Pakistan skipper Babar Azam from the top of the batters' chart, Siraj displaced South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj in the bowlers' list.

Gill displaced Babar on the back of his solid start to India's campaign at the ongoing World Cup and, in the process, became just the fourth player from his country behind Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Virat Kohli to hold the No. 1 ODI batter ranking.

The right-hander has contributed scores of 92 against Sri Lanka and 23 against South Africa over the last week and amassed a total of 219 runs from six innings at the ongoing tournament. Babar has totalled 282



runs from eight knocks at the World Cup and dropped six rating points below Gill into second place as his reign of more than two years as the No. 1 ranked ODI batter in the world came to an end.

Among other Indian batters, Virat Kohli has risen to fourth place following his sensational run in the World Cup, while skipper Rohit Sharma is placed sixth.

Kohli is currently India's highest run-scorer, amassing 543 in the eighth innings at an average of 108.60, including two centuries and four fifties.

Kohli is one rating point ahead of third-placed

Quinton de Kock of South Africa. Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer also rose 17 spots to be placed 18th in the rankings.

Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman (up three spots to 11th) and Afghanistan counterpart Ibrahim Zadran (up six spots to 12th) also made good ground. Meanwhile, among bowlers, Siraj rose to the top spot with his impressive effort so far in the tournament.

Among other Indian bowlers, fellow Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has risen three spots to eighth, while Mohammed Shami jumped seven spots to be placed 10th on the chart.

BRUTAL INNINGS

Maxwell shatters 17 records, making cricket history

SUNIL YASH KALRA
MUMBAI

In a thrilling showdown at the ICC World Cup 2023, Australian powerhouse Glenn Maxwell played a match-winning innings, snatching victory from Afghanistan's grasp. Maxwell's explosive knock of 201 not out off 128 balls secured Australia's place in the semifinals, as they triumphed over Afghanistan by three wickets.

Afghanistan had set a target of 291 runs, and in response, Maxwell's double-century propelled Australia to a remarkable victory. His heroics came at a critical

junction when Australia was in dire straits, teetering at 7 wickets for just 91 runs. Maxwell joined forces with the skipper, Pat Cummins, forging an unbroken partnership worth 202 runs for the eighth wicket, ultimately propelling Australia into the coveted semifinals. In the process, Maxwell etched his name into the record books with a double century, becoming only the third team to reach the semifinals.

Ibrahim Zadran was Afghanistan's standout performer, notching an unbeaten 129 runs, with Rashid Khan contributing an unbeaten 35 runs. Australia's Josh Hazlewood claimed

two wickets, while Mitchell Starc, Glenn Maxwell, and Adam Zampa each secured one wicket. Maxwell's incredible feat included an unbeaten 201 runs, with Mitchell Marsh adding 24 runs. For Afghanistan, Naveen Ul Haq, Azmatullah Omarzai, and Rashid Khan secured two wickets each.

In an interview on the Dafa News Cricket Show, Zimbabwe's national player and coach, Tasmeen Granger, commented on Maxwell's explosive innings, stating, "Maxwell has made history as the only cricketer in ODI history to score a double century while chasing a target. Before this, Pakistan opener

Fakhar Zaman held the record with 193 runs against South Africa in 2021, followed by former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson (185 not out), former Indian captain MS Dhoni (183 not out), and the legendary Virat Kohli (183). Maxwell's achievement also marks the first double century for Australia in ODI cricket."

Tasmeen highlighted that Maxwell secured the second-fastest double century in ODI cricket, with India's Ishan Kishan leading the pack with his 126-ball feat. At the same time, West Indies legend Chris Gayle follows in third place with a 138-ball double century. Further elaborating

on Maxwell's remarkable performance, Tasmin noted, "Maxwell now holds the record for the highest score by a non-opener batsman in ODIs, surpassing Zimbabwe's Charles Coventry's unbeaten 194 runs against Bangladesh in 2009. He ranks behind only the West Indies' Viv Richards (189 not out vs. England, 1994). Maxwell's brilliant innings place him third in the list of the highest individual scores in the World Cup, behind Martin Guptill of New Zealand, who set the record with an unbeaten 237 runs against the West Indies in 2015, and Chris Gayle's 215 against Zimbabwe in 2015."

BRUTAL SHOTS

WISH WE COULD HAVE PUT FIELDERS IN STANDS: TROTT

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

As Glenn Maxwell's brutal shots kept soaring into the Mumbai skyline, Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott wished there was a rule to station fielders on the stands, as that was the only way to get him out. Maxwell made the most of a dropped catch—a simple regulation chance at a short fine leg spilled by Muejeb Ur Rahman off Noor Ahmed—as he stroked his way to a sensational 201 not out off only 128 balls, hitting 21 fours and 10 sixes. This was after Australia was down and out at 91 for 7 in pursuit of 292.

Trott, who has been heralded for taking Afghanistan to the next level in this World Cup, lamented the ordinary fielding effort shown by his players.

"I am sure there are a few things—maybe one or two things—that you could have done differently, but that is



cricket, and there are always going to be things you want to have back," Trott told the media after Afghanistan's loss. "But he kept hitting them in the stands, so we cannot put fielders in the stands. I wish we could have," he added.

"But, full credit to him, the way that he played to get a double hundred is phenomenal. He deserved to win the game; he got a double hundred," Trott continued.

The Afghanistan coach admitted his team did not have the right mindset even though they had the game in

their grasp at one stage, having reduced Australia to 91 for seven inside 19 overs.

"I think when, obviously, unfortunately, the second catch went down, everyone just seemed to sort of think—just waiting for him, you know, Maxwell to get out," Trott said.

"I did not see a lot of encouragement or people cheering each other on and encouraging each other. It seemed to sort of like the attitude was a little bit, well, we will just, hopefully 'we will still win' type-thing," Trott said.

CRUCIAL CLASH

SEMI-FINAL DREAMS: NEW ZEALAND VS. SRI LANKA PROMISE THRILLS

SUNIL YASH KALRA
BENGALURU

The M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru is set to host the 41st match of the ICC ODI World Cup 2023, featuring a clash between New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Known as the graveyard for bowlers, this ground has witnessed numerous boundaries, setting the stage for an exhilarating contest. New Zealand enters this crucial encounter knowing that victory is imperative to keep their hopes alive for a spot in the semi-finals.

While New Zealand has already secured a place in the World Cup semi-finals, Sri Lanka, unfortunately, will not be part of the semi-final lineup. In this World Cup, New Zealand has won four out of eight matches and suffered four losses, while Sri Lanka has managed only two victories in eight encounters, facing defeat on six occasions.

In the 101 ODI matches played between New Zealand and Sri Lanka, New Zealand has emerged

New Zealand & Sri Lanka
in CWC23
Team Batting by Phase

Overs	Team	Inns	Batters	Runs	Run Ra	Ave	Dots	BpD	Bdrys	BpBdry	BdryRuns%	Ave Runs	Ave Wkts
01-10	New Zealand	8	5	414	5.6	46.00	313	1.5	73	6.6	73.43	56	1
01-10	Sri Lanka	7	9	339	5.27	24.21	285	1.5	55	7.7	71.98	53	2
11-40	New Zealand	8	13	1398	6.3	60.78	623	2.2	159	8.8	50.79	183	3
11-40	Sri Lanka	7	16	972	5.85	33.52	508	2.1	110	9.6	48.77	147	4
41-50	New Zealand	6	10	432	8.52	24.00	102	3.1	48	6.6	55.09	76	3
41-50	Sri Lanka	5	12	192	5.59	16.00	118	1.8	23	9.4	54.17	40	2

New Zealand & Sri Lanka
in CWC23
Team Bowling by Phase

Overs	Bowling Team	Inns	Bowlers	Wkts	RC	Overs	BB	RPO	RpW	BpW	BpD	BpBdry	Ave Runs	Ave Wkts
01-10	Sri Lanka	7	9	10	370	70	420	5.29	37	42	1.50	7	54	2
01-10	New Zealand	8	5	8	457	80	480	5.71	57.13	60	1.50	6.7	57	1
11-40	Sri Lanka	7	13	21	1192	198.4	1192	6	56.76	57	2.2	10.3	171	3
11-40	New Zealand	8	10	33	1237	220.1	1321	5.62	37.48	40	2.2	9.9	156	4
41-50	Sri Lanka	5	7	8	426	43.2	260	9.83	53.25	33	4.8	6.3	86	2
41-50	New Zealand	6	9	16	405	53.5	323	7.52	25.31	20	2.7	7.9	68	3

victorious in 51 matches, with Sri Lanka winning 41 matches. Eight matches ended without a result, and one match resulted in a tie.

In the 27 matches contested on neutral venues, New Zealand holds an edge, winning 15 games, while Sri Lanka has claimed vic-

tory in 12.

The first ODI between New Zealand and Sri Lanka dates back to June 9, 1979, when New Zealand secured a 9-wicket victory. Their most recent clash took place on March 31, 2023, ending with New Zealand winning by six

wickets.

Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy pitch is renowned as a paradise for batsmen. The relatively small ground encourages hard hitters to unleash a flurry of fours and sixes, setting the stage for a high-scoring encounter. In the last 10 matches

played at this venue, the team batting first has averaged a score of 304 runs. Notably, chasing a target of 350 runs is considered quite manageable on this ground.

With a pitch that aids batting, teams would prefer to set a formidable total if they win the toss and elect to bat first, aiming for a score well beyond 350. Furthermore, the ground's statistics reveal that teams batting in the second innings have triumphed in 60 percent of the matches, making it likely that the toss-winning captain would opt to bowl first.

New Zealand's recent encounter at the Chinnaswamy Stadium was marred by rain and concluded with a defeat via the DLS method against Pakistan. In that match, New Zealand posted a formidable 401 runs, with Rachin Ravindra contributing an innings of 108 runs, while Kane Williamson scored 95 runs. In response, Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman blazed through the bowlers with a century in just 63 balls.

STRENGTHEN

New Zealand eyes Ferguson's comeback to bolster bowling

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

New Zealand's bowling unit has been underwhelming for a large part of the World Cup, and skipper Kane Williamson on Wednesday hoped returning pacer Lockie Ferguson could impart some fire to their attack alongside new ball pair Trent Boult and Tome Southee.

Ferguson had missed the last couple of games with right Achilles injury. His presence could be vital for New Zealand as they face Sri Lanka in a must-win match here on Thursday.

"He (Ferguson) balances out our attack nicely and made some really valuable contributions in the tournament and brings a bit of experience as well."

"So, naturally comes in and bowls with that high pace and it complements our new



ball bowlers. So, we'll have to have a look at the surface and decide on our balance," said Williamson during the pre-match press meet.

Williamson backed left-arm pacer Boult to come good in the crunch game against the Lankans.

Boult has taken 10 wickets from eight matches in the tournament but he really has not been able to make an impact with the new ball as he often does.

"He's world class. The second half (of WC) or a few of

these games that we've had, the pitches have been very good and players have been playing well. It can be quite dependent on the assistance you might get as well with the new ball." "He's very experienced and done that on a number of occasions. There's another opportunity tomorrow for the guys to go out and operate and try and apply their skills," he added.

Williamson praised batter Rachin Ravindra for his consistent efforts in the showpiece.