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LANDMARK JUDGEMENT

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS JUNKING OF ARTICLE 370

J&K became an integral part of India, evident in Articles 1 and 370 of the Constitution

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday affirmed that Article 370 of the Constitution was a temporary provision, and the President's authority to revoke it remains intact. A constitutional bench of five judges, including CJI DY Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, and Surya Kant, pronounced their verdict on a set of petitions contesting the abrogation of Article 370.

The apex court upheld the Modi government's decision to revoke Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising the need to conduct assembly elections in the region by September 30



A five-judge Constitution bench, comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice DY Chandrachud, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant delivering the judgement on a plea against the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, in New Delhi, on Monday. ANI

of the following year.

CJI Chandrachud remarked, "Article 370 was an interim arrangement during wartime conditions in the state. The Constituent Assembly of J&K was never meant to be a permanent body."

He further called it a unani-

mous verdict by a five-judge bench on petitions challenging Centre's 2019 decisions to scrap special status for Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370.

In delivering the verdict, the Chief Justice of India highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir did not retain

sovereign elements after its integration into India. "J&K became an integral part of India, evident in Articles 1 and 370 of the Constitution," he noted, mentioning the three judgments delivered by the 5-judge bench on the matter.

Dismissing the petition-

ELECTIONS SHOULD BE
HELD IN KASHMIR BY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

A Constitution bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud upheld the reorganisation of Ladakh as a Union Territory, citing Article 3, which prohibits designation of a part of the state as a Union Territory (UT).

On December 11, the Supreme Court upheld the Central government's decision to abrogate Article 370, which had given special status to the former state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Subsequently, it asked the Central government to expedite the process of restoring statehood for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

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CONFUSION ENDS

MP mantle goes to Mohan Yadav

RAHUL CHHABRA
NEW DELHI

New Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's selection by the BJP appears to be a master-stroke of social engineering by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to woo OBC, especially Yadav, voters in the Lok Sabha election not just in this state but also in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, say experts.

The MLA from Ujjain South now is the only Yadav Chief Minister in the country and his unexpected selection by the BJP sends a strong message about the saffron party's commitment to promote the OBC community - apart from being an attempt to puncture the Opposition parties' bid to politicise the caste census issue ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

The new Madhya Pradesh CM is the fourth OBC leader that the BJP has selected to the top post in the state, including Uma Bharati, Babu Lal Gaur and Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Over 48% of 5.2 crore voters in Madhya



Outgoing CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan greets newly elected Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s legislature party meeting, at party headquarters in Bhopal on Monday. ANI

Pradesh are OBCs. In UP, OBC voters account for 54% of the population and in Bihar 63% of the population.

Political analyst Varun Purohit called Yadav's selection as CM as a "political surgical strike", saying that, on the face of it, Yadav's selection appeared to be a consensus decision but it carries a distinct stamp of Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Political analyst Ashutosh

said, "It's a victory for Mandal politics, with special focus on OBCs and tribals."

"It was a surprise to me as well," said new CM Yadav, 58, after he was picked as the CM at the BJP legislative party meeting in Bhopal. He claimed that he was sitting in one of the back rows with other MLAs for the photo session and was not aware that his name was being

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TOP OF THE DAY

YOUTH CAN STEER COUNTRY'S GROWTH: ASSAM GOVERNOR

GUWAHATI: Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria said that the youth of the nation who are the engines of growth are the potential forces to bring about paradigm shift in country's growth trajectory as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Governor was addressing the Vice Chancellors and Heads of Universities Viksit Bharat@2047 Voice of Youth, Raj Bhavan, Assam under the leadership of Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria organised a panel discussion at IIT-G on Monday. In the panel discussion, many higher educational institutes along with their teachers and students actively participated and shared their innovative ideas to make Viksit Bharat@2047 a reality. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Kataria referring to Swami Vivekananda said that the 21st century is going to be India's century. "The youth of the nation who are the engines of growth are the potential forces to bring about paradigm shift in country's growth trajectory. Due to the visionary thinking and hard work of the Prime Minister, our country is now changing at a fast pace. He has resolved to make the country a developed India in the centenary year of independence. This is a big resolution. No one could have thought of this a decade ago. We haven't always considered ourselves worthy of that. But the Prime Minister has changed that thinking," Gulab Chand Kataria said.

HISTORIC MOMENT

Shah hails SC decision on Article 370

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the abrogation of Article 370 and said that today's verdict has proved that the decision by the government was completely constitutional.

In his post on X, Amit Shah said "I welcome the Supreme Court of India's verdict upholding the decision to abolish #Article370. On the 5th of August 2019, PM Narendra Modi Ji took a visionary decision to abrogate #Article370. Since then peace and normalcy have returned to J&K. Growth and development have brought new meaning



to human life in the valley once torn by violence. Prosperity in the tourism and agriculture sectors has raised the income levels of the residents of both Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh."

"Today, the Supreme Court's verdict has proved that the decision to abrogate #Article370 was completely constitutional," he added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had presented the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 in both Houses.

While presenting the bill at that time, Amit Shah had said, "Most members spoke on a technicality. Some said it was India's promise, commitment etc. but no one said how Jammu and Kashmir or Ladakh is being benefited by Article 370. I want to say that Article 370 has harmed people of Jammu and Kashmir." Shah said while responding to the discussion on scrapping Article 370 in Rajya Sabha.

CONFUSION

AFTER MEHBOOBA MUFTI, NC CLAIMS OMAR ABDULLAH LOCKED INSIDE HIS HOUSE; L-G DENIES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Conference on Monday claimed that senior party leader Omar Abdullah has been locked inside his house ahead of the hearing of the Supreme Court's verdict on the viability of abrogating Article 370. This comes after PDP said that the party chief Mehbooba Mufti was put under house arrest.

"Even before Supreme Court judgement is pronounced, police has sealed the doors of the residence of PDP president @MehboobaMufti and put her under illegal house arrest," the party said in a post on X.

NC spokesperson Sarah Hayat Shah shared pictures of a green-coloured gate of Abdullah's residence. "Mr @OmarAbdullah has been locked up in his house. Democracy?" she asked on X. "Dear Mr LG these chains that have been put on my

gate have not been put by me so why are you denying what your police force has done. It's also possible you don't even know what your police is doing? Which one is it? Are you being dishonest or is your police acting independent of you?" the former CM of Jammu and Kashmir wrote on X.

The claims were dismissed by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha by terming them "baseless". "Neither anyone has been put under house arrest, nor anyone has been arrested," he said.

Meanwhile, police did not allow journalists to gather near National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah's residence at Gupkar here, officials said.

A posse of police personnel was deployed at the entry point of Gupkar Road and journalists were not allowed anywhere near the residence of the NC leaders.

RAJASTHAN BUZZ

SUSPENSE CONTINUES OVER RAJASTHAN'S NEXT CM

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The recent appointment of Mohan Yadav as the Chief Minister in Madhya Pradesh has sparked heightened speculation and anticipation among the prominent figures under discussion for a similar role in Rajasthan. This strategic move by the BJP has set the stage for a potential surprise candidate to emerge in Rajasthan.

CASH-FOR-QUERY CHARGE

Mahua moves SC against Lok Sabha expulsion

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Mahua Moitra on Monday moved the Supreme Court against her expulsion from the Lok Sabha over 'Cash-for-Query' allegations.

On December 8, Mahua

Drawing parallels with the developments in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, where legislators were given the opportunity to assume leadership roles, there is a growing sense that a similar pattern might unfold in Rajasthan.

However, the landscape in Rajasthan poses unique challenges as the pool of senior legislators is relatively limited. In this context, the

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FEARLESS MOMENT

NORMAL LIFE ACROSS KASHMIR VALLEY POST SC ARTICLE 370 JUNKING VERDICT

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

There were celebrations across Jammu on Monday but life went on as usual in Srinagar and other district headquarters in the Kashmir Valley as the Supreme Court upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 and reorganise Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories.

Shops and business establishments opened in Srinagar and elsewhere as per usual

while public transport also plied normally, in sharp contrast to what was witnessed on August 5, 2019, when the Centre moved to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status. There was radio silence from Kashmir that day.

The scenes in Jammu - the winter capital - were different on Monday as several organisations held events to celebrate the top court ruling and lauded it as a momentous decision.

While upholding the government's decision on Article

370, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court also directed that statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir be restored at the earliest and said steps should be taken to conduct elections to the Assembly in the Union Territory by September 30 next year.

In the summer capital, municipal workers were seen going about their work in the morning and tourists were busy clicking photographs at Lal Chowk in the city centre

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ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

Jammu and Kashmir's wounds need healing: Justice Kaul

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul recommended on Monday the establishment of an impartial "Truth and reconciliation Commission" to investigate and report on human rights violations by both state and non-state actors in Jammu and Kashmir since the 1980s, asserting that the

"wounds need healing." Justice Kaul, in a separate but concurring verdict, supported the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Hailing from the region, Justice Kaul expressed empathy for the heavy toll borne by men, women, and children in the area due to the volatile situation. He emphasised the profound

consequences of inter-generational trauma on an already fractured society during his travels.

"I cannot help but feel anguish for what people of the region have experienced and am constrained to write this Epilogue," he stated in his 121-page verdict.

Justice Kaul further acknowledged numerous reports documenting hu-

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statement outside the Lok Sabha.

Moitra accused the Ethics Committee of violating established rules, asserting, "This LS has also witnessed the weaponisation of the Parliamentary committee. Ironically, the Ethics Committee, originally designated to serve as a moral compass

for members, has instead been egregiously abused today to accomplish precisely what it was never intended for - to bulldoze the opposition and transform into another instrument to 'thok do' (crush) us into submission."

Following the adoption of the motion to expel the

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REINSTATEMENT

AMIT SHAH: POOR AND DEPRIVED REGAIN RIGHTS POST ARTICLE 370 ABROGATION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court of India's verdict upholding the decision to abolish Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, saying "verdict has proved that the decision was completely constitutional" and that "rights of the poor and deprived have been restored" after the historic decision taken in 2019.

Shah took to 'X', to express his views on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's August 5, 2019, visionary decision to abrogate Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, which returned peace and normalcy to the erstwhile state and growth as well as devel-



opment have brought new meaning to human life in the valley once torn by violence. "I welcome the Supreme Court of India's verdict upholding the decision to abolish Article 370. On August 5, 2019, PM Narendra Modi took a visionary decision to abrogate Article 370. Since then, peace and normalcy have returned to J&K. Growth and development have brought new meaning to human life in the valley once torn by violence. Prosperity in the tourism and agriculture sectors has raised the income levels of the residents of both Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh," Shah posted on 'X'.

"Today, the Supreme Court's verdict has proved that the decision to abrogate Article 370 was completely constitutional," the post read further.

In another post, the Home Minister said the rights of the poor and deprived have been restored, and separatism and stone pelting are now things of the past after the abrogation of Article 370. "The entire region now echoes with melodious music and cultural tourism. The bonds of unity have strengthened, and integrity with Bharat stands reinforced. It is once again the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh that have always belonged to our nation and will continue to be so," said the Union Home Minister.

"Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, our government is committed to establishing lasting peace in J&K and Ladakh and the all-round development of the region. Whether it is boosting the local economy with new incentives, building state-of-the-art educational infrastructure, or empowering the poor with welfare benefits, we will continue to exert all our might for the region," he added.

Shah's remarks came soon after the Supreme Court announced on Monday to uphold the Union Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the constitution, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and said that every decision taken by the Centre on behalf of a State can't be subject to a legal challenge.

COMMENT

Military veterans applaud verdict on Article 370

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As the debate around the constitutional validity of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir comes to an end with the Supreme Court upholding its abrogation on August 5, 2019, armed forces veterans have appreciated the apex court verdict.

Ex-Indian Army chief Ved Malik took to his X timeline and wrote that the Article 370 was often misinterpreted by vested interests and it was an obstruction in India's national interest and security.

"Delighted to see the end of Article 370. It was often misinterpreted by vested interests. Became an obstruction in India's national interest and security," General (retired) KJS Dhillon (retired), said, "Articles 370 and 35A had to go!" ... So was written in 'Kitne Ghazi Aaye, Kitne Ghazi Gaye' long ago.



Jai Hind."

Major General (retired) Brajesh Kumar, said, "Epoch making, Kashmir issue finally sealed by the highest court. Will impact d way our SF will deal with Pakistanis at LAC AGPL and future course(s) of action. A paradigm shift now called for." Colonel (retired) S Dinny, said, "Civilisational integration of J&K with India was always there. Constitutional integration of J&K with India is complete now. Truly historic verdict."

Brigadier (retired) Jay Kaul,

said, "Historical judgment by the apex court. All controversies laid to rest. A mess that existed for over 70 years has been swept away. A bold initiative by present Govt at the centre has been upheld. Time state political parties gear up for electoral process to prevail." Earlier today, before the Supreme Court judgement on Article 370, the J-K People's Democratic Party, on its official X handle, also alleged that the party chief, Mehbooba Mufti, has been kept under house arrest.

EXPANSION

Extension given to ASI for Gyanvapi survey report submission

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Varanasi district court on Monday granted an additional week to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to furnish a scientific survey report for the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

District Judge A K Vishvesh scheduled the next hearing for December 18, marking the sixth extension granted by the court for the ASI to file its survey report.

Madan Mohan Yadav, the counsel for the Hindu side, informed the court that the ASI expressed its inability to submit the report on Monday, citing the ill health of its superintending archaeologist, Avinash Mohanty, who experienced a sudden increase in blood pressure and could not attend the court.

Previously, the court had



provided additional time to the ASI on September 6, October 5, November 2, November 17, and November 30.

The ASI initiated the survey in the barricaded area of the Gyanvapi premises on August 4, following court orders to determine whether the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

On November 30, the dis-

trict court had instructed the ASI to submit the survey report of the Gyanvapi complex by December 11. In its application, the ASI stated that the assimilation of information generated by different experts and tools is a slow process, requiring more time to complete the report.

Earlier, on November 2, the ASI informed the court that it had "completed" the survey but needed addi-

tional time to compile the report, including details of the equipment used. The court then granted an extension until November 17. Subsequently, due to the non-availability of the technical report, the ASI sought 15 more days, and the district judge instructed the submission of the report by November 28.

The ASI is conducting a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi premises, adja-

cent to the Kashi Vishwanath temple, to determine whether the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

The Allahabad High Court had upheld the Varanasi district court order, ruling that the survey was "necessary in the interest of justice" and would benefit both the Hindu and Muslim sides in the dispute. The Gyanvapi committee objected to the survey, alleging unauthorised digging and debris accumulation, leading to concerns about the structure's stability.

The committee had also approached the Supreme Court against the high court's order, but on August 4, the apex court refused to stay the order, allowing the ASI to conduct the survey without invasive acts such as excavations.

MOMENTARY

GOYAL: ARTICLE 370 AND INDIA'S PARTITION WERE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS

BADAR BASHIR
NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader, International Executive President of the United Hindu Front, and National President of Nationalist Shiv Sena, Jai Bhagwan Goyal, stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi never leaves any task incomplete, making decisions solely for the benefit of the nation. He praised Home Minister Amit Shah for diligently implementing those

decisions. Goyal expressed pride in having such dynamic leaders at the helm.

Goyal highlighted sacrifices made during the abolition of Article 370, mentioning Dr. Mukherjee and others who laid down their lives after the Supreme Court's verdict. He compared the end of Article 370 to the temporary nature of India's partition, emphasizing the path to re-establishing undivided India is now open.

Goyal dispelled the notion

that Article 370 was solely introduced to appease Sheikh Abdullah and Nehru. He argued that its primary purpose was the persecution and displacement of Hindus from Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. Goyal expressed hope that regions like Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, North West Frontier Province, Swat, and the areas under Pakistan's control, including Kashmir, will also reunite with the mainstream, becoming part of an undivided India.

DISMISSES

SC REJECTS PIL FOR NEW PANEL ON MANIPUR VIOLENCE

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a fresh PIL seeking a directive to the Centre to intervene and restore law and order in Manipur, plagued by ethnic violence.

The petition also sought the establishment of an expert panel to investigate the underlying causes of the crisis and recommend remedial measures.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, along with Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, acknowledged the arguments of senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, representing the PIL petitioners. The court noted that a committee, chaired by retired Justice Gita Mittal, was already examining issues related to the violence and



other aspects.

The senior lawyer, assisted by advocate Neha Rathi, emphasized the need for a committee to bring all communities to the table. The bench suggested approaching the existing committee, stating, "This court has already constituted a committee chaired by Justice (retired) Gita Mittal. It's open to make a representation to the committee. At this stage, we believe that

broad and general reliefs would not result in anything."

The court directed petitioners Yumlembam Surjit Singh, Keisham Arish, and Laishram Momo Singh to approach the Justice Gita Mittal panel.

The PIL filed under Article 32 of the Constitution sought directions to the Union of India to restore law and order and peace in Manipur.

HEARING

SC TO HEAR PLEA FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN RESERVATION BILL TODAY

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear a petition on Tuesday seeking immediate and full implementation of the 33 percent Women Reservation Bill before the Parliamentary General Election in 2024.

Earlier the said it would be "very difficult" for it to strike down a portion of the women's reservation law stipulating its activation following the Census.

A bench comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V N Bhatti had re-

fused to issue a notice on a plea filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur, which seeks the immediate implementation of the 128th Constitution (Amendment) Bill, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam.

The petitioner has sought direction to declare the clause "after the delimitation is undertaken for this purpose after the relevant figures for the first census" in "The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eight Amendment) Bill 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam)," as "void-ab-initio." This declaration is sought to enable the immediate and

complete implementation of the 33 percent Women Reservation before the 2024 Parliamentary General Election.

The petitioner argued that a democratic process requires representation from all segments of society. However, for the past 75 years, there has been inadequate representation of women in both the parliament and State Legislature. It highlighted that this demand has remained pending for decades, and the parliament rightfully passed the aforementioned act to provide a 33 percent reservation. However, the

provision stipulating that the act would be implemented "after the delimitation is undertaken for this purpose 'after the relevant figures for the first census'" should be declared "void-ab-initio" to expedite the 33 percent women's reservation.

The petitioner further emphasized that a constitutional amendment should not be held in abeyance for an uncertain duration. It cited a legal precedent, "Bhavesh D. Parish and others Vs. Union of India and another," which establishes the presumption of constitutional validity in enactments.

DEMANDS

CONGRESS CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE J&K POLLS POST ARTICLE 370 VERDICT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday demanded immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and said assembly elections should be held there immediately to enable people to elect a government of their choice.

The party's reaction came after the SC unanimously upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 that bestowed special

status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and directed restoration of statehood "at the earliest" as well as elections to the assembly by September 30 next year.

Congress leaders P Chidambaram and Abhishek Singhvi said the judgement of the Supreme Court in cases concerning the abrogation of Article 370 has decided many issues, but has left some.

The Judgement needs a careful study, Chidambaram



said, noting "prima facie we respectfully disagree with judgment on the manner in which Art 370 was abrogated". He said the Congress has

always demanded restoration of full statehood of J and K and "we welcome the SC verdict in this regard".

"Full statehood must be restored immediately. The aspirations of people of Ladakh must also be fulfilled. We welcome the SC direction to hold assembly elections. However, we believe elections should be held immediately and there is no reason to wait till September 30, 2024," the senior Congress leader said.

SC VERDICT

MEHBOOBA MUFTI VOWS TO CONTINUE FIGHT FOR DIGNITY

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As the Supreme Court upheld the Union Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the constitution, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and President of Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (JK-PDP), Mehbooba Mufti, said the people of J&K are not going to lose hope or give up.

"Our fight for honour and



dignity will continue regardless. This isn't the end of the road for us," she said.

"We should not be dis-

heartened... J&K has seen several ups and downs... SC's verdict stating Article 370 was a temporary provision, is not our defeat, but the defeat of the idea of India... I want to say this to the people of the country that many of you are celebrating this (verdict)... Today J&K was converted into a jail, and all the shopkeepers were directed that they will not open their shops before 10 am. We were under house arrest... This is a political war which has been going on for ages,

and a lot of people have sacrificed their lives for this. We will not leave this; we have to come together and fight" the PDP chief added.

Weighing in on the SC ruling on Article 370, National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi said, "...The question of J&K being divided into two parts and downgraded from a state to a Union Territory (UT) has not been addressed. Our senior lawyers will review this judgment and see what we've to do..."

TWEET OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi
@narendramodi



Today's decision of the Supreme Court regarding the removal of Article 370 is historic, which gives constitutional seal to the decision taken in Parliament on August 5, 2019. It carries a powerful message of hope, progress and unity for our brothers and sisters in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. This decision of the Honorable Court has further strengthened the core idea of our national unity, which is of paramount importance for every Indian.

President of India
@rashtrapatibbn



President Droupadi Murmu graced 45th convocation of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith at Varanasi. The President said that Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, as an institution born out of the non-cooperation movement, is a living symbol of our great freedom struggle.

Vasundhara Raje
@VasundharaBJP



Former President of the country 'Bharat Ratna' Late. Respectful salutations to Pranab Mukherjee ji on his birth anniversary. Pranab da always tried to erase the darkness of disappointment, inaction and failure with his self-confidence and hard work and increased the respect of India on various occasions.

Arvind Kejriwal
@ArvindKejriwal



Today inaugurated a magnificent auditorium in a government school in Civil Lines. We are providing world-class facilities to all children without any discrimination. Now no government or party can say that schools cannot be good, we have made government schools excellent.

Rajnath Singh
@rajnathsingh



Today, the decision of the Prime Minister @narendramodi to abolish Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution and that entire process has been upheld by the Supreme Court. This historic decision of the Supreme Court is going to make every Indian happy. By abolishing Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Modi has not only written a new chapter but has also given new strength to the unity and integrity of India.

INAUGURATION

DELHI GOVT SCHOOLS' INFRASTRUCTURE MATCHES TOP PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the auditorium of a government school in the Civil Lines area on Monday and asserted that the infrastructure of state-run schools is no less than that of any top private institution.

Addressing the event, Kejriwal said many prominent people studied in government schools during the 15-20-year period after India gained independence since there were few private



schools. Kejriwal reiterated that education is the focus of the AAP dispensation and said

the infrastructure of government schools in Delhi underwent a transformation in the last eight years.

"The infrastructure of government schools is no less than that of top private schools. The children have also grown in confidence, and one can see that they are more confident than their counterparts in private schools," he said.

The chief minister said the dropout rate from government schools was quite high earlier since studies did not happen, but that issue has been addressed.

"Now, there are nearly 18 lakh students studying in government schools," he added.

STRICT MEASURES

JNU implements campus protest ban, threatens expulsion

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI



Putting up wall posters and staging dharmas within 100 metres of the academic buildings at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) can lead to a fine of up to Rs 20,000 or expulsion, according to a new manual.

The academic buildings of different schools house the offices of chairpersons, deans, and other important office-bearers, apart from classrooms and labs.

Earlier, protests within 100 metres of the administrative blocks, which house the offices of the Vice-Chancellor, registrar, and pro-

tors, among others, were prohibited as per a High Court order.

However, according to the revised Chief Proctor Office (CPO) manual, the university has now barred protests within 100 metres of academic buildings as well as where classes are conducted.

This development comes after the JNU in October witnessed an incident where an "anti-national" slogan was scribbled on the School of Languages building wall,

and the administration announced to set up a committee to look into the repeated nature of such incidents on the campus.

The JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) has opposed the new rules, saying that they are an attempt to stifle dissent on campus and demanding its withdrawal.

"The stringent measures outlined in the manual are aimed at stifling the vibrant campus culture that has defined JNU for decades. The JNUSU demands that the university administration immediately revoke the new manual of the office of the Chief Proctor," the students' union said.

RELEASE OF OIL

NGT ISSUES NOTICES OVER UNTREATED ENGINE OIL DISCHARGE IN TUGHLAKABAD

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the authorities of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and two other agencies regarding the discharge of untreated engine oil from an electric locomotive shed in Tughlakabad. The NGT has also directed the Indian Railways to submit a fresh report on the issue.

The NGT was hearing a

matter involving the release of oil from the shed into a drain that passes through the Mohan Co-operative Industrial area and eventually joins the Agra canal in southeast Delhi. A bench comprising NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel revealed that in April of this year, the tribunal had instructed the general manager of Northern Railway to investigate the matter and submit an action

taken report. After reviewing a report by the Indian Railways released on September 29, the bench observed that the concerned authorities did not furnish "full particulars" about various aspects, such as the extent of effluent discharge, water quality analysis, and the available effluent treatment facilities. In response, the bench, in its order on December 4, directed the railways to present a fresh report explicitly address-

ing these aspects. The NGT included the member secretary of the DPCC, the CEO of the New Okhla Industrial Development Area (NOIDA), and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) commissioner as parties in the case. The tribunal issued notices to these respondents, instructing them to file their responses or reports within eight weeks. The case is scheduled for further proceedings on February 13.

SPOIL

DELHI POLICE FOILS A PLANNED SHOOTOUT AT DWARKA COURT

RAHUL GAHLAWAT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police foiled a planned shootout to kill a rival gangster at the Dwarka Court complex on Monday. Based on secret information, the police have arrested accused Ankit (26) and recovered two pistols, five live cartridges, and two knives from his possession.

According to police, the accused, Ankit, plotted to kill rival gangster Madhesh in the Dwarka Court complex in order to make their Ganga

a Supreme in the Shakarpur area of Delhi. They also tried an unsuccessful attempt to kill Madhesh in 2020, but he survived and sustained serious gunshot injuries. Based on an intelligence input, the team of special cells and Delhi Police arrested the accused, Ankit, on the road adjacent to Dwarka Court Complex when he came there in his i-10 car. On search, one semi-automatic pistol, one single-shot pistol, five live cartridges, and two sharp-edged knives were recovered from his pos-

session. The accused, Ankit, has a criminal history, and in 2018, he and his associates murdered another criminal, Rakesh, who, along with Madhesh, was involved in the murder of one of their associates, Lucky. He came out on bail in 2020 and tried plotting against Madhav to avenge the murder of their associate.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Special Cell, Ingir Pratap Singh, stated that the investigation is ongoing to apprehend other associates involved in the criminal activities.

WHO SAID WHAT IN PARLIAMENT

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

MP Bittu slams Pannun, urging MEA to present a strong case in US, Canada

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu strongly criticised Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun and urged the Ministry of External Affairs to build a robust case in the US and Canada to bring the extremist perpetrators to justice.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha on Monday, the Ludhiana MP cited the 1985 Kanishka Air India bombings, highlighting that Canadian authorities 'ignored' inputs shared



by India. He also stressed that 'one-way traffic' is detrimental to bilateral relations between two countries. Bittu stated, "The FBI Director is visiting India this

week... there are many conventions in diplomatic and bilateral relations. We respect and value our country, but how will it work in the case of one-way traffic?" Referring to India's efforts

in sending extradition requests for extremists, he expressed frustration, saying, "I have failed to understand that India has sent 26 extradition requests... but they are demanding perfect proof, absolute proof. Now, we don't have any idea what proof they are talking about."

'Bittu also slammed Pierre Trudeau, the former Canadian prime minister and father of Justin Trudeau, for not acting on warnings issued by the Indian government before the 1985 Kanishka Air India bombings.

FOCUS ON NE

Krishi Udan 2.0 covers 58 airports nationwide: Govt informs RS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP Kartikeya Sharma raised the issue of details regarding airports covered under the Krishi Udan Scheme in the country, particularly in Haryana, and inquired about the total tonnage of agricultural products transported from Haryana.

In a written reply, Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation V. K. Singh stated that Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on October 27, 2021, with a



primary focus on transporting perishable food products from hilly areas, North Eastern States, and tribal regions.

The minister highlighted that Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 encompasses 58 airports, with a specific emphasis on the North Eastern, hilly, and

tribal regions, among others. He explained that the Krishi Udan Scheme is a convergence initiative involving eight ministries and departments, namely the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region.

SUPPORT

MP KARTIKEYA SHARMA SPEAKS IN FAVOUR OF J&K BILLS IN RAJYA SABHA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

MP Kartikeya Sharma has voiced his support for the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Rajya Sabha.

Home Minister Amit Shah also alleged that Jammu and Kashmir suffered due to the "mistakes" of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and listed decisions like the "untimely" ceasefire and taking the Kashmir issue to the United Nations among them.

On this occasion, Kartikeya Sharma discussed the present and past situations in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised that passing these bills is crucial to rectify



the injustice inflicted upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Opponents of the bills should recognise the desires of the people of our country. In 2022, during my visit to Lal Chowk in Srinagar, a once notorious hub for terrorist activities, the atmosphere had transformed significantly. Despite the heavy security, I conducted the first-ever live TV show and debate

from Lal Chowk, a moment of great pride.

The sight of the national flag, Tiranga, is now prevalent, prompting a reflection on the Prime Minister's courageous Ekta Yatra in 1991. He hoisted the Tiranga at Lal Chowk during a time when such an act was exceptionally challenging. Recalling that period from my 10-year-old perspective, I witnessed the evolution of the re-

gion by 2022. Lal Chowk, once fraught with unrest, had become a symbol of peace and freedom. The transformed atmosphere has allowed people to visit Jammu and Kashmir without hindrance, marking a significant change.

The tourism sector has thrived, with a remarkable record of 1.88 crore tourists welcomed last year, expected to exceed 2 crore this year. Jammu and Kashmir now exhibit democracy and Tiranga in every household, signifying unity and constitutional harmony.

In conclusion, the people are joyously celebrating 'aik desh, aik sanvidhaan, aik jhanda har ghar Tiranga,' symbolizing one nation, one constitution, and a flag in every home.

EMPOWER

RS PASSES J&K RESERVATION AND REORGANISATION AMENDMENT BILLS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Monday passed unanimously the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 with voice vote amending key laws in the Union Territory aimed at providing "rights to those who faced injustice".

The significant legislative move on the sixth day of the Parliament's Winter Session witnessed various Opposition leaders raising issues to reinstate the statehood of the erstwhile state and announce elections there.

Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 aimed at providing "rights to those who faced injustice" and were deprived of their rights in the Union Territory. Both the bills were passed last week by the Lok



Sabha. The Bills were jointly discussed a few hours after the Supreme Court passed a judgement upholding the constitutional validity of the Executive Order abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution and scrapping statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha on the two Jammu and Kashmir Bills, Union Minister Amit Shah said this is an important day as both these Bills will be passed and also because this will be written in golden letters in the history of Jammu and Kashmir and India.

"Today, Supreme Court

upheld the intention behind Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill, 2019, its constitutional validity and the process."

Shah said one of the Bills seeks to represent those who became refugees in their own country and also reserves one seat in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for people who have been displaced from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Shah said several questions were raised even the day before yesterday. "In Lok Sabha, it was said that the Bill is pending and is being brought in haste.

TOP OF THE DAY

GOLD PRICES DROP BY RS 900, SILVER BY 200

NEW DELHI: Gold price tumbled Rs 900 to Rs 61,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak cues in global markets, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at Rs 62,200 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also declined Rs 200 to Rs 76,000 per kilogram. HDFC Securities' senior analyst of commodities Saumil Gandhi said gold prices dropped to a three-week low in Monday's session following an uptick in US Treasury yields and the dollar after the upbeat US jobs data.

3 DEAD 6 INJURED IN BHARATPUR ROAD ACCIDENT

JAIPUR: Three people died and six were injured on Monday when an unidentified vehicle hit a tempo in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, police said. Lakhampur Station House Officer Munshilal said the accident occurred near Hantara village on National Highway 21. Hetram (38) and Pushpa Devi (35), who were travelling in the tempo, died on the spot, while Kambo Devi (50) succumbed to injuries in a hospital during treatment, he said.

TEEN GIRL RAPED IN UP VILLAGE

PILIBHIT: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a man in a village here, police said on Monday. The accused has been arrested, they added. The victim's father alleged in a police complaint that when his teenage daughter was at home on Friday night, a man came to their house and took her along with him on the pretext of some work, the police said. The accused then took her to his house where he allegedly raped her, the complaint said. When the man was spotted accompanying the girl back home in the night, the family members got suspicious and started thrashing him, following which a large crowd gathered at the spot and the accused managed to escape, the police said.

AP CM GRANTS RS 8 CR TO JUNIOR LAWYERS

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday disbursed Rs 8 crore to 2,807 eligible junior lawyers as financial aid under the 'YSR Law Nestham' scheme. The scheme aims to help junior lawyers who have finished their course until they settle down in their profession by giving them Rs 5,000 per month. This is the second tranche of financial aid given under 'YSR Law Nestham' in 2023 for the six-month period from June to December. Noting that the scheme gives Rs 60,000 per annum per lawyer and is being implemented for the last four years, Reddy said the state government spent Rs 50 crore on YSR Law Nestham. Further, the CM observed that a Rs 100 crore advocates welfare trust has also been set up under the leadership of the Advocate General and others.

SURGE

SENSEX HITS 70K PEAK, NIFTY SHY OF 21K IN METAL AND IT STOCKS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Equity benchmark Sensex breached a new milestone of 70,000 points before closing 102 points higher, while Nifty settled just shy of the 21,000 mark on Monday, driven by gains in banking, IT and metal shares.

After a gap-up opening, the 30-share index rose to a record intra-day high of 70,057.83 points. Later, it



shed some of the gains to close at 69,928.53 points, showing gains of 102.93 points or 0.15 per cent.

As many as 18 Sensex shares closed in the green, 11 declined, and one settled

unchanged. The broader Nifty also hit its record trading high of 21,026.10 amid early gains in global markets. The 50-share index gained 2770 points or 0.13 per cent to settle just below the 21,000 level at 20,997.10, its all-time closing high.

Among Sensex shares, Ultratech Cement jumped the most by 3.04 per cent. Nestle rose by 1.3 per cent, Power Grid by 1.05 per cent and Tata Motors by 0.85 per cent. Gains in IndusInd

Bank, HCL Tech, TCS, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, ITC, JSW Steel and Tata Steel helped the barometer scale a fresh high.

Axis Bank fell the most by 1.26 per cent, M&M by 0.99 per cent and Hindustan Unilever by 0.67 per cent. Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank and Infosys also declined.

"The market crossed 70,000 levels today, while the broader market outperformed the main indices.

However, profit booking was evident at higher levels as traders anticipated clues from tomorrow's significant data releases on inflation from the US and India, as well as the IIP," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Investors will be closely watching the upcoming FOMC meeting tomorrow for clues about potential future rate cuts while expecting to keep rates the same this time, Nair added.

APPREHENSION

BCI Chairman MK Mishra raises concerns over influence on SC decisions

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

Chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI), Manan Kumar Mishra, has penned a letter to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, expressing apprehensions about a recent open letter from a senior lawyer to the CJI concerning the listing of sensitive cases pending before the Supreme Court. Mishra asserts that the letter

amounts to an attempt to exert "undue influence" with the aim of securing "favourable" decisions.

On December 6, senior advocate Dushyant Dave wrote an open letter to the CJI, expressing distress over "certain happenings" related to the listing and re-allocation of cases to other benches of the apex court, and urging immediate corrective measures. Without explicitly mentioning Dave,

the BCI chairman contends that efforts made through such letters unequivocally constitute contemptuous conduct and a scheme designed to advance ulterior motives. Mishra alleges that the underlying purpose of such letters is to exert pressure on the judiciary to obtain "favourable decisions for their influential clients and interests." He emphasises that such letters have become a recurring feature,

almost to the point of staleness, and must, therefore, be summarily rejected by the judiciary. Mishra implores the CJI to eradicate the "nuisance" propagated by these letters and establish a lasting precedent against such attempts.

A day prior to Dave's letter, Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul expressed surprise when certain lawyers, including Prashant Bhushan, alleged a sudden

deletion from court number two's cause list pertaining to pleas related to the Centre's alleged delay in acting on the collegium's recommendations on the elevation and transfer of high court judges.

In his letter to the CJI, Dave, a former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), conveyed deep anguish over certain incidents related to the listing of cases by the apex court registry.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

MODI GOVT LEVERAGES TECHNOLOGY FOR ELDERLY WELL-BEING: JITENDRA SINGH

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is known to make optimum use of technology towards bringing about ease of living and dignity for the elderly, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday, mentioning measures such as the submission of digital life certificates by pensioners.

He said that banks are providing doorstep service for the submission of digital life certificates annually to retired employees.



"Due to such technologies, senior citizens do not have to go through the tedious process of submitting the life certificate," said Minister of State for Personnel Singh.

Most of the functioning has been converted online and,

in order to bring in transparency, accountability and citizen participation, human interface has been reduced to the bare minimum, he added. Addressing a press conference, Singh said the Modi-led government is known to make the optimum use of technology towards bringing about ease of living and dignity for the elderly.

The Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare is possibly one of the first departments in the government sector to have started using the latest facial recognition

technology for establishing Aadhaar-based identification of elderly pensioners to generate digital life certificates, he said.

"This (digital life certificate) was a huge step towards enhancing the ease of living of pensioners as they could now also submit life certificates through digital modes from the comfort of their homes instead of only in the traditional mode of physical life certificates by visiting banks and post offices," the minister said.

Briefing the media about

the progress of the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare's digital life certificate campaign 2.0, Singh said more than 1.17 crore digital life certificates across pensioners of all categories were generated in November. Of these, the number of digital life certificates generated using the face authentication technique was more than 19.52 lakh.

Singh said more than 24,000 pensioners above the age of 90 used digital mode to submit life certificates for drawing pension.

STANDARD VIOLATION

NMC ISSUES SHOW CAUSE NOTICE TO 50% MEDICAL COLLEGES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued show cause notice to around 50 per cent of medical colleges for not following standards set by them, sources said on Monday.

While speaking to ANI, sources said that half of medical colleges in India may lose recognition for not following the NMC standards.

Show cause notices have been issued to 349 government colleges—197 government-aided and others private. "If colleges will not rectify the

error then admission in these colleges will be kept on hold for one year," the sources said.

The NMC has issued a show cause notice to a medical college in Kerala's Idukki after finding a deficiency in attendance and failure to meet required faculty requirements (Minimum Standard Require-

ments 2020), sources said.

"Your college has failed to meet the required faculty requirement (MSR 2020) for the existing MBBS Course being run in the college for 2023-24. This has been viewed seriously by the Competent Authority. Therefore, your college is hereby directed as to why the

action should not be initiated against the non-compliance of the provisions contained in MSR as well as directions issued by NMC," the show cause notice read.

Accordingly, as per sources, a show cause notice was issued to the medical college in Barmer, Rajasthan.

CORRUPTION

JP Nadda questions Cong's silence on MP Dheeraj's cash recovery

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party National President on Monday slammed the Congress over its MP Dheeraj Sahu and said that Congress and Corruption are two sides of the same coin. The BJP president led a massive protest by the BJP at the Gandhi statue in Parliament over the Cash recovered from its Rajya Sabha MP Dheeraj Sahu during IT raids on premises linked to him.

"From the beginning, BJP has believed that Congress and Corruption are two sides of the same coin. Congress is known for malpractice; it is known for criminalisation,



This is the policy of Congress. Right now money is being withdrawn from the accounts of Congress MP Dheeraj Sahu, the Almira is full of black money, the money of poor people and the counting is still going on. Don't know where this counting will stop. This is the tip of the iceberg," JP Nadda said.

The BJP president further asserted that PM Modi has

clearly said that no corrupt person will be spared.

"Congress is a party steeped in corruption. They always keep blaming ED and IT. Today BJP wants to ask Rahul Gandhi what he has to say on this. Sonia Gandhi has always raised questions on central agencies, today everyone wants to know about them. PM Modi has clearly said that we will not spare any corrupt person. Congress will have to answer how this money of the poor was looted. BJP put all of them behind bars," he added.

Rajya Sabha MP Prakash Javdekar said "Rs 354 crore has been recovered at the house of Dheeraj Sahu, how has so much cash been found? Congress claims that he is a

businessman and he has to explain, but which businessman keeps so much cash? This cash is the ATM of the Congress which is why the Congress has not even suspended the MP. Dheeraj Sahu is in the business of liquor and he has looted from the poor and become the ATM of the Congress. The nation is angry with this and will teach a lesson to the Congress."

Bharatiya Janata Party had staged a protest in the Parliament premises led by the party's National President, JP Nadda, targeting the Congress over alleged Corruption with leaders having banners in their hand that read "C for Congress and C for Corruption."

IN BELGAUM

Brutal assault and public stripping shock Vantamuri village

TDG NETWORK
BELGAUM



In a shocking incident that has sent shockwaves through the quiet town of Vantamuri in Belgaum taluk, a 42-year-old woman named Kamalava Gadkari fell victim to a brutal assault and public humiliation. The gruesome attack unfolded in the aftermath of an elopement involving Kamalava's son, Dundappa, and a local girl named Priyanka.

Dundappa and Priyanka, both residents of Vantamuri, eloped on the night prior to Priyanka's engagement, leaving their families in dismay. Angered by the sudden disappearance and perhaps the embarrassment of the broken engagement, Priyanka's family launched a vicious attack on Dundappa's household.

Not stopping at vandalizing their home, the assailants subjected Kamalava to a horrifying ordeal. She was forcibly stripped naked and paraded in front of onlookers before being tied to a pole and mercilessly beaten.

The local law enforcement has swiftly responded to the heinous crime, apprehending

seven suspects believed to be involved in the assault. Additionally, an active search is underway to locate the missing couple, Dundappa and Priyanka.

The incident has left the once-peaceful village in a state of anxiety and fear. Residents have chosen to stay indoors, locking their homes as a precaution. The police have established a presence in the village, maintaining a vigilant watch to curb any potential escalation of violence.

This disturbing event raises questions about the societal response to personal choices and relationships, highlighting the need for a more compassionate and understanding approach. As the community grapples with the aftermath of this shocking incident, it serves as a stark reminder of the challenges that persist in ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals in matters of love and relationships.

CRIMINAL LAW

PM, CABINET DIFFER WITH NEW LAWS REGARDING GAY SEX AND ADULTERY

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has given the go-ahead to Home Minister Amit Shah to introduce bills amending criminal laws, replacing outdated pre-colonial statutes, according to insiders.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his office, however, have opposed two suggestions from the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Home Affairs, deeming them conflicting with Supreme Court judgments and having far-reaching consequences. These recommendations concern the offences of adultery and the criminalisation of homosexual sex.

The committee suggested retaining the offence of adultery in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023. Nonetheless, the Supreme Court had previously struck down this offence in 2018, citing discrimination against women and perpetuation of gender stereotypes.

Another committee recommendation was to penalise non-consensual acts under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Despite the

Supreme Court's previous ruling against criminalizing consensual homosexual sex between adults, the committee urged the provision's retention in the new bill, arguing the absence of provisions for non-consensual sexual offences against males, females, transgender individuals, and bestiality.

The Prime Minister, PMO, and the cabinet have concurred in rejecting this recommendation, resulting in the removal of the Supreme Court judgement on Section 377 of the IPC. Regarding the offence of adultery, the Supreme Court had criticised it for treating a wife as the husband's property, neglecting the woman's autonomy. Conversely, the parliamentary committee believes that the institution of marriage is sacred and needs protection in Indian society, advocating for a gender-neutral approach. The PMO, Prime Minister, and the cabinet have aligned with the decision not to accept this recommendation. To modernise definitions, there have been adjustments to organised crime and terrorism in line with the 21st century.

TDG EXCLUSIVE

Central Govt files affidavit on tracking illegal migration in Assam

ASHISH SINGH
NEW DELHI

Central Govt files Affidavit in SC Reveals Challenges in Tracking Illegal Migration in Assam On Monday, the Central Government informed the Supreme Court that providing accurate data on the extent of illegal migration into India is challenging due to the secretive nature of such movements. In an affidavit, the Ministry revealed that between 2017 and 2022, 14,346 foreign nationals were deported, while 17,861 migrants who arrived in Assam from January 1966 to March 1971 were granted Indian citizenship. The affidavit stated, "Illegal

migrants enter the country clandestinely without valid travel documents. Detecting, detaining, and deporting such foreign nationals is an ongoing and complex process. It's not feasible to gather precise data on these illegal migrants residing across the country." Additionally, the Ministry disclosed that 32,381 individuals were deemed foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunals during the same period. Over the last five years, the Central government allocated 122 crores to support the functioning of these tribunals. This response, sworn by the Union Home Secretary, was prompted by a Supreme Court directive issued on December 7. A Constitution

bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices Surya Kant, MM Sundresh, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra had requested the Central government to provide details on immigrants granted Indian citizenship under Section 6A(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. The Court had inquired about the government's actions to curb illegal migration into Indian territory, seeking specific information on several aspects: Number of individuals granted citizenship under Section 6A(2) for the period January 1, 1966, to March 25, 1971. Count of foreigners detected by the tribunals during the mentioned timeframe.

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE, A TRUE CRUSADER AGAINST ARTICLE 370

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Dr. S.P. Mookerjee, an academic, barrister, and politician, founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, a precursor to the BJP, making him a significant figure in the Hindutva ideology and a continued inspiration for BJP's politics. Described as a preacher of nationalism and a proponent of a unified India by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Dr. Mookerjee served as the president of the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha (1943-46).

During his tenure as Mahasabha's president, Dr. Mookerjee vehemently opposed Huseyn Suhrawardy's United Bengal plan, which aimed to establish an independent Bengali nation with a Muslim majority. Dr. Mookerjee believed that a "sovereign undivided Bengal would be a virtual Pakistan."

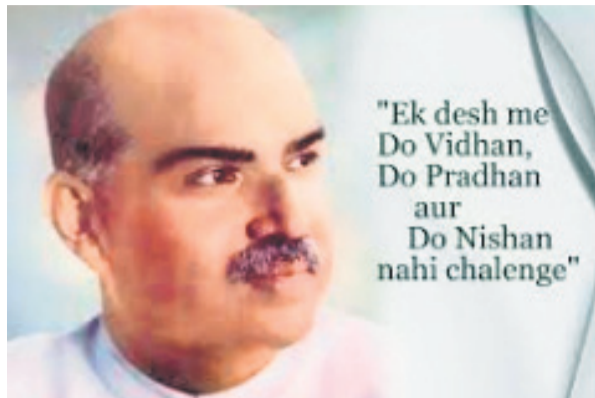
In 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru invited Dr. Mookerjee to join the interim cabinet as the Minister for Industry and Supply. He was one of the two non-Congress ministers in Nehru's cabinet, the other being Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. Mookerjee resigned in April 1950 over the controversial Nehru-Liaquat Pact, a bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan outlining the treatment of minorities.

CASH-FOR-QUERY CHARGE

MAHUA MOVES SC AGAINST LOK SABHA EXPULSION

Continued from P1
TMC MP, the opposition staged a walkout. Moitra, aged 49, pledged a sustained fight both inside and outside the Parliament for the next 30 years. She declared, "We will see the end of you. This is the beginning of your end. We're going to come back, and we're going to see the end of you."

The expelled Lok Sabha MP contended that she was deemed guilty of breaching a code of ethics that she claims "does not exist." Moitra fur-



ther alleged that the findings were based solely on the written testimonies of two private citizens, whose accounts contradicted each other in material aspects, and she was denied the right to cross-examine them.

"I was not allowed to cross-examine either of them. One of the two private citizens is my estranged partner, who, with malafide intention, posed as a common citizen before the committee. The two testimonies have been utilized to hang me at polar opposites to each other," she

Dr. Mookerjee resigned in April 1950 over the controversial Nehru-Liaquat Pact, a bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan outlining the treatment of minorities.

in 1947, negotiations continued for years regarding J&K's exact status vis-à-vis the Indian Union.

In the summer of 1952, almost five years after India's independence, Sheikh Abdullah, the state's prime minister, signed the Delhi Agreement, defining the contours of J&K's auto-

made Sheikh Abdullah, a man with unacceptable "divided loyalty", a "King of Kings", and pressed for making the state a part of India with no special concessions.

"Nahin challenge ek desh mein do vidhan, do pradhan aur do nishan (You cannot have two constitutions,

do prime ministers, and two flags in one country)," Dr Mookerjee famously said.

An energetic agitation and an untimely demise

Dr Mookerjee came out in support of the Praja Parishad, the political party of Jammu Hindus, and its "highly patriotic and emotional" movement to "merge completely with India". He repeatedly asked Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah to halt the crackdown on the Parishad, release its leaders from custody, and convene a meeting of all stakeholders from J&K.

In April 1953, amidst deadlock on the issue, Dr Mookerjee took the agitation to the streets in Delhi. Hundreds of Jana Sangh workers courted arrest.

Having failed to get Nehru to change his policy, Dr Mookerjee set out for Jammu on May 8, 1953. He intended to proceed to Srinagar thereafter, despite orders by Sheikh Abdullah to curtail his movement. He was arrested on May 11 and sent to prison in Srinagar.

In June, while still in prison, Dr Mookerjee fell ill, and suffered a massive heart attack on June 22. He died a day later.

Many in the Sangh Parivar continue to believe that Dr Mookerjee's death was a part of a wider conspiracy to curb the movement in Kashmir. The BJP's website says that he "was martyred for the cause of integrating Kashmir with the rest of India."

ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

JAMMU AND KASHMIR'S WOUNDS NEED HEALING: JUSTICE KAUL

Continued from P1
man rights violations in the region over the years. He asserted that truth-telling provides victims with an opportunity to share their stories, leading to acknowledgment from those responsible and society as a whole, paving the way for reconciliation. Drawing on global examples, he highlighted the effectiveness of truth and reconciliation commissions, citing South Africa's commission during apartheid.

He mentioned that in the past, various sections of the Kashmir valley have also called for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission.

"In view of the in-roads made globally, and endogenous requests for truth and reconciliation, I recommend the setting up of an impartial truth and reconciliation commission. The commission will investigate and report on the violation of human rights both by State

RAJASTHAN BUZZ

SUSPENSE CONTINUES OVER RAJASTHAN'S NEXT CM

Continued from P1
potential return of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has become a subject of consideration. The prospect of Raje being granted another opportunity has introduced an element of unpredictability, and this decision could potentially catch the attention of the party's high command.

As per sources in Delhi, Vasundhara Raje has reportedly communicated to the high command, expressing her desire to be appointed as the Chief Minister for a one-year term, with subsequent considerations for resignation. The final decision on this matter rests with the high command. Drawing parallels with the recent developments in Madhya Pradesh and

LANDMARK JUDGEMENT

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS JUNKING OF ARTICLE 370

Continued from P1
ers' contention that irreversible actions cannot be taken by the Centre during President's rule, the Supreme Court clarified, "Not every decision made by the Centre on behalf of the state during presidential rule can be contested."

The Supreme Court said that it recognised that Article 370 was a temporary provision. "The Maharaja's proclamation said that the constitution of the state would end with its merger with India. The Supreme Court said that after reading all the documents, we have come to the conclusion that Article 370 is abrogated due to the war situation in the state.

The top court also noted that the contention of the petitioners that the Central government cannot take action with irreversible consequences in the state during President's rule is not acceptable.

While delivering the judgement, the Supreme Court, presiding over the bench, said that "We have held that the State of Jammu and Kashmir did not retain any element of sovereignty upon its accession to the Union of India.

The CJI further said that on November 25, 1949, a proclamation was issued

FEARLESS MOMENT

Normal life across Kashmir Valley post SC Article 370 junking verdict

Continued from P1
as taxis that Srinagar and Jammu queued up at the tourist reception centre.

Shop owners along the up-market Residency Road were seen lifting the shutters, unmindful of the fact that the



for the State of Jammu and Kashmir by "Yuvraj Karan Singh". This Proclamation states that the Constitution of India shall not only supersede all other constitutional provisions in the State which were inconsistent with it, but shall also repeal them, the Constitution of India accomplishes everything which was to be achieved by the Agreement of Accession. Could. The CJI said that Yuvraj Karan Singh's proclamation represents the complete and final surrender of sovereignty by Jammu and Kashmir to India through its sovereign ruler.

The Supreme Court said, "The proclamation issued by the President exercises

es the power under Section 3 of Article 370 and is the culmination of the process of integration. Thus, we do not find that the exercise of the President's power under Section 3 of Article 370 was mala fide "We consider the President's exercise of power to be legitimate."

The Court also said that Article 370 was for the constitutional integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Union and it was not for dissolution and the President can declare that Article 370 ceases to exist.

The Court said, "The consent of the State Government was not required to invoke all the provisions of the Constitution using Article 370(1) (d). Therefore, there was no mala fide in taking the consent of the Central Government by the President of India."

The Supreme Court also directed the Election Commission to conduct Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections by September 30, 2024. The Supreme Court said that in view of the Centre's plea on restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, it directs that the statehood be restored as soon as possible.

Keep in mind that the apex court had reserved the decision on September 5 after hearing the arguments for 16 days.

has seen only violence... now, we are hopeful that the pace of development happening in Kashmir won't slow down."

"The situation should remain peaceful. What else can a common man expect? We have to think of our future. Whatever happened has happened, it can't be undone

Although there were more uniformed men on the streets in the morning, the numbers were not large enough to rouse any apprehensions. There were no concertina wires or special barricades erected on the roads to check the movement of people.

life and property, changing the very cultural ethos of Kashmir. There has been little turn-back despite three decades on this issue," he said, adding it was a proxy war on the territory of India with "active support from across the border", he added

Justice Kaul noted in order to curtail the activities of terrorists, either from across the border or indigenous, the armed forces and paramilitary forces were brought in.

"The kidnapping of the daughter of the then Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, and her subsequent release in exchange for terrorists detained, lit the last match, which produced such unprecedented fire that it engulfed the whole valley," he noted.

"The bottom-line is that today's generation aged 35 years or younger have not seen the cultural milieu of different communities, which formed the very basis of the society in Kashmir," he added.

CONFUSION ENDS

MP mantle goes to Mohan Yadav

Continued from P1
considered for the top post.

"I thank all of you... state and central leadership (and), with your love and support, I will try to fulfil my responsibilities," said Yadav, wearing garlands, promising to take forward the development agenda set by PM Modi.

New CM Yadav was earlier a key player behind the implementation of the New Education Policy in MP, making it the first state to do so. He also ensured that during the Covid lockdown, students were not given mass promotion. He insisted that there was at least an open book exam before students were promoted to the next grade.

On July 2, 2022, he had taken oath as higher education minister in the Chouhan Cabinet. He has been winning assembly elections since 2013.

After Yadav's name was announced in the legislative party meeting on Monday he

gave a letter of support from MLAs to Governor Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel, minutes after Chouhan handed over his resignation to the Governor. Vinod Agnihotri, political analyst, said the Chouhan's political obituary cannot yet be written. "He is among senior OBC faces in the BJP after PM Modi and he can still contribute to the party," he said.

Analysts said the BJP's message from Madhya Pradesh CM pick for Vasundhara Raje Scindia, who is trying to become CM in Rajasthan, is clear that old war horses of the BJP would have to make way for younger and fresh faces in the current round of picking Chief Ministers.

Along with Mohan Yadav's selection as the new CM in Madhya Pradesh, Jagdish Dewra, an SC MLA from Mandasour, and Rajesh Shukla, a Brahmin MLA from Bijawar, were named as two Deputy CMs while former Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, an OBC, was named as Speaker.

Yadav was named the CM of Madhya Pradesh on Monday after hours of deliberations between Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar-led central observers and party MLAs. Earlier, Khattar met Madhya Pradesh CM Chouhan for over an hour on Monday, soon after landing in Bhopal. Dr K. Laxman and Asha Lakra were accompanying Khattar.

Political analysts said the party's new Chief Ministerial pick and deputies are aimed at consolidating the party's position ahead of parliamentary election and move ahead with the motto "double engine government in top gear".

Madhya Pradesh went to poll for 230 assembly seats in a single phase on November 17 and the counting of votes was done on December 3.

The BJP, which had been battling close to 20 years of anti-incumbency in the state, won a resounding mandate, bagging 163 seats, while the Congress finished a distant second at 66 seats.

INSIGHTS

WHY DID NEHRU REFER KASHMIR ISSUE TO UN

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A perplexing aspect persists in historical discourse—the invasion of Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistani tribals and its army in October 1947. Although the Indian army successfully repelled the attackers, a substantial portion of J&K remained under occupation. While the US and the Soviet Union aligned with India's perspective, the UK, as the former colonial power, sided with Pakistan. Ironically, British pressure, conveyed by Governor General Mountbatten, prompted Nehru to bring the matter to the UN, anticipating support for India's stance. The ongoing debate questions the wisdom of this decision, with critics contending that, given a free hand, the Indian army could have ousted the Pakistani invaders entirely. Conversely, an opposing view suggests that a ground-level stalemate between the two forces made the UN reference a judicious choice.

WHY DID HE TAKE KASHMIR ISSUE TO UN
Critics maintain scepticism



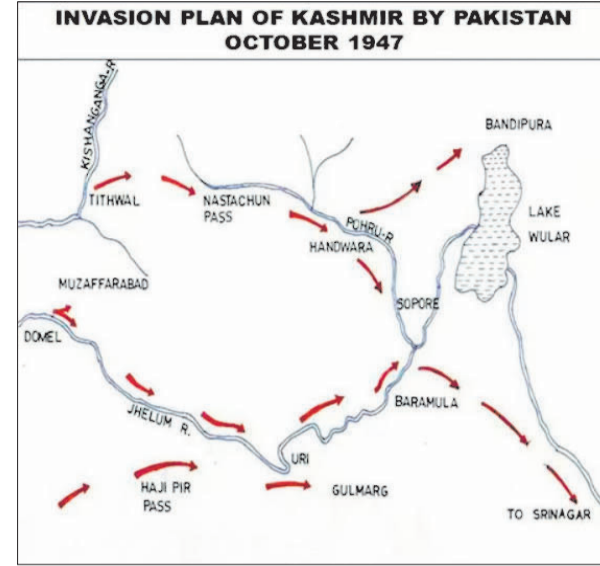
about Nehru's decision to bring the Kashmir issue to the UNSC, questioning why he took this step. Some who defend Nehru have argued that India's move pre-empted a potential UN approach by Pakistan. However, this rationale is deemed implausible, considering Pakistan's role as the aggressor. The primary purpose of the UN reference was to address and reverse the aggression. Nehru's decision was not driven by the fear of Pakistan approaching the UN first; instead, it was influenced by British manoeuvres favouring Pakistan. Mountbatten

persuaded Nehru that it was morally justifiable to involve the world body. Nehru later acknowledged his mistake, realizing the unnecessary nature of the UN reference. He was mindful of public discontent, explaining the circumstances of India's UNSC approach in a press conference in New Delhi.

OCTOBER 22, 1947 INVASION

Pakistan, poised to invade Kashmir, covertly executed Operation Gulmarg, detailed in a book by retired Major-General Akbar Khan. On October 22, tribal invaders, actually Pakistan

Army regulars, stormed Kashmir, seizing outposts en route to Srinagar. Hari Singh, lacking a sizable army, faced internal betrayal as Muslim soldiers joined Pakistani invaders in attacks on the King's forces and civilians. Widespread atrocities ensued, documented in the resistance of Kashmiri hero Shahid Maqbool Sherwani. Sherwani, a National Conference member led by democracy advocate Sheikh Abdullah, tricked the raiders by redirecting them from the route to Srinagar airport, a key target in Pakistan's Operation Gulmarg. The inva-



sion's brutality included looting, rape, and attacks on hospitals. Sherwani paid with his life for his deception.

HARI SINGH SOUGHT HELP FROM INDIA
Amidst the widespread dev-

astation, Hari Singh, the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, sought assistance from the Indian government in Delhi. Subsequently, he signed the Instrument of Accession, leading to the deployment of Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir on October 27.

Initiating a counter-attack, Indian forces successfully reclaimed Srinagar, the princely state's capital, by November 8. The military operations persisted with decreased intensity until mid-November when the scale of the conflict diminished. The war continued at a lower intensity until the conclusion of 1948, with an official ceasefire agreement signed in January 1949.

ON 30 DECEMBER 1947

In December 1947, Prime Minister Nehru sought UN intervention regarding the invasion of Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan. He specifically asked the Security Council to demand Pakistan's cessation of involvement, prevent its personnel from participating, and deny support to the invaders. Nehru emphasized the urgency to halt the fighting and clarified that the reference to the UN was limited to these issues. However, critics argue that Nehru's decision played into British influence favouring Pakistan, and he later expressed disillusionment with the UN in 1948, stating that making the reference was an act of faith in a world order. Despite his idealism,

Nehru felt betrayed as the UN's actions did not align with its principles. Questions arose about Nehru's judgment in rushing to the UN, with blame sometimes shifted to Mountbatten, though Nehru's extensive experience should have made him aware of potential pitfalls in relying on the international body.

ACCESSION OF KASHMIR

In a Parliament speech on March 28, 1951, Nehru revisited a persistent concern, asserting that Kashmir's accession to India was fully aligned with the Indian Independence Act and consistent with the integration of other princely states. He emphasized that India had not sought UN adjudication on the validity of Kashmir's accession or sovereignty but had approached the UN to address Pakistan's aggression, which was perceived as a threat to global peace. Nehru lamented that the UN, leveraging India's complaint, expanded the scope of its inquiry. He highlighted that neither the UN Commission nor the Security Council had, up to that point, questioned the legitimacy of Kashmir's accession.

STUDY

EFFECTIVE NUTRITION LABELS TAILORED FOR DIVERSE INDIAN POPULATION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Researchers have unveiled a groundbreaking front-of-pack nutrition label (FoPL) system tailored specifically for India, aimed at promoting healthier food choices and combating the rise of nutrition-related diseases and obesity in the country.

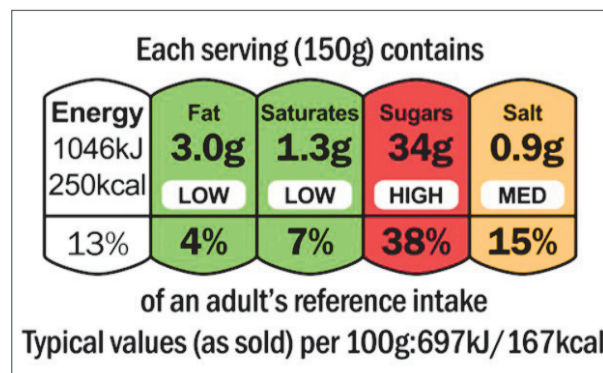
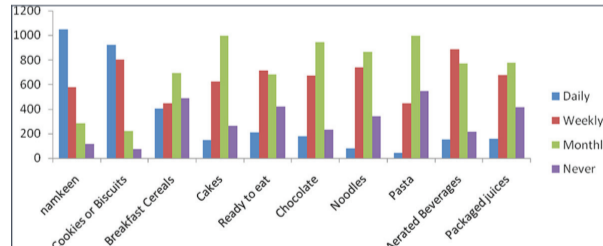
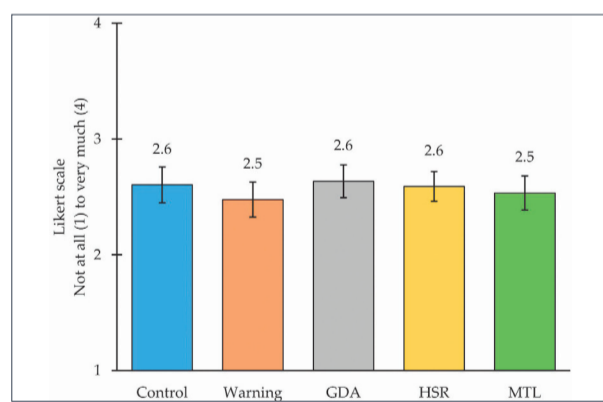
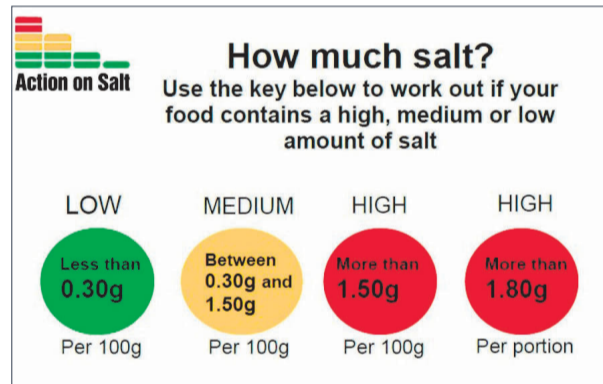
Commissioned by the World Health Organization, India, a team of researchers from The George Institute for Global Health, Melbourne Centre for Behaviour Change, UNICEF, and the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease conducted an extensive study to develop the new FoPL system.

India, home to the world's largest population, has experienced a significant shift in dietary habits, with an alarming increase in the consumption of processed and unhealthy foods. In response, the Indian government is taking proactive measures to implement a comprehensive front-of-pack nutrition labelling system.

The study involved surveying 1,270 adults from different regions of India to evaluate five different FoPLs currently in use worldwide, adapted to suit the Indian context. The findings, published in the journal Food Quality and Preference, revealed that a two-colour Multiple Traffic Lights label outperformed other labels in terms of objective knowledge and food choice results.

"Our study has conclusively shown that a two-colour label utilizing a traffic light format not only provides useful information but is also widely deemed effective, useful, and likable by most respondents," said D Praveen, a researcher at The George Institute for Global Health.

The importance of incorporating colour into the design of the new nutrition label cannot be overstated. All the



FoPLs examined in the study had positive effects on perception, choice, and objective comprehension, indicating the potential of such labels to assist consumers in making healthier food choices.

These findings are expected to guide the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Indian government as they work towards the creation of a front-of-pack nutrition la-

bellung system. The ultimate objective is to empower Indian consumers with easily accessible and understandable information about the nutritional content of packaged foods, thereby promoting healthier eating habits and curbing diet-related illnesses.

Nutritional information on the front of packaging Food labels provide the information you need to make

healthy and informed food choices.

To help you make a quick decision, most of the big supermarkets and food manufacturers have added a label to the front of their food packaging. This label will give you a quick guide to the amount of energy (kJ and kcal), fat, saturates, sugars and salt in a serving or portion of the food. However, it is important to remember that the manufacturer's idea of a portion may differ from yours.

Colour-coded nutritional information, as shown in the image above, tells you at a glance if the food has high, medium or low amounts of fat, saturates, sugars and salt.

Red = High This food will be high in fat, saturates, salt or sugar. These are fine to have occasionally but you should try to avoid choosing foods with red on the label too often.

Amber = Medium This means neither high nor low, so foods with all or mostly amber on the label are fine most of the time.

Green = Low The greener on the label the healthier the food, so foods with all or mostly green are always a good choice.

Many foods will have a mixture of colours on them. To make the healthiest choice, go for more ambers and greens and fewer reds. The shopping card below can help to guide you.

Nutrition labels are often displayed as a panel or grid on the back of food packaging. As with the front packaging, the information listed will include the amount of energy (kJ and kcal), fat, saturates, carbohydrates, fibre, protein and salt.

For example, the chart below shows the nutritional information on a loaf of white bread.

Health claims on labels can mean different things on different products, which can be confusing.

UNCHANGED

GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS RS 33.61 LAKH CRORE TAX COLLECTION TARGET

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

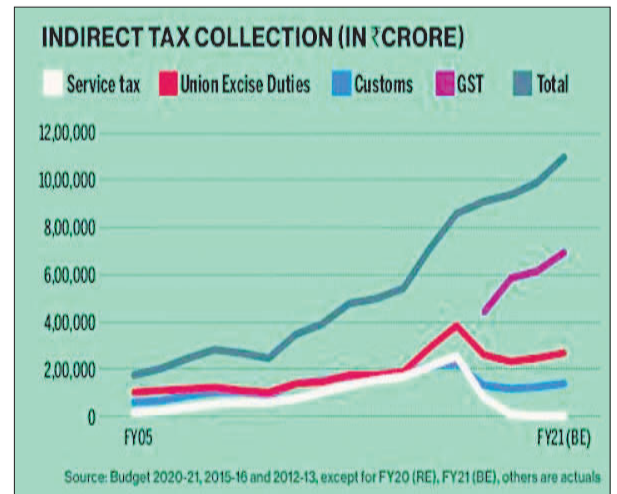
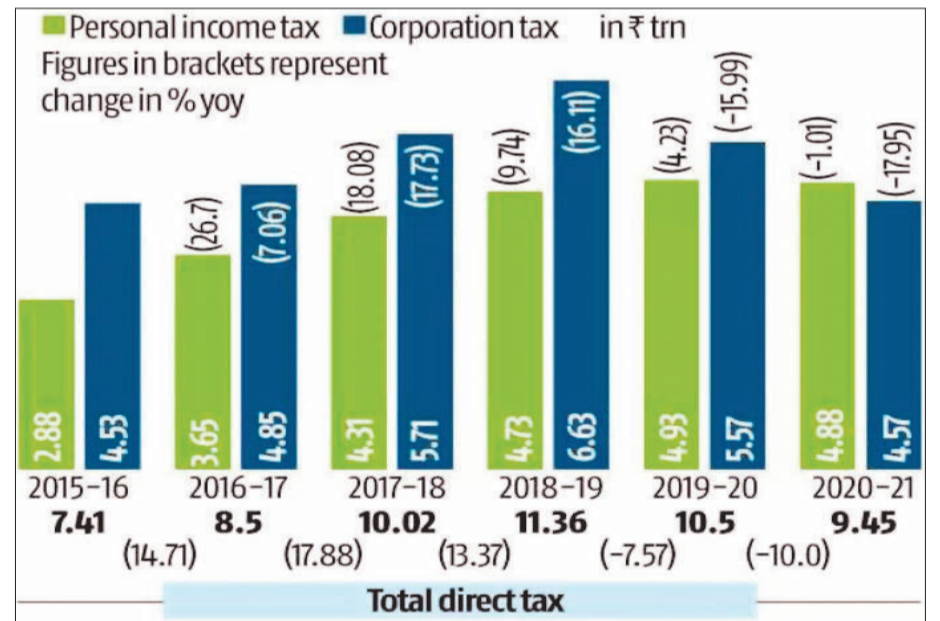
The government is likely to stick to the budgeted estimate of total tax collection target of Rs 33.61 lakh crore for current fiscal in the revised estimates, a senior finance ministry official said on Monday.

"So far, direct tax collection is up by about 20 per cent and indirect tax is higher by 5 per cent. We have data till the eight months of the fiscal and usually the collections are better in the first half. So, at the moment, we will stick to the Budget numbers in our Revised Estimates (RE)," an official said.

For 2023-24 (April-March), the Union Budget had pegged total tax collections at Rs 33.61 lakh crore, up 10.1 per cent from Rs 30.54 lakh crore in the previous year.

In the current fiscal, Rs 18.23 lakh crore is expected to be collected in direct taxes (personal income tax and corporate tax), and Rs 15.38 lakh crore from indirect taxes (GST, Customs, excise).

The revised estimates for current fiscal's revenue numbers would be presented as part of the vote on account or interim budget to be presented by the Union finance minister on Febru-



ary 1, 2024, in Parliament. Asked if there could be a cut in taxes on petrol and diesel, the official said the prices of Brent crude have already cooled in the inter-

national markets and there is no case for a cut in excise duty on fuel.

India is dependent on imports to meet nearly 85 per cent of its oil needs and so

India is dependent on imports to meet nearly 85 per cent of its oil needs and so benchmarks local fuel rates to international oil prices. "When crude oil prices were high, we cut excise duty.

benchmarks local fuel rates to international oil prices. "When crude oil prices were high, we cut excise duty. When prices were already cooled, the question of tax cut is not there. You can ask for price cut (of petrol and diesel), but it will not be because of cut in taxes," the official said.

Brent crude prices stood at USD 76.40 a barrel in the futures market early on Monday. Excise duty on fuel was last cut in May 2022 to cool inflation. The central excise duty on petrol was then cut by Rs 8 per litre and on diesel by Rs 6 per litre. Excise duty on fuel was last cut in May 2022 to cool inflation.



ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE

Unravelling the legal complexities of 'Pakadua Vivah': Patna HC case study

OPINION

PYALI CHATTERJEE



woman had cohabited with the petitioner post-marriage, further undermining the marriage's legitimacy.

This case was brought before the court by Ravi Kant, an Army constable hailing from Ravra village in Nawada. Kant's petition alleged that he was coerced into marrying a woman from Chauki village in Lakhisarai at gunpoint during a visit to the Ashok Dham temple in 2013. Kant's legal journey commenced when his plea for annulment was summarily rejected by a family court in January 2020, compelling him to escalate the matter to the High Court.

In a judgment delivered by Justices P. B. Bajanthri and Arun Kumar Jha on November 18, 2023, the High Court clarified a pivotal aspect of Hindu marriages. It underscored that a Hindu marriage attains completeness and legal binding only after the performance of the "Saptapadi" ritual. Given that this

ritual remained unfulfilled in Kant's case, the court deemed the marriage legally non-binding. Notably, the judges found the respondents' claims, asserting the completion of all rituals, including "Saptapadi", lacking convincing evidence, especially in light of Kant's allegations of forced marriage. Jitendra Kumar Verma, Ravi Kant's lawyer, expressed satisfaction with the High Court's decision, which overturned the family court's prior ruling. Additionally, the court observed that a dowry case filed against Kant in 2015 appeared to be an afterthought. On the other hand, the respondent's lawyer, Shashant Shekhar, indicated that they were scrutinizing the High Court's verdict to determine if it could be legally challenged, focusing on its finer legal points.

This case's significance lies in its intersection with Hindu law, which recognizes marriage as both a sacrament and a contract. Under specific conditions outlined in Section 13 and Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, couples can file divorce petitions after one year of marriage, with exceptions permitting cases within the first year under certain circumstances. Additionally, marriages under the Special

Marriage Act of 1954 are regarded as civil contracts, devoid of traditional ceremonies. These unions are formalized in the registrar's office, requiring a thirty-day notice and three witnesses. Legally, both parties must meet age requirements, with the bride being at least eighteen years old and the groom at least twenty-one. Importantly, marriages can be declared voidable if consent was obtained through force, fraud, or coercion, per the Indian Contract Act of 1872.

The case at hand involved a "Pakadua Vivah", a form of marriage by abduction, prevalent in Begusarai, Bihar. While such marriages may be valid in terms of ceremonies and rituals, but grooms have the option to make them voidable under Section 12(1) (c) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, if they choose as his consent was forcefully taken by the bride family members in such marriage. Notably, the Hindu Marriage Act does not explicitly define consent but can refer to the Indian Contract Act, 1872, for its definition. Sections 13 and 14 of the Indian Contract Act elaborate on consent and free consent, with Section 15 addressing coercion. When coercion is employed, the affected party can make

the contract voidable under Section 19 of the Indian Contract Act, depending on their choice.

This legal principle can also be applied to "Pakadua Vivah" cases. As we have discussed above, marriage under Hindu law is recognized as both a sacrament and a contract. In the context of "Pakadua Vivah" cases, the crucial element of free consent between the parties is often absent. In such instances, grooms have the legal option to declare the marriage voidable. However, it's worth noting that in some cases, they may eventually choose to accept the bride as their wife and daughter-in-law after initial resistance.

The central issue in these cases lies in the lack of awareness among common individuals about the legal provisions available to them in "Pakadua Vivah" situations. Many individuals are unaware of their legal rights and the recourse they have in the face of such marriages. Once individuals become aware of these legal provisions, they can take proactive steps to fight against the injustices that can stem from such marriages. This awareness empowers them to seek justice within the established legal framework and assert their rights.

In an intriguing connection to this issue, Bollywood also explored the theme of "Pakadua Vivah" in the movie "Atarangi Re." In this cinematic portrayal, the hero encounters a situation reminiscent of a "Pakadua Vivah" but makes a distinct choice. Instead of opting to make the marriage voidable, he decides to accept the marriage after navigating through the turmoil in his life. This cinematic depiction highlights the complexities and choices that individuals may face in such circumstances.

In conclusion, the "Pakadua Vivah" case adjudicated at the Patna High Court transcends a mere legal dispute; it epitomizes the intricate tapestry of Hindu marriage law, civil contracts, and individual autonomy. It serves as a stark reminder of the critical need for legal awareness and access to justice for individuals entangled in complex marital situations, particularly those arising from forced marriages like "Pakadua Vivah." Ultimately, it stands as a testament to the enduring quest for justice, equality, and individual agency within the legal framework.

Pyali Chatterjee is HOD, Faculty of Law, ICAI University, Raipur Chhattisgarh

PERSPECTIVE
ACCEPT AND MOVE ON

ARTICLE 370 IS HISTORY, GONE FOR GOOD

With Monday's historic Supreme Court verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370 as valid, a sordid chapter in India's history has been closed for good—a chapter that had put a question mark on India's territorial integrity, thus impacting India's security; a chapter that discriminated against certain sections of the people by law, apart from not allowing the people of J&K to experience the full benefits of being an Indian citizen enjoying the rights and guarantees provided by the Constitution of India. Much of the security and socio-political nightmare that Kashmir became over the years stemmed from Article 370, which was used by local leaders to stoke the fire of separatism, thus allowing external powers such as Pakistan to exacerbate the faultlines that existed in the state. As the Supreme Court said, J&K lost its sovereignty once it acceded to India and Article 370 was only a temporary provision. This unanimous verdict given by the five-judge bench of the Supreme Court settles all questions challenging the status of J&K as an integral part of India.

In the end, all of it happened so smoothly—something that had not even been attempted by successive governments for over seven decades, was done overnight in 2019, with the final stamp coming four and a half years later, as the Supreme Court dismissed all the petitions challenging the abrogation. From 2019 onwards, it has been business as usual in Kashmir—rather, better than ever, with stone-pelting disappearing, the region getting an infrastructural facelift, resulting in a tourism boom. Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is still a problem, but as the security forces have made it crystal clear, anyone picking up the gun in the Valley has a shelf life of maximum one year. Nowadays, the Tricolour flutters as Independence Day is celebrated at Lal Chowk—Srinagar's public square, which was the hotbed of strife and violence once. Even movie halls are returning, symbolizing the sea-change that is taking place in the Valley, where Wahhabis burnt movie theatres down by saying films were against their religion. And to think that leaders like Farooq Abdullah were proclaiming that Kashmir would start burning if Delhi ever attempted to abrogate Article 370. Kashmir did not burn after 2019. In 2016, post the death of Hizbul terrorist commander Burhan Wani, the valley saw violent unrest that continued for nearly two months; another major unrest took place in 2010, led by the Hurriyat. No such comparable protest has taken place after the 2019 decision. Looking back, the Hurriyat now seems like a bad memory.

This is not to say that everything is normal in Kashmir. It's not. But at least a beginning has been made for the mainstreaming of the valley with the rest of India, proving once again when the intention is right a lot can be achieved—the intention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this case. He showed the resolve to take the supposedly intractable Kashmir problem head-on and push it towards a resolution, undeterred by the canard spread against him and his government by the whole liberal and Wahhabi ecosystem internationally. In fact, international voices arrayed against the government became shriller post the 2019 abrogation. Facts were given a short shrift as the narrative was built up of a majoritarian India oppressing its minorities. The Supreme Court's verdict on the 2019 action would have come as a dampener for all such voices. It's hoped that in India too the voices demanding "azadi" (freedom) for Kashmir would subside. The Supreme Court verdict pushed Article 370 to an area from where it cannot be retrieved. So when former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of the National Conference says that his party respects the Supreme Court verdict, but would not stop trying to bring 370 back, he seems to be posturing, by refusing to—at least publicly—accept the inevitable. Given that he is a mainstream politician, he should not speak the language of the separatists. His job is to ensure that the J&K moves down the path of prosperity. The very fact that Kashmir was not up in arms in the last few years is proof that the people want to move on. That the Supreme Court verdict did not create even a ripple in the Valley is a message to all Kashmiri politicians that they should not pander to the separatist sentiments and instead work for their people, who want a normal life free from strife and violence.

The Supreme Court is right—this is the time for reconciliation, a time for healing. But the formation of any proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission will have to give justice not only to the people who are based in the valley and may have suffered from state and non-state excesses, but also to those lakhs of people who were driven out of the valley almost overnight. Does reconciliation mean that these people or their descendants will be able to return to Kashmir and rebuild their lives in a safe and secure environment? It's a difficult question, with no immediate answer, because too many inimical interests want Kashmir to stay a hotbed of terror and extremism, and the recent targeted attacks on Kashmiri Pandits show how efforts are still being made to strike fear in their hearts. It will not be an easy way ahead. But at least a beginning has been made.

JOYEETA BASU

CHANGE OF MINDSETS

A journey of self-discovery, within and beyond

On International Volunteer Day, tales of hope & optimism.

OPINION

TRINA CHAKRABARTI



afternoons are not merely a break from the daily hustle but also an opportunity to immerse in the joy of teaching slum kids basic English and Maths. When he had started out six months ago, it was merely for a mention of social work on his already illustrious CV, he admits with a coy smile. But six months of interaction with the children, lessons and games with them and celebration of special occasions have changed the person within. The realization that not everybody is as privileged as he is and that a couple of hours from his end can bring change in several lives is overwhelming, yet utmost fulfilling. "Why didn't you come last Sunday? We missed you so much, we want to be like you and learn more from you," one of students told him one day. This trivial moment triggered a tsunami of emotions. Ritwick has decided that volunteering would remain an integral part of his future plans henceforth, where ever life takes him. Never for a mention on the CV anymore, but for the sense of purpose and meaning it has infused in his hitherto mechanical life.

In another neighbourhood of the same city, Aqsa finds the Sunday classes (for another group of slum kids) therapeutic. She has

been associated with this work for six long years, from when she was in Class 11. Regular interactions with a group of kids from a local slum taught her the harsh realities of life, a stone's throw away from where she lives and has grown up. The satisfaction of watching children forget their daily struggles and take interest in learning basic English and Maths, participate in simple activities, bond with her and other volunteers became an integral part of her life and thought process, much more than a mere volunteering stint or a day of social work. She realized that she had almost silently become a catalyst of subtle change, slow but steady. And then one day, the Pandemic struck. The world turned upside down, figuratively and practically. The only way Aqsa could connect with the kids during lockdown was an occasional phone call with one of the students, who happened to have a phone. It was a time of trauma personally, which she was striving to overcome. "I knew I had to do something to fill the hollow within me and bring back the sense of purpose," she said.

Earlier this year, Aqsa approached us with the request to restart the Sunday classes. And she did it. Old students came back, eager and excited and there were new faces streaming in. What made Aqsa restart the classes? It's the kind of rejuvenation that she needed after a couple of rough years, says the aspiring MBA student. And what if she has to move from the city because of her

studies? The classes benefit the children in more ways than one, academically and psychologically, says Aqsa and "I will try my best with CRY to ensure that the classes don't stop. Change is happening and we can feel it. We want the process to continue".

Aqsa's work has helped her become a happier person – the transformative power of altruism is at play, where an act of giving becomes a source of personal strength and resilience.

Across the border, in Bihar, we meet a 26-year-old with broken dreams. Ranu wanted to join the administrative services to attain a position of power, and help bring in change in the lives of the underserved. But four failed attempts at the UPSC exams meant he had to start from scratch. His confidence had taken a dent, not his vision. He founded a small non-profit of his own that collaborates with individuals and bigger non-profits on core issues affecting women and children. The journey thus has been far from easy – it demands resilience, adaptability, and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the underserved. And in Ranu's own words, the experience of the past few years has taught him how to navigate ambiguity and find purpose beyond predefined career paths. The failures in the pursuit of personal ambitions have long been overshadowed by the success of working towards his cherished goal – that of helping those in need through meaningful, impactful ventures.

And, then there are students, both school and col-

lege-going, who volunteer with us because they want to make a difference in any way they can. Kaushik, an MBA student in a Kolkata college, feels it is not enough to harbour empathy within. It is important, almost a necessity, to pass it on to the next generation. Taking cyber security awareness sessions with schoolkids, as part of one of our projects, has given him a platform to bond with the next generation, know their thought processes and teach them a thing or two about the unknown world they are addicted to. That he is trying to shape the next generation's choices and thought processes gives him a sense of responsibility, says Kaushik, the lace of satisfaction in his voice not going amiss.

For Brishti, another college student from a remote district, donning the mentor's role for the cyber security sessions in schools has helped her to identify where her calling lies, a platform for deep introspection and self-reflection, as she views the impact of her work on evolving young minds.

We have Avni, a Class X student from Mumbai – it is the committed yearning to do something meaningful for the society that sets her apart. "If you believe in a cause, you should work for it," is her motto in life. Sample this. She hasn't formally joined us as a volunteer but when she came to know of our campaign to help kids in far-flung Manipur, she was up for it, in every which way. The Mumbai teenager has never visited this part of the country, but her heart bleeds for the in-

nocent kids caught in conflict and from hundreds of miles away, she wants to do the best she can to alleviate their sufferings.

And the impact within... The journey of these bright young individuals highlights the profound impact of volunteerism on personal development. Beyond the immediate societal benefits, it instils resilience, and fosters a deeper connection to the world. Whether it's finding fulfilment in teaching, overcoming personal adversities, redirecting deferred ambitions toward community service, or balancing academics with social awareness, the common thread is the realization that giving back is a powerful catalyst for self-discovery and positive change.

An internal survey within our pool of volunteers reinforces what we believe strongly. More than 80 per cent feel they have become better leaders and team workers after their stints. They are more confident, can solve problems easily, think out of the box and communicate forthright and their perception about their selves has received an enormous boost.

On International Volunteer Day, here's to the young minds who want to work to help the world, and discover themselves as more enriched and evolved souls. May they grow from strength to strength on their respective paths and remain close to the cause they believe in.

The author is the Regional Director, CRY (East)

IN COURT

GAUHATI HIGH COURT: ALONGSIDE EMBARGO OF SECTION 37 NDPS ACT, UNDUE DELAY IN TRIAL CAN BE A GROUND FOR GRANT OF BAIL

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Gauhati High Court in the case Anil Malakar v. The State of Assam observed and has granted bail to an accused arrested for an offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, NDPS Act while considering that there was no plausible ground to believe that he was guilty of the offence.

The bench headed by Justice Arun Dev Choudhury in the case observed that alongside the embargo placed by Section 37 of NDPS Act, thus, the ground of undue delay in trial can be a ground for granting bail, inasmuch as the court is to come to the satisfaction that there is no likelihood of completion of trial in near future.

The bench stated that such ground of inordinate delay shall depend on the facts of



the each case and the cause of delay is also required to be noted down.

The court in the case observed that as per the prosecution case, 29.030 kg of Ganja was recovered from Agartala Deodhar Express, but no suspect was initially found.

Later, the petitioner was implicated based on statement of two witnesses recorded as

stated under Section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

In the present case, the petitioner was arrested after 6 months of registration of the FIR and upon filing of the chargesheet, charge under Section 20(c) of the NDPS Act was framed by the Trial Court on 13.09.2023.

The court stated with regards to the confessional

statement as recorded under Section 67 of the NDPS Act.

The counsel appearing before the court that such statement shall remain inadmissible even at the stage of consideration of bail. Thus, he placed reliance on the judgement of the Supreme Court in the case State v. Palulabid Ahamed Arimutta & Others and Tofan Singh v.

State of Tamil Nadu.

On the other hand, the Additional Public Prosecutor, relied upon the judgement of the Apex Court in the case Narcotics Control Bureau v. Mohit Agarwal, wherein it has been argued that without arriving at a satisfaction as contemplated under Section 37 of NDPS Act, an accused cannot be enlarged on bail only on the ground of long incarceration.

The Supreme Court referred to the case Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI, wherein the court noted that the grant of bail on ground of undue delay in trial cannot be said to be fettered by Section 37 of NDPS Act, inasmuch as Section 436A of CrPC was made applicable in Antil (Supra) to offences under the NDPS Act.

It was reiterated before the court that reasonable fair and just procedure in a criminal trial is a constitutional obligation on the part of the State, and a speedy trial is

also one of the dimensions of the fundamental right to life as stated under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

The bench of Justice Choudhury stated on confession of the statements as stated under section 67 of the NDPS Act that the ratio laid down in the case of Palulabid Ahamed Arimutta (supra), that a confessional statement recorded under Section 67 of the NDPS Act, 1985, will remain inadmissible in the trial of an offence under the NDPS Act and therefore, such statement more particularly on the basis of the confessional statement or voluntary statement of the co-accused cannot be a ground to have a reasonable belief that the accused is guilty of the offence.

Accordingly, the court granted the bail.

The counsel, Advocate Sarfraz Nawaz appeared for petitioner PP, Assam represented the State.

IN COURT

Supreme Court Dismissed PIL Seeking Directions On Election-Related Expenditure Of Political Parties

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Ramesh Kumar Khatri v. The Election Commission of India observed and has dismissed the Public Interest Litigation, PIL moved seeking direction on setting limits to the expenses on election-related affairs of the Political parties.

The bench comprising of CJI DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra was hearing the present matter.

In the present case, the PIL moved seek directions regarding the calculation and fixing of expense limits by Political parties, restriction on the expenses of candidates, restriction on articles printed and posted prior to nominations and Courts to restrict pamphlets and posters etc. The petitioner in the plea highlighted that as per section 86(7) of the Representation of the People

Act, 1951, the High Courts are to expeditiously dispose of election petitions within six months from the date on which the election petition is presented to the High Court for trial.

It has been contended by him before the court that the High Courts do not decide even after 3 to 4 years and seek further directions to all High Courts to dispose of such petitions within the stipulated time frame.

The court in the case observed that the direction so sought fell in the ambit of the Legislature.

The bench headed by CJI remarked that the either these are the legislative changes or policy matters, how can we entertain a petition like this?

The bench while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that this court cannot command the Parliament that you enact a law on this subject.

Accordingly, the court dismissed the plea.

IN COURT

Patna High Court: Mere Membership Of A Banned Organization Does Not Justify Bail Rejection When Trial Is Anticipated To Prolong

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Patna High Court in the case Jalaluddin Khan @ Md. Jalaluddin vs The Union of India observed and has stated that mere membership in a banned organization should not be the reason enough to deny bail, particularly when the trial is anticipated to be prolonged.

The division bench comprising of Justice Ashutosh Kumar and Justice Alok Kumar Pandey in the case observed and has stated that merely being the member of a banned organization, it would not justify rejection of bail when the Trial is likely to continue for a longer time.

The said ruling came in the batch of criminal appeals filed under Section 21(4) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, whereby the Court granted bail to an Advo-

cate accused of offences as stated under Section 120, Section 120B, Section 121, Section 121A, Section 153A, Section 153B, and Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, IPC.

In the present case, the accused-appellants faced charges of direct association with the Popular Front of India (P.F.I.), an organization that had been prohibited in 2022.

It has been contended by the prosecution that they were actively engaged in pursuing the organization's covert objective of fomenting violence to achieve their purported aim of reinstating Muslim rule in India.

However, the court after reviewing all the relevant evidence against the appellant, found it fitting to overturn the contested decision denying bail.

The court in its order stated that the appellant's release on bail, provided

he furnishes a bail bond amounting to Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) and secures two sureties, each in the same amount. Thus, the satisfaction of the Special Judge, N.I.A., Patna, is required for the fulfilment of these conditions.

The court stated that this decision holds significance in light of a March 2023 key verdict by the Supreme Court, wherein the court held that mere membership in an unlawful organization would be a UAPA Offence.

The Supreme Court bench comprising of Justice MR Shah, Justice CT Ravikumar, and Justice Sanjay Karol in the case observed and has affirmed the validity of Section 10(a)(i) of the UAPA, which considers membership in an association declared unlawful as an offence.

The Supreme Court in

the case observed and has overturned its 2011 rulings in cases such as Arup Bhuyan vs State of Assam, Indra Das vs State of Assam, and State of Kerala vs Raneef.

The court noted that that in its earlier judgments, it has been held by the Supreme Court that mere membership in a banned organization is not adequate to constitute an offence under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 or the Terrorism and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, unless accompanied by overt violent actions.

The counsel, Advocates Mr. Syed Masleh Uddin Ashraf, Adv. Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, Adv. Mr. Shivadiya Dhari Sinha, Adv. Mr. Abhiheet Gautam, Adv. Mr. Amarjeet appeared for the appellant. The counsel, Dr. Krishna Nandan Singh, ASG represented the respondent.

IN COURT

KERALA HIGH COURT: DISTRICT COLLECTOR CAN EXERCISE REVISIONAL POWER AGAINST ASSESSMENT ORDER | KERALA BUILDING TAX ACT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Kerala High Court in the case P. H. Fathima v State Of Kerala observed and has stated that as per Section 13 of the Kerala Building Tax Act 1975, the District Collector may exercise revisional power against an assessment order.

The court in the case made it clear that the revisional power of the District Collector was not just limited to an order passed in appeal by the Revenue Divisional Officer.

In the present case, the petitioner was aggrieved by the rejection of the assessment order by the District Collector in revision, thus, the petitioner approached the High Court

The bench headed by Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh in the case observed and has quashed the order of the District Collector observed and has stated that from the bare perusal of Section 13, it can



be gathered that the District Collector may exercise the revisional power against the assessment order, and it is not limited only to the order passed in appeal under Section 11 by the Revenue Divisional Officer and of course the power of revision against the assessment order or the appellate order is to be exercised within the parameters as provided under Section 13.

It has been stated under section 13 of the Act which pertains to the revisional power of the District Collec-

tor, wherein it is provided that the District Collector can exercise revisional power against any order passed by the appellate authority or the assessing authority.

The petitioner in the case preferred the revision against the assessment order before the District Collector. The petitioner revision plea was rejected by stating that the appeal shall lie against the assessment order before the Revenue Divisional Officer only. Therefore, the order stated that the revision against the assessment order

shall lie before the District Collector against the appellate order only.

The High Court in the case observed and took note of the decision in the case James Varghese v District Collector and section 13 of the Act to state that revision against assessment order was maintainable before the District Collector.

The court while considering the said judgement and the provisions of Section 13 of the Kerala Building Tax Act observed and has quashed the impugned order, thus, the court remanded the matter back to the District Collector for a decision on merit in the revision filed by the petitioners against the assessment order.

Accordingly, the court allowed the writ plea.

The counsel, Advocates Aakhil Mohammed P.M and P.M. Mohammed Shiraz appeared for the petitioner.

Counsel for the respondents: None.

IN COURT

SUPREME COURT: RESTORED STATEHOOD OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SOON, HOLD ELECTIONS TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR ASSEMBLY BY SEPTEMBER 2024.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case observed and has directed the Union Government to expedite the process of restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, J&K.

The Constitution bench comprising of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and composed of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, and Justice Surya Kant in the case observed and has upheld the validity of the Union Government's 2019 decision to repeal the special status of Jammu and Kashmir as stated under Article 370 of the Constitution of India.



The court in the case observed and has held that the State of Jammu and Kashmir had no internal sovereignty and that Article 370 was a temporary provision.

The validity of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, which bifurcated the State of J&K into Union Territories of J&K

and Ladakh, was one of the issues before the Court.

However, the said court did not find rule on this issue in view of the submission of the Solicitor General of India that the statehood of J&K will be restored as soon as possible.

The Supreme Court in the case observed and has upheld that the creation of Ladakh UT as valid, holding that Article 3 of the Constitution of India gave the power to the Parliament to carve out a Union Territory from a State.

The issue raised before the court was whether an entire State could be turned into a Union Territory as per Article 3 was left open.

The court in the case ob-

served and has directed that the steps shall be taken by the Election Commission of India to conduct elections to the J&K assembly by September 30, 2024.

Further, the court stated that the restoration of statehood shall take place as soon as possible.

The bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud in the case observed and has stated that steps shall be taken by the Election Commission of India to conduct elections to the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir constituted under Section 14 of the Reorganisation Act by 30 September 2024 and the restoration of statehood shall take place at the earliest and as soon as possible.

The court in the case ob-

IN COURT

Himachal Pradesh High Court: Bail Proceedings Cannot Be Turned Into Recover Proceedings In Monetary Disputes

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Himachal Pradesh High Court in the case Geeta Kashyap v. State of Himachal Pradesh (and connected matter) observed and has reiterated that the bail proceedings should not be utilized as a means for recovery in monetary disputes.

The court in the case was dealing with the issue of recovering money is a civil matter and should be addressed through appropriate legal channels, and not in criminal proceedings.

The bench headed by Justice Rakesh Kainthla in the case observed and has allowed the bail applications of accused or petitioners.

The court in the case ob-

served that the bail proceedings cannot be used to recover the amount advanced by the informant. Thus, it is appeared from the status report that the informant had invested the money in gold through Geeta but he has projected a different version that he had advanced the money as a help to Geeta and if the money was advanced as a help and is not being returned, it will give rise to civil liability and not criminal liability.

In the present case, the informant accused the petitioners of luring him into opening a gold shop, failing to supply the agreed gold, and not returning the invested money.

It has been asserted by him before the court that he had provided financial assistance

to petitioner-Geeta after her house collapsed in a landslide.

However, instead of returning the money, she invested it in gold.

The bench of Justice Kainthla, after carefully examining the allegations, highlighted that the money was extended as help and not entrusted to the accused. Thus, it was stressed that no case of inducement or delivery of property based on inducement had been established at this stage, and thus, the offence of cheating as stated under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code, IPC was not prima facie made out against the petitioners.

The court noted that the informant and the State were primarily focused on recov-

ering the money through the bail proceedings.

The bench also referred to the case Ramesh Kumar v. State NCT of Delhi, wherein the court stated that the criminal proceedings are not meant for realization of disputed dues.

The court in the case observed and has allowed the bail applications, making the interim bail orders absolute until the disposal of the case.

The court directed the petitioner to abide by all the terms and conditions imposed by the court.

The counsel, Advocates Vinod Chauhan and Pawan Gautam appeared for the petitioner.

The counsel, Deputy Advocate General RP Singh represented the respondent.

IN COURT

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT RESERVED VERDICT ON PLEA MOVED CHALLENGING HINDU WORSHIPPERS' 1991 SUIT | GYANVAPI-KASHI TITLE DISPUTE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case observed and has reserved its judgment on a batch of pleas moved which includes a petition challenging the civil suit of 2019 filed by Hindu worshippers seeking the right to worship in the Gyanvapi mosque.

The present suit pending before the Varanasi court, seeks to restore an ancient temple at the disputed site currently occupied by the Gyanvapi mosque, with the petitioners wherein it contended that the mosque is a part of the temple.

The court observed that it has been the primary contention of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which manages the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and UP Sunni Central Waqf Board that the suit prohibited by the Places of Worship Act (Special Provisions) Act of 1991.



It has been stated that the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991 prohibits the conversion of a religious structure from its nature as it stood on the date of independence.

Earlier, the Supreme Court in the case observed and has refused to interfere with the order passed by Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker (now re-

tired) transferring the cases concerning the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi Mosque dispute to his bench from the bench of another judge.

The three-judge bench headed by CJI Chandrachud in the case observed and has pointed out that the previous judge i.e., Justice Prakash Padia had not delivered the judgment despite reserving it in 2021 and holding seventy-five hearings, and hence, the order of CJI to transfer cases was justified.

Therefore, on August 11, the then Chief Justice (Justice Diwaker) passed an order on the administrative side withdrawing the Gyanvapi title dispute cases from the bench of Justice Prakash Padia that in the interest of judicial propriety

and judicial discipline as well as the transparency in the listing of cases. Later, the said matter was assigned to the bench of Chief Justice. The court observed that this development had come shortly after Justice Padia's bench, which had been hearing the matter since August 2021, wherein the court concluded the hearing and reserved the orders in the cases on July 25. The court observed that the reason behind such a decision was disclosed in the Chief Justice's order dated August 28, wherein it was reasoned that non-observance of the procedure in listing the cases, passing of successive orders for reserving the judgment and again listing the cases before the Judge i.e., Justice Prakash Padia for hearing through he no longer had the jurisdiction as per the master of the roster, had led to the withdrawal of the cases. Therefore, the Chief Justice

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in his 12-page order stated that essentially his order on the administrative side emanated from a complaint which was made before him on July 27, 2023, by a counsel of one of the parties to the proceedings, wherein it has been highlighted the fact that hearing in the dispute cases was proceeding in derogation of the procedure laid down in law for listing of the cases as per the rules.

The counsel, S.F.A. Naqvi, Senior Advocate, Puneet Kumar Gupta, Syed Ahmed Faizan appeared for the Petitioner.

The counsel, Ajay Kumar Singh, Vijai Shankar Rastogi, Sunil Rastogi, Tejas Singh, M.C. Chaturvedi, learned AAG, Kunal Ravi Singh, CSC, Vijay Shankar Mishra, CSC-VI, Hare Ram Tripathi, SC, Sri Ankit Gaur, SC, Vineet Sankalp, SC, Shashi Prakash Singh, ASGI, Manoj Kumar Singh, Ved Mani Tiwari and Sudarshan Singh learned CCGs represented the respondent.

IN COURT

Delhi High Court To MCD: Explore Possibility Of Developing Parking Spaces In Mehrauli's Vicinity To Tackle Traffic

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Sharad Vashisht General Secretary W One Desu Road Mehrauli v. Government Of NCT Of Delhi Through Its Chief Secretary And Ors observed and has asked the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, MCD in order to explore the possibility of developing parking spaces in the vicinity of Mehrauli area to tackle the problem of traffic jam there. The bench comprising of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Mini Pushkarna in the case observed and has directed the city authorities to decide the representations of a Mehrauli resident regarding traffic jam and lack of adequate parking spaces in the area.

The court stated that the petitioner is granted liberty for filing the respective representations within two weeks raising all his grievances and the representation of the petitioner shall be decided by the respective bodies within the period of four weeks of receipt of such representation. Adding to it, the court stated that at the time of deciding the representation of the petitioner, the MCD may also explore the possibility of developing parking

spaces in the vicinity of the area in order to tackle the problem of traffic jam in the area. It being the case of resident that there is the footfall in the restaurants or bars running in Mehrauli, especially in the evening time, which continues till wee hours of morning.

It was also submitted before the court that there is a footfall in the restaurants or bars running in Mehrauli, especially in the evening time, which continues till wee hours of morning.

On the other hand, it has been contended by the authorities that the area where the restaurants are existing is a commercial area and that the said restaurants are being operated after obtaining requisite licenses. It has also been submitted before the court that they were committed to comply with any directions passed by court with regards to the grievances raised by the resident. The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that the grievance of the petitioner regarding high decibel music in the said restaurants till late night and the said restaurants are running without license, shall be looked into by the Delhi Police. Accordingly, the court disposed of the plea.

IN COURT

Karnataka High Court Issued Guidelines For Resumptions Of Video Conference Hearings On A Pilot Basis From December 11

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Karnataka High Court issued the guidelines to resume the video conference hearing of court proceedings from December 11.

The Karnataka High Court temporarily suspended Video Conference facilities in all the Courts of the High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru, Dharwad, and Kalaburagi on December 05.

The guidelines issued for the resumption of video conferencing on a pilot basis issued by the Registry state that all the Advocates, party-in-persons, Litigants, and Media persons shall get themselves compulsorily registered on the Zoom platform as a one-time measure by signup procedure.

The guidelines issued stated that only such registered



participants with the correct case now shall be allowed to participate in the Court Proceedings. It has been stated that for participants from outside India, an advance must be sent to the Registrar Judicial requesting permission to join the VC links.

The bench headed by Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale while suspending the video-conferencing facilities stated that an unfortunate situation has arisen and we are stopping on the live streaming, video conferencing. This court is not permitting video conferencing facility, live streaming facility. Unfortunately, some mischief is being played and here may be some mischief player.

67 (A) of the Information Technology (IT) Information Technology act that the unknown users displayed obscene images through video conferencing and obstructed the proceedings of the court.

The High Court in the year 2021 had begun live-streaming court proceedings on a trial basis. On May 31, the first live stream was made available on the Karnataka High Court's official YouTube page.

The first hearing to be live-streamed was from Court Hall number one, where a division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Suraj Govindaraj were seated. In 2022, the High Court notified the Karnataka Rules on Live Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings, which came into force from January 1, 2022.

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IN COURT

MADARS HIGH COURT IMPEADED REGISTRAR GENERAL IN SUO MOTU REVISION PETITIONS MOVED AGAINST ACQUITTAL OF MINISTER K PONMUDI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Madars High Court in the case Suo Moto RC v. Vigilance and Anti-Corruption wing observed and has impeaded the Registrar General in the suo motu revision petition taken up against the acquittal of TN Minister K Ponmudi and his wife in a disproportionate assets case.

The bench headed by Justice G Jayachandran in the case observed and has stated that since the single judge had questioned the procedure adopted in transferring the case to a different Court which was essentially an administrative order, the Registrar General was the necessary party.

The court in the case observed that several issues have cropped up during the course of hearing, particularly regarding the powers

of Port-Folio Judges transferring case pending before one Sessions Division to another Sessions Division on the administrative side. Thus, for proper adjudication of the issue, the Registrar-General of the High Court of Madras is a necessary party and therefore, the above two Criminal Miscellaneous Petitions to impead the Registrar-General, High Court of Madras as the fourth respondent, is allowed.

The bench headed by Justice Anand Venkatesh in the case observed and has exercised the suo motu revision powers and has held that the transfer of trial against Ponmudi and his wife from one district to another at the end of the trial was ex-facie illegal and non-est in the eye of the law.

The bench of Justice Venkatesh in the case observed and has stated that the law did not give authority to the

High Court administration to transfer a pending criminal case from one district to another, either under the Constitution or the Letter Patent and it has even remarked by the judgement that there was a shocking and calculated attempt to manipulate and subvert the criminal justice system.

The Apex Court refused to interfere with the order and even went on to appreciate Justice Anand Venkatesh.

It has also been remarked by the Chief Justice that there was no administrative power to transfer trial but only a judicial power existed.

The Apex Court in the case observed and has allowed the retired sessions judge against whom the single judge had made adverse remarks to submit a response to the adverse observations in the suo motu revision petitions to the Registrar General.

The bench of Justice Jayachandran agreed with Senior Advocate NR Elango appearing for Ponmudi and observed that the transfer order passed by the High Court transferring the trial from Villupuram to Vellore was essentially an order passed on the administrative side of the High Court.

The court noted that the Registrar General was a necessary party the court impeaded the Registrar General and asked him to reply to the plea by December 12, 2023.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case allowed the plea moved by Ponmudi's in order to get a copy of the response of the Judicial Officer noting that the same was necessary for Ponmudi to represent effectively.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on December 12, 2023.

IN COURT

Broken idols are not worshipped!

Those crying foul over Mahua Moitra's expulsion need to understand that Parliament is the temple of our democracy



VIJAY DARDA

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra has been expelled from the Lok Sabha in connection with the 'cash-for-query' case. People making political statements about this issue should understand that the actions of Mahua Moitra precipitated her removal from the Parliament. There is absolutely no need to look at this issue from a

political prism. This entire matter should be viewed through the lens of Parliament's dignity. This is what the Ethics Committee of Parliament has done.

People who support Mahua Moitra claim that there was no debate in the House about her expulsion. Three to four days should have been set aside for discussion. The point is, where is the doubt now, given that Mahua Moitra has admitted to sharing the login ID and password with a businessman, Darshan Hiranandani, for filing questions in the parliamentary portal and had taken gifts from him? Mahua was accused of accepting money and gifts from the Hiranandani group and asking questions in Parliament against the Adani Group. This allegation proved true before the

Do not look at Mahua Moitra's expulsion from Parliament from a political prism. This is the question of Parliament's dignity.

Ethics Committee. Strangely, Mahua's parliamentary account was accessed 47 times from Dubai. Of the 61 questions she asked, 50 were related to Adani Group. Just imagine, how serious a matter it is if someone sitting in Dubai logs in to the Parliament portal with the login ID and password of an MP. Mahua cannot disown responsibility by saying that there is no parliamentary portal rule prohibiting the sharing of login IDs. Every child in this country understands that login ID and password should never be shared with anyone. Doing this can result in fraud at any time. But here

it was not a matter of fraud at all. Mahua deliberately shared the ID and password.

The Ethics Committee interrogated the person who made the allegations, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, the person who provided him the documents, Jai Anant Dehadrai, and Mahua Moitra, but the latter refused to cooperate. It is worth mentioning here that Jai Anant Dehadrai was once a close friend of Mahua Moitra. Mahua has described him to be her 'disappointed' ex-boyfriend. It is in this pretext that Mahua alleged that the Ethics Committee had started asking her personal ques-

tions. The Ethics Committee is made up of MPs from all political parties. This committee is non-political, and Mahua chose to make such allegations against it to divert attention from the real issue. The chairman of the Ethics Committee and BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar also stated on record that Mahua was not cooperating in the investigation.

As far as the question of debate in Parliament about expulsion or allowing Mahua to present her case is concerned, this question no longer exists after investigation by the Ethics Committee. Mahua had ample opportunity to express her views before the Ethics Committee but she chose to play politics instead. She and those supporting her claimed that Mahua is being harassed because she is

a woman. It is absurd even to derive such conclusions. This is not a question about women but the dignity of Parliament.

This is not the first time that an MP has been expelled for asking questions after accepting money. In 2005, a news channel conducted a sting operation in which MPs took money in exchange for asking questions. Some 10 members of Lok Sabha and one member of Rajya Sabha were dismissed. They included BJP's Anna Patil, Y G Mahajan, Suresh Chandel, Pradeep Gandhi, Chandrapal and Chhatrapal Singh (Rajya Sabha), BSP's Narendra Kushwaha, Lal Chandra, Rajaram Pal, Congress' Ramsevak Singh and RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha. Before that in 1951, H G Mudgal was expelled. In 1978, Indira Gan-

dhi was also expelled by the Janata Party government. In the subsequent period, more than 42 MPs including Subramanian Swamy, Rahul Gandhi and Vijay Malya lost their membership due to various reasons. However, Rahu's membership was reinstated as the sentence was suspended later.

I've been a member of Parliament for 18 years, and individuals like me understand and feel that when you go to Parliament, you have a lot of responsibilities to fulfil, since Parliament is more than simply a building or a place for meeting and debate. Rather, it is the temple of democracy, a place of worship for the republic, where the wishes of the average man of this country come true. This is the pinnacle of faith and aspiration. In such a holy sanctuary, there can

be no room for deception. Mamata Banerjee has now stated that Mahua will be given justice in the people's court. It is possible that Mahua may return after re-election and may continue to be elected again and again, but that would not prove her untainted. I believe that one should not question the Parliament's Ethics Committee and the government for one's politics. Today, the BJP is in power, tomorrow some other party will be in government. The dignity of Parliament is not linked to any government. This is the collective responsibility of all parties. And it is very important to understand this.

The author is the chairman, Editorial Board of Lokmat Media and former member of Rajya Sabha.

TOP OF THE DAY

4.4 MAGNITUDE
EARTHQUAKE HITS
AFGHANISTAN

KABUL: An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 on the Richter Scale jolted Afghanistan's Fayzabad on Monday morning, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said. According to the NCS, the earthquake occurred around 08:04:05 (IST) at a depth of 180 kilometres. The quake was located at 151 kilometres South-Southeast (SSE) of Fayzabad. "Earthquake of Magnitude:4.4, Occurred on 11-12-2023, 08:04:05 IST, Lat: 35.77 & Long: 70.91, Depth: 180 Km, Location: 151 km SSE of Fayzabad, Afghanistan," the NCS posted on X.

CHILD DEAD, 4
INJURED IN
PAKISTAN SHOP
BLAST

ISLAMABAD: One child died and four others, including a woman, were injured in a scrap shop blast in Pakistan's Multan on Sunday, Pakistan-based ARY News reported.

According to details, the explosion took place in a scrap shop in Tawakal town, Multan. The child died on the spot, while the injured people were taken to Nishtar Hospital in Multan, ARY News reported, citing rescue sources. Police officials said that the deceased was identified as Ahmed Ali. They further said that an investigation into the incident is being conducted. According to police, the incident took place on Ibrahim Road in Khuzdar when a vehicle of SHO CTD Khuzdar Muhammad Murad was targeted. The police said that a bomb was placed in the CTD official's vehicle.

HUGE EXPLOSION
ROCKS IRAN'S
HYDROCARBON
REFINERY

TEHRAN: A massive explosion has rocked the hydrocarbon refinery in Iran's Birjand special economic zone, with the fire now engulfing all 18 reservoirs in the refinery, Iran-based IRNA News reported. Rescue teams have temporarily withdrawn from the spot due to the constant threat of further explosions. No casualties have been reported in the incident, according to IRNA report.

10,000 FOREIGN
WORKERS MIGRATE
TO ISRAEL SINCE
WAR

TEL AVIV: Israel's Immigration Authority reported that since the start of the Iron Swords War in Gaza, it has reordered the entry to Israel of 10,000 foreign workers who came to fill the need in various industries. Also, additional flights of workers for the agriculture and construction sectors are expected to arrive this week. This number refers both to foreign workers who left at the outbreak of the war and returned later and to new foreign workers who first arrived in Israel, including workers who came from Moldova, Malawi and the Philippines.

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

ISRAELI PM NETANYAHU CALLS ON
HAMAS TO 'SURRENDER NOW'TDG NETWORK
TEL AVIV

As heavy fighting continues in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, with the war entering its 66 day and Israeli forces being relentless in their pursuit of attacking Hamas, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the terror group to "surrender now" and warned that "it is the beginning of the end of Hamas".

Netanyahu's warning comes at a time when dozens of Hamas terrorists have surrendered to Israeli forces in recent days.

In a video posted by Israel PM's Office, Netanyahu called on Hamas terrorists to not die for Hamas head in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar.

Netanyahu said, "In the past few days, dozens of



Hamas terrorists have surrendered to our forces. They are laying down their weapons and turning themselves into our heroic soldiers. This will take time. The war is still ongoing but it is the beginning of the end of Hamas. I say to the Hamas terrorists: It's over. Don't die for Sinwar. Surrender now!"

Meanwhile, Israel Defence Forces spokesperson Rear

Admiral Daniel Hagari said the military has discovered a large tunnel network below Palestine Square in Gaza City, The Times of Israel reported.

Hagari said that troops of the 401 Armoured Brigade, the Navy's Shayetet 13 commando unit, and the Air Force's Shaldag unit have completed the capture of the Palestine Square area. He said that troops using "ac-

curate intelligence" found the network of "strategic tunnels" in the area, which according to him connect to Shifa Hospital.

Hagari said, "The Palestine Square area houses Yahya Sinwar's office, government offices, assets of senior Hamas officials, and there is a network of terror tunnels." The Times of Israel reported.

He noted, "This is the area of the main command center, where senior Hamas members were on October 7 and during the fighting, they moved to other areas." He said the troops are continuing to probe the tunnel network in the area.

Meanwhile, the IDF announced that it has killed the new commander of Hamas' Shejaiya battalion in an airstrike in the Gaza Strip

on Saturday. Emad Qariqa replaced Wissam Farhat after the latter was killed in an Israeli airstrike on 2 December. According to IDF, Qariqa previously worked as Shejaiya battalion's deputy commander.

On Saturday, IDF also announced the death of a soldier who was injured in northern Gaza on Friday, taking the toll of slain soldiers in the ground offensive against Hamas to 98, according to The Times of Israel report.

The soldier has been identified as Lt Nethanel Menachem Eitan (22), a cadet in the Bahad 1 officers school's Gefen Battalion, and a soldier in the Air Force's Unit 669. In addition, the IDF said that another five soldiers were seriously injured during the fighting in Gaza on Saturday.

APPOINTMENT

Javier Milei takes oath as
Argentina's PresidentTDG NETWORK
BUENOS AIRES

Javier Milei was sworn in as Argentina's new president on Sunday, sealing the ascent of a political newcomer who gained popularity by calling for economic reforms, CNN reported.

Milei is an economist and former political commentator who, during his election campaign, spoke about his intent to slash spending, according to CNN report. Javier Milei's predecessor, Alberto Fernandez, presided over the swearing-in ceremony before Argentina's Congress in Buenos Aires. Milei took the oath before giving his first speech as president, vowing to bring about sweeping changes.

Addressing a crowd from the grand stairwell outside Congress in Buenos Aires, Milei said, "Today, it's the start of a new era for Argentina; today we close a long and sad history of decadence and decline, and we take the road of reconstruction of our country."

He said, "Argentines had overwhelmingly expressed their desire for change that has no turning back." Several world leaders including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro attended the swearing-in ceremony of Javier Milei.



Israel Foreign Minister Eli Cohen attended the swearing-in ceremony of Javier Milei and called him a "clear supporter of Israel." Cohen said he and the families of abductees met Milei before the swearing-in ceremony.

Taking to X, Eli Cohen stated, "Israel's true 'Haviv'! Proud to represent the State of Israel at the inauguration ceremony of the president-elect of Argentina @JMilei. Millai is a clear supporter of Israel, and has spoken out in favour of moving the embassy to Jerusalem."

Milei (53) was elected as Brazil's President in the runoff on 19 November. He received 55.9 per cent votes while 44 per cent votes were obtained by Sergio Massa, CNN reported.

Javier Milei gained national prominence after winning the elections and promising reforms like dollarization and addressing the economic challenges faced by Argentina, CNN reported. Milei opposes abortion rights and has called climate change a "lie of socialism." He has vowed to reduce government spending by closing Argentina's ministries of education, culture and diversity and by eliminating public subsidies, according to CNN report.

His political programme also includes reducing regulations on gun control and transferring authority over the penitentiary system from people to the military, both measures are part of a tough-on-crime approach.

RELATIONS

US President Joe Biden invites Ukrainian
counterpart Zelenskyy to White HouseTDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has invited his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the White House on Tuesday. During the meeting, the two leaders will discuss Ukraine's energy needs and the importance of the US' continued support for Kyiv.

According to a statement released by White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, Biden has invited Zelenskyy to the White House to demonstrate the US' "unshakeable commitment" to support the people of Ukraine as they fight Russia in

the ongoing war.

In a statement, Karine Jean-Pierre stated, "President Biden has invited President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine to the White House for a meeting on Tuesday, December 12, to underscore the United States' unshakeable commitment to supporting the people of Ukraine as they defend themselves against Russia's brutal invasion."

Volodymyr Zelenskyy will visit the US at a time when the Ukraine aid deal remains stalled in Congress. It is Zelenskyy's second visit to the US since the war between Russia and Ukraine started in February 2022.

Previously, Zelenskyy visited the US in September.

Zelenskyy's visit comes at a critical moment in congressional negotiations for emergency aid to Ukraine, CNN reported. Congress looks no closer to a deal tying immigration and border policy changes to the emergency aid package providing funding for Ukraine and Israel before lawmakers leave town for the holidays.

According to the statement, Zelenskyy will focus on "securing unity among the US, Europe, and the rest of the world" on supporting Ukraine's defence against Russia

and "strengthening the international order based on rules and respect for the sovereignty of nations."

During the meeting, Zelenskyy and Biden will also discuss defensive cooperation efforts for the coming year, including joint projects to produce weapons and air defence systems.

Notably, the US has been providing military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine ever since the war between Kyiv and Moscow started. The Biden administration has also imposed sanctions against Russia for launching an attack on Ukraine.

CONDEMNATION

ISRAEL USING HAMAS' OCT 7 ATTACK TO
JUSTIFY 'COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT': RUSSIATDG NETWORK
MOSCOW

Condemning Israel's counter-attack on Gaza, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said it is unacceptable that Israel is using Hamas' 7 October attack as justification for a "collective punishment" of Palestinians in Gaza, Al Jazeera reported.

The Russian leader also called for international monitoring of the situation on the ground in the besieged enclave. Speaking virtually at the Doha Forum on Sunday, Lavrov told Al Jazeera that an unprecedented attack by Hamas inside the Israeli territory did not happen in a vacuum.

"It was due to decades and

decades of a blockade (in Gaza) and decades and decades of unfulfilled promises to the Palestinians that they would have a state, living side to side with Israel in security and good neighbourliness," he said. Around 17,700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since 7 October, while in Israel, the revised official death toll from the Hamas attack stands at about 1,147, Al Jazeera said.

Addressing the Doha Forum, a two-day global meeting being held in the Qatari capital, Lavrov said the ongoing war in Gaza is about "cancel culture"—a recent phenomenon that refers to the mass withdrawal of support to public figures or celebrities who did things in

the past that are no more acceptable today.

"Whatever you don't like in the events which lead to a situation, you cancel," he said, according to Al Jazeera.

Earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin has also called Israel's offensive in Gaza a failure of US diplomacy and suggested that Moscow could be a mediator in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Moscow has also condemned this week's US veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. Dmitry Polyanskiy, Russia's representative at the UN, said US diplomacy was "leaving scorched earth in its wake," Al Jazeera reported.

RECONSTRUCT

ISRAEL GREENLIGHTS \$ 4.9 BILLION PLAN TO REBUILD
GAZA-AREA COMMUNITIESTDG NETWORK
TEL AVIV

Israel's Cabinet on Sunday approved the outline for a strategic multi-year plan to rebuild communities adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

The plan constitutes a broad budgetary framework for five years (2024-2028) of up to 18 billion shekels (\$ 4.9 billion) intended to lead to the rehabilitation of the region.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "In the area adjacent to the Gaza Strip at the start of the war, we established the Tekuma Authority." Tekuma is Hebrew for "revival".

"We provided a massive budget to rebuild the com-



munities and to ensure that nobody will be left behind," Netanyahu added.

The outline, formulated in cooperation with the local authorities and communities, is designed to lead to the renewal and development of the region with significant demographic growth.

Hamas terrorists attacked more than 20 towns and

economic resilience, quality education, investments, and advanced and innovative agriculture," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

With the framework's approval, the Tekuma Authority will now produce a detailed multi-year, long-term roof plan to be published within 100 days.

Netanyahu said that Israel will ensure that the cities, rural communities and various councils "will flourish and prosper for generations and surpass what was.

"We are committed to investing in education, employment, social services, assistance for evacuees, agriculture, businesses and every field," he said.

COUNTER MEASURES

PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT MARCOS DIRECTS TO
RESPOND TO CHINA COAST GUARD PROVOCATIONTDG NETWORK
MANILA

Philippines President Bongbong Marcos directed the uniformed services to proceed with a mission-oriented mindset as the China Coast Guard and their Chinese Maritime Militia provoked and acted aggressively against Filipino vessels and personnel over the weekend.

Further, Marcos stressed that their aggression has only strengthened their will to protect their nation's sovereignty and jurisdiction in the West Philippines Sea.

"The aggression and provocations

perpetrated by the China Coast Guard and their Chinese Maritime Militia against our vessels and personnel over the weekend have only further steered our determination to defend and protect our nation's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea," Philippines President posted on X.

Moreover, President Marcos is also constantly communicating with Philippine. Meanwhile, he reiterated which areas are settled and widely recognised between them, stating that Ayungin Shoal is within our Exclusive Economic Zone and any foreign claim of sovereignty over it is baseless and contrary

to international law.

Furthermore, Marcos emphasised that the illegal presence in their water and dangerous actions against the Philippines citizens is an outright and blatant violation of international law and the rules-based international order.

"To our gallant service members, be assured of our utmost gratitude and fullest support. We remain undeterred," he added.

Earlier in September, the Philippines accused Chinese vessels of engaging in what they described as "dangerous manoeuvres" within the disputed South China Sea region.

LOW TURNOUT

Hong Kong records low 30% voter
turnout in district council electionsTDG NETWORK
HONG KONG

Voter turnout plunged below 30 per cent in Hong Kong's first district council elections since new rules introduced under Beijing's guidance effectively shut out all pro-democracy candidates, setting a record low since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. According to official data on Monday, 27.5 per cent of the city's 4.3 million registered voters cast ballots in Sunday's polls significantly less

than the record 71.2 per cent who participated in the last elections held at the height of anti-government protests in 2019. The pro-democracy camp won those polls in a landslide victory, in a clear rebuke of the government's handling of the protests.

Beijing loyalists are expected to take control of the district councils after Sunday's elections, with partial returns showing big pro-government parties gaining more seats than independent candidates and smaller parties. The district councils, which

primarily handle municipal matters such as organising construction projects and public facilities, were Hong Kong's last major political bodies mostly chosen by the public. But under new electoral rules introduced under a Beijing order that only "patriots" should administer the city, candidates must secure endorsements from at least nine members of government-appointed committees that are mostly packed with Beijing loyalists, making it virtually impossible for any pro-democracy candidates to run.

COMMEMORATION



Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi's family watch a torchlight procession in honour of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate in Oslo, Norway. (AP/PTI)

CONDEMN

TIBETAN DIASPORA IN VIENNA PROTESTS CHINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

TDG NETWORK
VIENNA

Members of the Tibetan Diaspora in Vienna staged a symbolic protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in Austria, condemning China for ongoing human rights abuses against Tibetans in Tibet. The demonstration held by the Tibetan community in Vienna on the eve of Human Rights Day, which is observed globally on 10 December, sought to draw attention to the deliberate violations of their fellow Tibetans by the Chinese government.

"Four representatives from the local Tibetan Diaspora organisation took a stand, raising slogans condemning China for its ongoing human rights abuses against Tibetans in Tibet," an official statement



said. "The protest staged by the Tibetan community in Vienna aims to shed light on these deliberate violations perpetrated by the Chinese government against their brethren in Tibet," according to the statement. The systematic disregard by the Chinese government for the fundamental rights of Tibetans shows a blatant violation of international human rights

law. China is obligated to respect and adhere to mechanisms safeguarding people's rights and has been accused of widespread human rights violations in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong.

China's Third Periodic Review by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in March 2023 brought out these violations very clearly.

The country has been facing criticism for its cruel acts, including the forced resettling of Tibetans and engaging in forced labour. "China faced scrutiny on multiple fronts, including allegations of persecuting human rights defenders, forcibly resettling Tibetans, engaging in forced labour, fostering workplace discrimination, curtailing religious freedom and language rights, assimilating Tibetan children in boarding schools, and perpetrating cultural genocide," the statement said. Moreover, the protestors called upon the international community to unite and openly support the "Tibetan Government-in-exile in their ongoing struggle to protect the human rights of Tibetans in Tibet."

URGENCY

WHO, UN member states highlight achieving Universal Health Coverage

TDG NETWORK
GENEVA

Emphasising primary health care as its cornerstone, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations (UN) and its member states in the South-East Asia region highlighted the urgent need to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The international organisations, along with the member states, highlighted the issue on the occasion of International Universal Health Coverage Day.

"At the regional level, the South-East Asia Region has prioritised UHC as a flagship priority since 2014. Over the last decade, very significant UHC-related reforms have been and are currently in the process of implementation across the region," WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, Khetrpal Singh, said, adding, "Important gains are already evident."

Notably, between 2015 and 2021, the region increased its UHC service coverage index from 54 to 62. However, she emphasised that the progress to date remains insufficient to

achieve the UHC SDG targets. Of particular concern, while noncommunicable diseases cause nearly two-thirds of all deaths in the region, the regional average noncommunicable diseases sub-index has evidenced the slowest pace of improvement. Acceleration towards UHC is needed in a time of significant global turbulence, with escalating pressures and demands on health systems, including the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing global conflicts, subsequent and associated economic challenges, epidemiological and demographic transitions,

intensifying climate crises, increasing frequency of new and novel pathogens, rapid urbanisation, the need for integration of historically siloed programmes and approaches, and increased population expectations collectively demanding more from health systems across the region.

Over a month ago, during the WHO SEA Region 76 Regional Committee, Session Ministers of Health adopted the "Delhi Declaration on strengthening primary health care as a key element towards achieving universal health coverage".

IN BANGLADESH

DENGUE FATALITIES REACH 1661 WITH NINE MORE DEATHS

TDG NETWORK
DHAKA

Bangladesh has reported nine more deaths from dengue in 24 hours till Sunday morning, taking the total number of fatalities to 1661 in 2023, Bangladesh-based Dhaka Tribune reported.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 459 more patients were hospitalised with viral fever. As many as 2291 dengue patients, including 580 in Dhaka

are undergoing treatment at hospitals in Bangladesh. This year, the DGHS has so far reported 317,232 dengue cases. According to DGHS, 313,280 people have recovered from dengue in 2023, according to the Dhaka Tribune report.

So far, September has been the deadliest month for the dengue outbreak in 2023 with 79,598 cases and 396 deaths, according to DGHS data, Dhaka Tribune report.

Earlier on 4 December, Bangladesh Health Minister

Zahid Maleque said climate change is responsible for the increase of dengue and other vector-borne diseases in the world, Bangladesh-based Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha reported.

Speaking at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, he said, "The influential countries of the world, who are responsible for climate change... they must extend their cooperation to reduce the adverse impacts caused by climate change," accord-

ing to an official release.

The conference observed a special 'Health Day' on December 3 with various programmes held where senior officials of the health ministry participated on behalf of the Bangladesh government, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha reported. During the meeting, Maleque said the outbreak of dengue has increased alarmingly across the world, including Bangladesh.

FOCUS

EIT FOOD CHIEF: COP28 AIMS FOR HUMAN CAPITAL EMPOWERMENT, STAKEHOLDER UNITY

TDG NETWORK
ABU DHABI

The COP28 Presidency designated a dedicated day to focus on the crucial role of food, agriculture, and water systems in addressing climate change, a major step forward, according to Lucy Wallace, Chief of Staff at EIT Food and lead for the secretariat of the Food Systems Pavilion at COP28.

Speaking to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on the Food, Agriculture and Water Day at COP28, Wallace highlighted the significance of this dedicated day, noting that over 200 events across the entire COP28 are focused on these vital sectors. She emphasised that this represents a major step forward in global recogni-



tion of the critical role food, agriculture, and water systems play in climate action. "This dedicated day will have a profound impact on how these interconnected issues are discussed and addressed by diverse stakeholders," Wallace stated.

The Food Systems Pavilion, Wallace explained, holds a particularly crucial position within COP28,

marking the first year that food has been officially recognised and integrated into the COP Presidency agenda. She further elaborated on the collaborative nature of the Pavilion, stating, "We have joined forces with other food-related pavilions within COP, creating a dedicated area to showcase collaborative efforts and drive real change."

Wallace noted the evolving perspective on food systems, shifting from solely viewing them as a source of climate impact to recognising their immense potential in mitigating climate challenges. "Food systems hold the key to tackling the significant climate issues we face globally," she explained.

"By bringing people together across the entire food value chain, from diverse countries, regions, and backgrounds, we can foster collaboration and take meaningful action," Wallace concluded.

"COP28 is about empowering human capital and uniting diverse stakeholders for collective action, and the Food Systems Pavilion is a testament to this commitment."

WARNING

Climate change threatens global jobs: International Labour Organisation

TDG NETWORK
ABU DHABI

Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Coordinator of the Green Jobs Programme at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), said that climate change has a significant and direct impact on the global labour market.

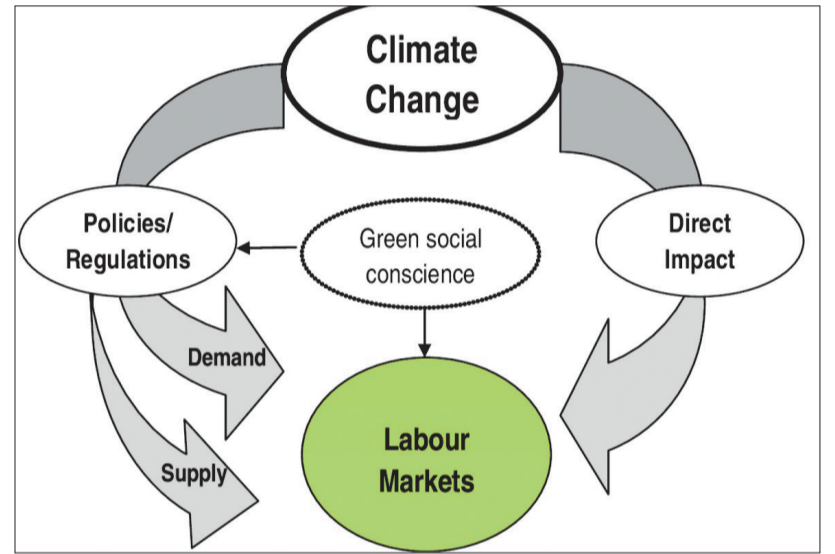
The ILO estimates that 100 million jobs can be created by 2030 by ensuring a green transition that fully considers its social dimensions.

Worldwide employment in renewable energy reached 13.7 million in 2022, an increase of one million since 2021 and up from a total of 7.3 million in 2012, according to a report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and ILO.

Gueye pointed out that green jobs are about promoting decent work in ways that help change energy systems, improve transportation systems, and help manage waste, contributing to the environmental sustainability agenda.

Green jobs are decent jobs that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"An estimated nearly 75 million people are currently working in Nature-based Solutions (NBS)," according to the first edition of the report series 'Decent work



in Nature-based Solutions', published in collaboration between ILO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The report develops a robust framework for the assessment of employment in Nature-based Solutions (NBS), including the first empirical evaluation of current and potential future global employment in NBS.

The Coordinator of the Green Jobs Programme at ILO praised the work paths being taken by COP28, which takes into account the issue of climate change and its relationship to social development, employment and the labour market.

He explained that the COP28 negotiations are specific to the work programme on just transition, especially with regard to employment issues and social protection, and also related to losses and damages.

He stressed that responding to climate change will not only address environmental problems, but will also lead to social and economic benefits as a result of that economic transformation.

Gueye called on COP28 participants to integrate climate ambition with the issue of job creation and fair social development for all, emphasising that nearly 4 billion people worldwide lack social protection Systems.

IN LONDON

BHRC ORGANISES CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS BALOCH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

The Baloch Human Rights Council (BHRC) organised a conference in London to address the human rights violations in Balochistan and to provide a platform where impassioned voices could highlight the ongoing human rights issues in Pakistan.

The conference was organised at the Sindhi Centre in London on Sunday. According to an official statement by the BHRC, the gathering brought together esteemed scholars and representatives from various oppressed regions in Pakistan and Iran.

It helped in "providing a platform for them to illuminate the severe human rights abuses perpetrated by oppressive regimes in these regions," the statement read. BHRC President Samad Baloch on Sunday emphasised the conference's significance and said that the



representatives and activists shared testimonies that highlighted an urgent need for international attention.

"The event served as a critical platform where impassioned voices converged to highlight the pressing human rights issues prevailing in Pakistan and Iran. The powerful testimonies shared by representatives and activists underscored the urgent

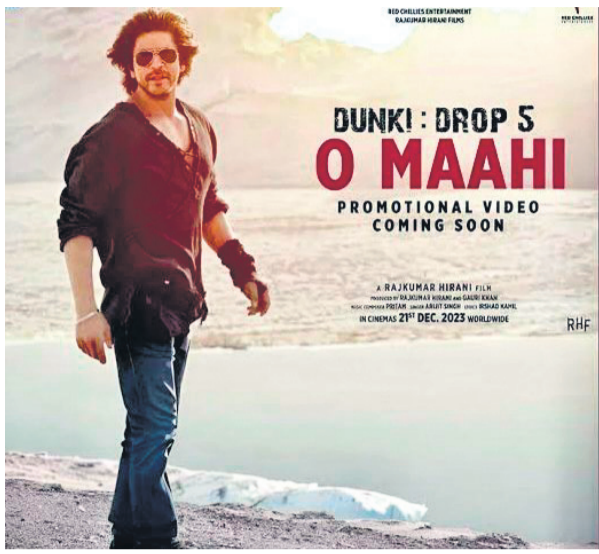
need for international attention and concerted action to address these ongoing violations," he said.

The discussions further underscored the imperative for increased awareness, advocacy, and collaborative efforts to effect tangible change in protecting the rights and dignity of oppressed communities in these regions, the statement said.

The conference was moderated by an activist, Qambar Malik Baloch, and it also witnessed distinguished speakers, including representatives from the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, the Balochistan People's Party, and prominent human rights activists such as Fariba Baloch, Ghulam Raza Hosseinbor, and Jamshaid Amiri.

DUNKI DROP 5

SRK UNVEILS TEASER OF NEW TRACK 'O MAAHI'



Superstar Shah Rukh Khan dropped a teaser of his film Dunki's upcoming track "O Maahi" on early Monday morning.

Titled "Dunki Drop 5: O Maahi", SRK took to X (formerly Twitter) and shared a teaser of the song which he captioned, "Because everybody asks, what does Dunki mean? Dunki means being apart from your loved ones. And when you are with them, one feels the moment should last till the end of time. O Maahi O Maahi.... feel the love before the sun sets on the horizon today! #DunkiDrop5 - #OMaahi Promotional Video Out Soon! #Dunki releasing worldwide in cinemas on 21st December, 2023."

The 13-second teaser features SRK standing in a desert and doing his signature pose. He donned an all-black outfit.

The clip also reads, "Promo version. The film has a different version." Sung by Arijit Singh, the official release date of the song is still awaited. Makers will be unveiling a promotional video of the track 'O Maahi' soon featuring SRK, however, the film's version is going to be different. Recently the makers unveiled two tracks of the film "Lutt Putt Gaya" and "Nikle Thi Kabhi Hum Ghar Se" and both of them received positive responses from the fans. Dunki features an ensemble cast, with colourful characters portrayed by exceptionally talented actors, Boman Irani, Taapsee

Pannu, Vicky Kaushal, Vikram Kochhar, Anil Grover, starring along with Shah Rukh Khan. 'Dunki' is a JIO Studios, Red Chillies Entertainment, and Rajkumar Hirani Films presentation, produced by Rajkumar Hirani and Gauri Khan.

Written by Abhijat Joshi, Rajkumar Hirani, and Kanika Dhillon, "Dunki" is a heartwarming tale of four friends and their quest to reach foreign shores. It charts the arduous yet life-changing journey they are about to undertake to make their dreams come true. Drawn from real-life experiences, 'Dunki' is a saga of love and friendship that brings together these wildly disparate stories, and provides hilarious and heart-breaking answers.

Recently, the makers unveiled Dunki's official trailer titled 'Dunki: Drop 4' which offers a peek into the endearing world of Rajkumar Hirani. Opening with SRK onboard a train, setting the tone for the adventure that lies ahead.

The video unit introduces the wonderfully whimsical characters starting with Hardy, played by SRK, who enters a picturesque village in Punjab and encounters a group of spirited friends—Manu, Sukhi, Buggu, and Balli, all sharing a common dream of travelling to London in pursuit of better opportunities and a better life for their loved ones back home.

"Dunki" is all set to hit the theatres on 21 December.

ACTION THRILLER

RIDDHIMA KAPOOR LAUDS RANBIR KAPOOR'S PERFORMANCE IN 'ANIMAL'

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Actor Ranbir Kapoor's sister Riddhima Kapoor Sahni has lauded his performance in the recently released action thriller film "Animal".

On Sunday night, Riddhima took to her Instagram, and wrote on her stories, "Rans! You incredibly crazy talented human. Are you for real! Acred it & how! I am speechless! Oof! What a movie! #animalfever #animal (multiple star emojis)" Helmed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the film also stars Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead roles.

Recently Telugu star Allu Arjun also lauded the "Barfi" actor's performance and wrote on X, "#RanbirKapoor ji just took Indian cinema performances to a

whole new level. Very Inspiring. I am truly in loss of words to explain the magic you've created. My deep Respects to the highest level."

"Animal" has entered Rs 300 crore club in just 1 week of its release. "Animal" emerged to be Ranbir's career biggest opener.

"Animal" also stars Shakti Kapoor and Triptii Dimri in pivotal roles. It showcases a story about a father-son relationship, played by Anil and Ranbir Kapoor.

Ranbir's character is protective and obsessive about his father and is seen threatening everybody who comes in the way of his love for his father. The 3 hour-21-minute-long film was released in 5 languages—Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Ranbir has still not announced his next project.

PICTURE PERFECT

A flock of Siberian seagulls rests along the shore of the Tapi river. (ANI)



REVIEW

Allu Arjun calls 'Hi Nanna' a 'sweet, warm film'

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

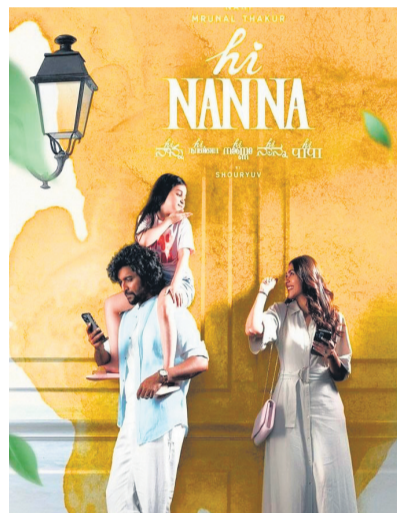
Nani and Mrunal Thakur-starring Telugu film "Hi Nanna" was released recently in theatres. Now actor Allu Arjun has shared his views about the film and he has all praises for it.

He appreciated the acting skills of the lead stars and congratulated the entire team.

Taking to X, he wrote in the caption, "Congratulations to the entire team of #HiNanna. What a sweet warm film. Truly heart touching. Effortless performance by brother @NameIsNani garu. And my respects for green lighting such captivating script and bringing it into light."

While praising Mrunal, he added, "Dear @Mrunal0801. Your sweetness is haunting on the screen. It's Beautiful like you."

He continued appreciating Kiara



Khanna, who played Nani's daughter in the film and said, "#BabyKiara! My darling... you are melting hearts with ur cuteness. Enough! Go to school now"

The actor concluded with a message for the entire team of the film, "Congratulations to all the other artists for

their neat performances & Technicians for their complimenting work esp the cameraman @SJVarughese & music director @HeshamAWMusic garu. Director @shouryuv garu. Congratulations! You have impressed everyone with your debut film. You have created many heart touching & tear jerking moments. Wonderful presentation. Keep Shining. Congratulations to the Producers for bringing such a sweet film to the audience. #HiNanna will touch every family members hearts not just fathers."

The film hit the screens in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi languages on 7 December.

COMING OF AGE

AMAZON MINITV PRESENTS 'DEHATI LADKE'

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Amazon miniTV is set to captivate viewers with its upcoming series, Dehati Ladke, delving into the nostalgic realm of college life. Scheduled to exclusively stream on Amazon miniTV for free starting 15 December, the series explores universal themes of friendship, first love, and life's challenges through the eyes of Rajat.

Starring Shine Pandey, Raghav Sharma, Tanish Neeraj, Saanya Jainn, Aasif Khan, and Kusha Kapila in key roles, Dehati Ladke is based on a best-selling Hindi novel. The engaging trailer released today provides a glimpse into Rajat's journey of self-discovery as he leaves his village to pursue UPSC exams in a big city. The narrative follows Rajat's exploration of freedom, forming



new friendships, experiencing first love, and striving to live life to the fullest amid family expectations and personal goals.

Amogh Dusat, Content Head at Amazon miniTV, expressed, "Dehati Ladke series talks about the unique yet universal journey one takes when one starts college life away from

home in a new city among new people."

Kusha Kapila, a part of the series, shared, "Dehati Ladke is one such special story that will surely resonate with the viewers. Rajat's journey is also the same, experiencing new and undiscovered emotions while focusing on his goal."

Shine Pandey, another

lead actor, stated, "Dehati Ladke is dedicated to everyone who comes from a small town in the pursuit to find their identity in a new city."

Dehati Ladke, offering a blend of emotions, nostalgia, and self-discovery, will be available for streaming exclusively for free on Amazon miniTV from 15 December.

TEASER

'IMMATURE' SEASON 3 TRAILER DROPPED

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Makers of the upcoming comedy-drama show 'ImMATURE' on Monday unveiled the trailer of its upcoming third season. Taking to Instagram, Amazon Prime Video shared the trailer which they captioned, "school's in session, and so is the drama! #ImMature-OnPrime S3, Dec 15. Trailer out now."

Created by The Viral Fever (TVF), the series is written and directed by Anant Singh and features actors Omkar Kulkarni, Chinmay Chandranshuh, and Naman Jain in the lead roles.

The third season of ImMATURE will follow the protagonists, Dhruv, Kabir,



and Susu, as they navigate their trysts with love, friendship, and self-discovery. Unexpected love interests, old flames, and a growing rift in their friendship will test their resilience as they prepare to say goodbye to their school life and journey towards adulthood.

Talking about the show, writer and director Anant Singh said, "Coming-of-age stories have always held a

unique appeal among viewers, and ImMATURE is a series that exemplifies that experience. This season, we see our characters go through the many trials of adulthood as they come to terms with the reality that their school days will soon be behind them.

It has been a delight to witness Omkar, Chinmay, and Naman grow into their characters and mature as ac-

tors, as evident in their performances this season. I'm humbled by the appreciation audiences have bestowed upon the series. With Season Three premiering on Prime Video on December 15, I look forward to their continued support as Dhruv, Kabir, and Susu enter this new phase of their lives."

"ImMATURE is a series that is like a nostalgic walk down memory lane, filled with bittersweet moments and innocence that comes with youth," said Shreyansh Pandey, head of originals, TVF.

"Dhruv, Kabir, and Susu are characters that are etched in the minds of viewers, and we're truly grateful for the love the series has received thus far.

BRAIN PICKING

I was not reluctant to be an actor, I was reluctant to be in the industry.



-ANUSHKA SHARMA (Bollywood Actress)

DEMISE

'COMBAT' STAR JACK HOGAN PASSES AWAY AT 94



TDG NETWORK LOS ANGELES

Jack Hogan, best known for starring in the WWII drama series "Combat!", is no more. As per Variety, Hogan died of natural causes on 6 December at his home in Washington. He was 94. Hogan played PFC William G Kirby on the ABC series "Combat!" starring Rick Jason, Vic Morrow and Pierre Jalbert. The show, which ran for five seasons, follows a squad of American soldiers fighting the Germans in France during WWII.

Hogan made his onscreen debut with the 1956 film

"Man From Del Rio", starring Anthony Quinn. He was also featured in multiple television series during the '50s and '60s, including "Dr. Christian", "The Rough Riders", "Sea Hunt", "Tombstone Territory" and more.

On the film side, Hogan worked in "The Bonnie Parker Story" (1958), "Paratroop Command" (1959), "The Legend of Tom Doolley" (1959) and "The Cat Burglar" (1961).

He is survived by his nephew Kipland Howard, ex-wife Joyce Nizzari, daughter Tehani Hogan, son West Hogan, granddaughter Kai and grandson Skyler.

CANDID

BRITNEY SPEARS OPENS UP ABOUT LIFE AS SINGLE WOMAN

TDG NETWORK WASHINGTON

Singer Britney Spears got candid about her life as a single woman and said that it is so "weird" to be single, reported People. She took her Instagram handle to write a post where she reflected on life as a single woman. "It's so weird being single," Spears wrote in the caption along with the photograph of a nun drinking through a straw from a teacup. "I've had a lot of time to really look back with all the good and bad ... I've realized I don't talk to myself that nicely at all," added the singer, who released her memoir "The Woman in Me" in October. She continued, "I'm easily manipulated and I wear my heart on my sleeve ... But I'm definitely changing all that ... I have to make time to stop and look around to re-evaluate myself and say is this good for me ???"

"I like a routine and I usually do the same thing every day," Spears added. "I'm honestly bored but I'm also scared of a lot of things ... The way I live my life is mine ... I've had so many people interfere with that ... But to know it's ok to be selfish with my life and enjoy it is amazing!!!" she continued the caption. "I will say my routine and daily affairs seem silly sometimes ... My



mom always use to visit the sisters at St. Mary's Catholic School ... She used to go to when I was younger and the nuns always gave me cookies ... I liked going there because the sun was always out and it was beautiful there ... It's weird because I have a small garden with flowers on my balcony outside my room ... When I take a picture of it the illusion is that it's connected to the trees outside ... It's pretty beautiful when the sun hits at the right spot ... The pictures look like diamonds glistening everywhere ... Every time I go out there I think of the sisters at the church I used to go to ... I'm honestly not even sure why I'm writing this nonsense!!!!? Oh this picture," she concluded. Last month, it was revealed that the "Toxic" singer's The Woman in Me sold over 1 million copies during its first week of availability. Spears stated in a statement at the time that she was "grateful to my fans and readers around the world for their unwavering support," reported People.

Why young people are more prone to stroke



DR. SUNIL SINGLA



In recent years, a concerning trend has emerged in the field of healthcare: an increasing number of young adults are suffering from stroke. While traditionally considered a condition affecting the elderly, stroke is now affecting individuals in their 20s and 30s at an alarming rate. Several factors contribute to this phenomenon.

Firstly, the rise in obesity among young people has significantly elevated their risk of stroke. Poor diet choices, lack of physical activity, and sedentary lifestyles contribute to obesity, which in turn increases the chances of hypertension and diabetes, both major stroke risk factors.

Secondly, the pervasive use of technology has led to a more sedentary lifestyle

among the youth. Excessive screen time not only hampers physical activity but also contributes to increased stress and disrupted sleep patterns, further escalating the risk of stroke.

Additionally, substance abuse, especially the misuse of drugs and alcohol, has become prevalent among young adults. Substance abuse can lead to high blood

pressure, a primary cause of stroke. Moreover, the lack of awareness about stroke symptoms and prevention strategies among the youth delays crucial medical intervention.

In conclusion, addressing this concerning issue requires a multifaceted approach. Education campaigns about healthy lifestyles, stress management,

and the dangers of substance abuse are essential. Moreover, promoting physical activity and regular health check-ups can significantly mitigate the risk, ensuring a healthier future for the younger generation.

The author is the Director & Head of Department-Neurology at Sanar International Hospitals.



QUOTE WORLD HEALTH DAY 2023

“This World Health Day, let us vow to eliminate refined sugar consumption and watch out food labels to figure out added sugars. Substitute sugars with natural sources like dates and fruits, but in moderation”

Dr. Sfurti Mann, HOD & Sr. Consultant, Internal Medicine & Diabetology.



“Your body is the house you live in and for the house to be safe and sound it's important that it remains healthy. The most inexpensive way to keep your body healthy is to remain hydrated at all times”

Ganesh Iyer, Managing Partner at Veen Waters India Pvt Ltd. and India's 1st Water Sommelier

“Take the Trident of Life in your hands. It includes good diet, healthy lifestyle and a lot of physical activity” - Dr Vinay Kumar Shaw, HOD & Sr. Consultant, Department of GI, General, Minimal Access & Bariatric Surgery, Sanar International Hospitals.

Dr. Vinay Kumar Shaw, Head of Department & Sr. Consultant, GI, General, Minimal Access & Bariatric Surgery, Sanar International Hospitals Waters India Pvt Ltd. and India's 1st Water Sommelier



What role does oral hygiene play in child development?



DR. V.S. REGE

ORAL HYGIENE: A CRUCIAL STARTING POINT

In the years of infancy, a development aspect that's neglected is the consequences of oral hygiene. Post-childbirth, breastfeeding is the 1st step of immunity building. Breast milk is the storehouse of nutrients and antibodies that are required by the body to maintain health and well-being.

FORMATIVE PHASE OF ORAL HEALTH

The early phase of nurturing comes with a plethora of complexities in hand. During the phase of breastfeeding, it is crucial to take care of and pay attention to the oral health. "Milk bottle syndrome" is a concerning condition that arises with prolonged exposure to bottles during sleep hours. Elongated exposure to sugar in milk may create an environment for dental caries. In addition, the ailment can impact the child's ability to chew along with hampering digestion and general well-

HOLISTIC WELLNESS

Harmful bacteria and pathogens are a concern for the oral cavity. Subsequent and constant ignorance of these signs can lead to fever and inflammation as oral hygiene is affected by severe infections. Such scenarios not only impact oral health but are a major cause of a toll on overall well-being, significantly highlighting the link between oral health and systemic health.

OPTIMUM DEVELOPMENT

The surface function is to maintain the right chewing habit paving the path for meticulous oral hygiene practices. Thus, the breakdown of food particles ensures digestive processes are working optimally for nutrient absorption - a major player in a child's initial years of growth for skeletal development, muscular growth, or cognitive acuity.

OVERALL HEALTH

Nutrition is a catalyst for the physical and mental growth of the child. Alongside this, the maintenance of teeth, tongue, throat, and lips is piv-

otal in maintaining oral cavity cleanliness. The phase of transition from primary to permanent teeth can impede the latter's normal growth if any disruptions occur in oral hygiene.

THE HABIT OF BRUSHING

Integrate the practice of brushing twice daily in the day-to-day routine. Good oral health practices foster healthy gums

AVOID THUMB SUCKING

Many children, while transitioning from breastfeeding and bottle feeding, may develop the habit of thumb sucking to prolong the psychological sensation of sucking. This can incorrectly push the developing front portion of the upper jaw, known as the PreMaxilla, forward, leading to malocclusion or improper teeth alignment. It can also impact the appearance of the child. To prevent these issues, children should be discouraged from habits like thumb sucking, pencil sucking, and tongue thrusting. If such problems arise, correction by an Orthodontist is necessary. To maintain the oral hygiene of your kid's teeth I suggest their regular check-ups by general dental surgeons & Pedodontist.

NURTURING ORAL HEALTH

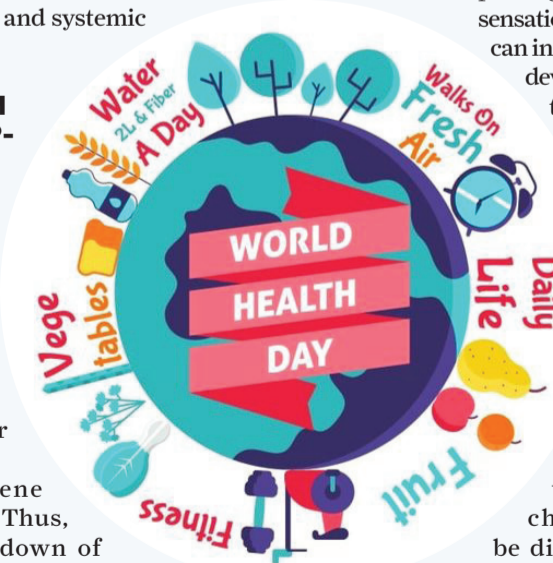
Comprehensive growth for a child is nurtured by nutrition and oral hygiene is the keystone of the process. The child must follow consistent practice

and formulate thumb principles. The synthesis of nourishment and oral care sets the stage for not just a radiant smile but a holistic journey toward sustained health and development.

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The author is a well-known Dental Surgeon from Mumbai with International Celebrity Practice. He is now a Consultant in Oral Cancers.



AIR POLLUTION IS VERY HARMFUL FOR HEART HEALTH



DR. KAVITA TYAGI

Air pollution is the name given to pollutants in the air that can harm health if they are breathed in. They are small particles also known as particulate matter, or PM), or gases like nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide.

The various sources of Pollution in air are diesel and petrol vehicles, fumes from factories and power

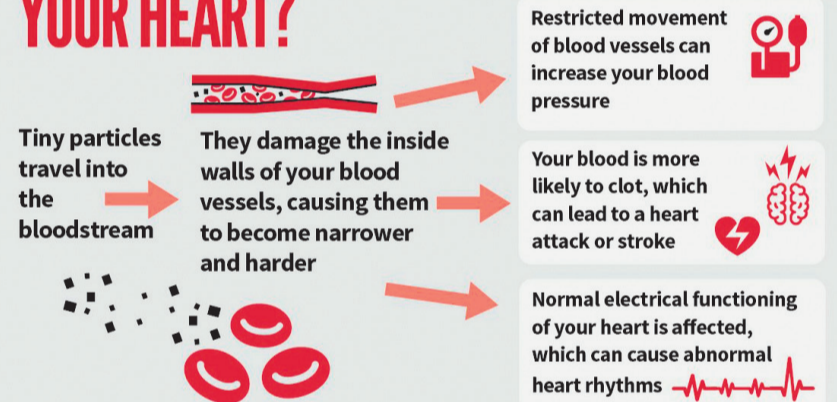


plants farming (from fertilisers and animal manure) burning firewood, candles or incense indoors, smoking cigarettes indoors.

However air pollution can come from natural sources, for example soil, pollen, volcanoes and sandstorms.

Particulate matter or particle pollution (PM) is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Some particles, such as dust, dirt, soot, or smoke, are large or dark enough to be seen with the naked eye. Others are so small they can only

HOW DOES AIR POLLUTION AFFECT YOUR HEART?



If you already have heart disease, even short-term exposure to air pollution increases your risk of heart attack and stroke.

be detected using an electron microscope. Example of Particulate pollution are: PM10: inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller; and

such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which are pollutants emitted from power plants, industries, and automobiles.

Air pollution can damage blood vessels by making them narrower and harder leading to increased clot formation tendency, increased blood pressure increases the strain on your heart muscle. It can affect the heart's electrical system which controls heartbeat. This can cause abnormal heart rhythms. Changes can be seen in early stages of heart failure.

For people with previous heart diseases, this damage can increase their risk of events like a heart attack.

Exposure to air pollutants - even at levels below World Health Organization air quality guidelines - may trigger a heart attack within the hour, according to a new study from China that found the risks were highest among older people and when the weather was colder.

Any concentrations of air pollutants (such as fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide) may have the potential to trigger the onset of a heart attack."

Exposure to fine particulate matter - microscopic solids or liquid droplets from automobile emissions, power plants, construction sites and other sources of pollution - has been linked to heart disease, stroke and other health issues, as well as 4.2 million premature deaths worldwide. These particles can be so small that when inhaled, they may go deep into the lungs or even the bloodstream.

How to reduce exposure to air pollution. Strategies include closing windows and using portable air cleaners and built-in air conditioning filters, as well as personal air-purifying respirators that cover the nose and mouth for people at high risk. Properly fitted masks, such as those used to prevent the spread of COVID-19, also can help. N95 masks are very good at reducing particulate exposures. They will stop you from inhaling them."

The author is an Interventional cardiologist at Sir Gangaram hospital New Delhi.



GAINING ACCEPTANCE (KSHANTI)



DR. MANOJ SHARMA

Kshanti appears in the Bhagavad Gita as accommodation or acceptance (Chapter 13, Verse 8) as a spiritual quality. In Buddhism, both in Theravada and Mahayana, it is one of the paramitas or means of perfection associated with higher spiritual beings. In life, we have often wished that things, situations, or other people's behaviors were not the way they are and that they were different. But an alternate paradigm is to accept things, situations, or other people's behaviors as they are. If we can change something for the good and it is within our sphere of control then we must try to change that but if something is non-modifiable within our means then we must simply in a joyful manner, peacefully, and firmly accept that thing, behavior, or situation. Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971), an American theologian, beautifully summarizes this sentiment in his prayer written in the 1940s,

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." This prayer has been used by Alcoholics Anonymous in their twelve-step program to help alcoholics quit their habit of addiction. The prayer highlights the important difference between what we can change and what we cannot change for which focused perception is needed. Things that cannot be changed must be accepted as such and for things that can be changed actions must be pursued with fortitude.

This art of acceptance is very important for deriving peace and contentment in life. Eckhart Tolle (1948-present), the author of *The Power of Now* and *A New Earth: Awakening to your Life's Purpose* writes, "Acceptance looks like a passive state, but it brings something entirely new into this world. That peace, a subtle energy vibration, is consciousness." Acceptance starts with us. We must accept the body and mind the way we are. If we are born with a fair complexion, then we must accept that, if we are born with a dark complexion, we must accept that, if we are born with a certain intelligence level, we must accept that and do things that suit our aptitude and similarly we must accept every attribute that we have in our personalities with grace and joy. We must not try to be



like others and accept what unique talents and capacities genetics and our environment have bestowed on us. We must continually try to augment and polish what distinctive characteristics we have. If there is something that we desire to be different in our personality and we think it is within our capacity to change, then we must exercise our full force in altering that, but we should not get tied down with the results in the

process and accept whatever results we get. In obtaining any result, three factors are crucial. First, is the right direction for our effort, second is the amount of effort that we exercise and, finally, is the unknown factor. Spiritually inclined people call this unknown factor as Almighty or God or Divine Will, and scientifically focused people call this unexplained variance. In any case, certain phenomena operate in the ac-

complishment of outcomes that are beyond our control. Accepting these unknowns is the key to contentment and peace. If after exercising due effort and that effort in the right direction, we do not get the results we must maintain our poise and remain satisfied. It is important to engage in actions and not worry about the results. Ralph Marston (1907-1967), a famous American football legend once said, "The

keys to patience are acceptance and faith. Accept things as they are and look realistically at the world around you. Have faith in yourself and in the direction you have chosen." These indeed are great lines to reflect in one's pursuit of acceptance in one's life. Having faith is an important aspect of the equation and must be held on to amid every difficulty and adversity that tends to challenge our ability to joyfully accept things as they are despite pressures whether internal or external.

The second level of acceptance pertains to our expectations of other people particularly regarding their behaviors. This starts with the shift in our expectation that others must change for our convenience to one of acceptance of them as they are. Everybody has a fair share of ego or perception of self-esteem or self-importance about themselves. Who are we to challenge that ego of theirs? We must understand that everyone has been endowed with due intelligence, capacities, and talents to exercise self-control in one's behaviors. Albert Bandura (1925-2021), the famed psychologist from Stanford University who is among the most cited authors of our times, talks about these abilities in his book, *Social Foundations of Thought and Action*, as the symbolizing capability, forethought capability, vicarious capability, self-regulatory capability, and self-reflective

capability. Only human beings are endowed with these capabilities. Symbolizing capability refers to the use of symbols in articulation and communication. Forethought capability is the role prior thoughts play in present behavior making all behaviors purposive. Vicarious capability is the ability to learn by observing other people's behaviors and the results that they face. Self-regulatory capability is the ability to set self-standards and hold oneself accountable to those. Finally, self-reflective capability is the analysis of one's experiences and basing one's present behaviors on those inferences. So, given this context, we can only modulate our behaviors and perhaps guide children or others who are not able to fully self-reflect on their behaviors. Once again, we cannot mandate that others behave the way we want them to unless those impinge on societal norms or cause harm to self or others. If they do, then there are the various laws and regulations formulated by each society and one must refer to those for guidance. In the process, we must not get bent out of shape over the behavior of others, even if they happen to be close members of our family or friends circle. We can, at the most, gently remind them to exercise the capabilities that Bandura talks about and hope for the best. In any circumstance, we must not demand that others change.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." These lines are very important in our understanding of acceptance. Some professions advocate change in others such as health professionals, criminal justice professionals, social activists, politicians, teachers, religious leaders, and other such professions. For such professionals, it becomes mandatory that they espouse the change in themselves which they advocate in others. There are some zealots in every profession who want to force their choices on others, which must be curtailed.

Acceptance must be inculcated at the thought, words, and action level just like all good things in life. We must first streamline our thoughts to accept things as they are. Thoughts often precede words. Next, in our words, we must be accepting and accommodating to other's viewpoints and behaviors. We must speak gently and candidly in expressing our viewpoints in such a manner that they do not hurt anyone and, if needed, we may resort to silence which may be better at times. Finally, our actions must show that we accept ourselves and others the way we and they are.

Dr. Manoj Sharma is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Health at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA. He is an avid practitioner of Kundalini Yoga.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROFOUND MEANING BEHIND ANGEL NUMBER 111

TDG NETWORK

In the realm of spirituality and numerology, angel numbers are believed to carry messages from divine or spiritual entities. One such powerful and often encountered angel number is 111. Repeatedly witnessing this sequence is not a mere coincidence but a subtle yet profound communication from the universe or your guardian angels.

The Symbolism of Angel Number 111

The number 1 itself signifies new beginnings, creation, and taking the initial steps towards



manifestation. It's a symbol of potential, individuality, and the ability to manifest desires. Manifestation & new beginnings

Angel number 111 is often associated with the manifestation of thoughts into reality. It's like a cosmic nudge,

reminding you to be mindful of your thoughts, as they hold immense power in shaping your reality. Each time you encounter 111, it's a gentle encouragement to keep your thoughts positive and aligned with your true desires.

Alignment & spiritual awak-

ening 111 is a number that resonates strongly with alignment and spiritual awakening. It's a signal from the universe or your spiritual guides that you're in sync with your higher purpose and the divine energies around you. This alignment can indicate that you're on the right path and should trust your instincts and inner guidance.

A call to stay positive & focused

When angel number 111 appears repeatedly, it serves as a reminder to maintain positivity and focus on your goals. It's a suggestion to be

proactive and take initiative in your endeavors. This number sequence encourages you to concentrate on what you truly desire and to direct your thoughts towards achieving these aspirations.

Embracing opportunities & taking action

111 often signifies that the universe is opening doors of opportunities for you. It's an invitation to step out of your comfort zone and embrace these chances for growth and progress. This number sequence urges you to take action and make the most of the favorable circumstances that

present themselves in your life.

Conclusion

In essence, angel number 111 carries a powerful message of alignment, manifestation, and spiritual awakening. It encourages you to maintain a positive mindset, stay focused on your goals, and embrace the opportunities that come your way. Seeing this number sequence is a reminder that you're in harmony with the universe and that your thoughts have the power to shape your reality. Embrace this guidance and trust in the journey that lies ahead.

TURBOCHARGE MANIFESTATION WITH PERSONALIZED INTENTION SETTING



THE KARMAS

SIDH HARRTH S KUMAAR

When it comes to manifestation, the power of intention cannot be underestimated. Setting clear and personalized intentions is a crucial step in aligning our energy with our desires and ultimately manifesting the life we want.

INTENTION 101:

Our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are all motivated by intention. It is the deliberate decision we make to direct our energies toward a particular result or objective. By setting an intention, we are essentially sending a message to the universe about what we want and directing our energy in that direction. This alignment is essential to the manifestation process because it enables us to draw in the chances and experiences that will best support us in realizing our objectives.

INTERTWINING OF INTENTION & MANIFESTATION:

A major factor in the manifestation process is personalized intention. It provides us with

direction toward the results we want by acting as the cornerstone for our ideas, convictions, and behaviors. By articulating our goals clearly, we provide the universe a road plan for what we hope to achieve and enable it to assist and direct us along the way. Intentions also aid in concentrating our efforts and maintaining our motivation while we pursue our objectives.

DIY GUIDE TO SETTING POWERFUL INTENTION

Be Unique and Personalized: Every human being i.e. Mind, Body and Soul are unique in itself and it is imperative to understand its uniqueness and curate a intention setting method which is personalized for that mind, body and soul layer. One such way of personalization is synergistic combination of Ayurveda and Astro Numerology.

BE CRYSTAL CLEAR AND SPECIFIC:

Being precise and specific is crucial when establishing intentions. When you are clear about what you want, the Uni-



verse can better understand you and help you draw in the right people and situations.

FOCUS ON THE END RESULT:

Instead of thinking through the precise actions you believe you must take to reach your desired end, visualize it. By taking this method, you give the Universe permission to show you new and unexpected avenues that could more effectively lead to your desired result.

ALIGN YOUR INTENTIONS WITH YOUR VALUES:

Make sure your goals are in

line with your basic principles. Your motivation to follow through on your aims will be sustained and your commitment to them will be strengthened by this alignment.

SET INTENTIONS WITH POSITIVE LANGUAGE:

When establishing objectives, speak positively and affirmingly, concentrating more on what you desire than what you do not. You will more successfully draw the intended results if you maintain this optimistic outlook.

JOT DOWN YOUR INTENTIONS:

What we write gets imprinted

on our subconscious mind.

Writing out your intentions might help them become more concrete and firmly ingrained in your thoughts. To reaffirm your dedication to them, have your written intentions visible to you at all times.

INCORPORATE INTENTION IN DAILY LIFE:

Begin each day with intention: Set a specific intention for each day, focusing on the desired outcomes or feelings you want to experience.

MEDITATE ON YOUR INTENTIONS:

Incorporate your intentions into your daily meditation

practice, visualizing your desired outcomes and feeling the emotions associated with them.

CREATE INTENTION REMINDERS:

Use visual or auditory reminders, such as vision boards, affirmation cards, or alarm notifications, to keep your intentions at the forefront of your mind throughout the day.

THE ROAD AHEAD

By setting clear, specific, personalized and positive intentions, you can align your energy with your desired outcomes and create the life you want. Sidhharth S Kumar, Chief Happiness Officer at NumroVani, is an Astro Numerologist and life and relationship Coach on a mission to transform human lives by curating synergy between human aura and cosmic universe by leveraging traditional intellectual knowledge of Bharat.

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FLIGHT OF THE DEAD BIRD



MYSTIC MUSING

RAJESH M. IYER

Mulla Nasruddin watched his son play and felt the young boy needed a live demonstration to be convinced of Nasruddin's abilities. He had boasted about his skills to the young one, but the latter always seemed indifferent. Nasruddin wasn't sure if it was disinterest or disbelief. That day, he decided it was time for the young man to experience firsthand Nasruddin's 'greatness'.

So, off they trudged to the nearby fields with the son on the donkey and Mulla along with his rifle slung over his shoulders. No one had seen him shoot anything. Nevertheless, the fact that he owned and lugged the rather heavy gun around added to his aura.

Stationing himself at the corner of a vast field, Nasruddin asked his son to watch intently. However, he was distraught at the air of nonchalance and the I-care-a-damn attitude that his son continued to display. However, Nasruddin assured himself that it would soon vanish when he saw his old man shoot.

That's when a large eagle flew from across the left side and swirled in the air, almost inciting Nasruddin. Nasruddin couldn't miss

it for anything. Telling his son to focus, he aimed at the eagle. Then he fired. Boom!

Other birds stationed on the nearby trees flew into the sky, frightened by the booming sound they had never heard. The son kept staring without any emotion on his face. It was Nasruddin who stood google-eyed since the eagle continued to soar in the sky, doing sorties, as if mocking him. What concerned Nasruddin wasn't missing the eagle, but the impression on the boy's mind. He turned to find the little boy staring at him. Not to be undone by this, Nasruddin told his son with feigned confidence in his voice, 'Watch carefully. We're perhaps the only ones to sight a dead bird flying.'

Oh! We might laugh at the joke, but Nasruddin isn't alone in this. This charade is played by us every day, pretending that everything is according to our stated position, not accepting our mistakes, and justifying our failures. In the hullabaloo, Nasruddin failed to notice the cocky sideways smile on his son's face. The little one knew. Before trying to cover up our mistakes and shortcomings, may the realisation dawn upon us that the world invariably knows.



Before trying to cover up our mistakes and shortcomings, may the realisation dawn upon us that the world invariably knows.

TOP OF THE DAY

INDIAN HOCKEY SQUADS HEAD TO VALENCIA

BENGALURU: Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh has set his eyes on climbing up the FIH rankings, while his female counterpart Savita hopes to iron out the kinks ahead of next month's Olympic Qualifiers at the 5 Nations tournament in Spain. Both the Indian hockey teams will begin their campaign against Spain in Valencia on December 15. For the men, the tournament will serve as a preparatory event ahead of the 2023-24 Hockey Pro League season. India will play against Spain, Germany, France and Belgium during the tournament. The event also gains significance for the women's team as it will serve as the preparatory assignment ahead of the all-important Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi beginning January 13. The women's team will take on Spain in the first game before taking on Belgium on December 16, Germany on December 19, and Ireland in their last match on December 21.

WIFFEN SETS 800-FREESTYLE RECORD

OTOPENI: Irish swimmer Daniel Wiffen set a short course world record in the 800-meter freestyle, beating Grant Hackett's previous mark by almost three seconds. Wiffen finished in 7 minutes, 20.46 seconds to take gold at the European Short Course Swimming Championships in Otopeni, Romania. Australia's Hackett had held the record for 15 years after swimming 7:23.42 at the Victoria Championships on July 20, 2008. France's David Aubry was second to Wiffen in 7:30.32, and bronze went to Mykhailo Romanchuk of Ukraine in 7:31.20. Wiffen had already won gold medals in the 400- and 1,500-meter freestyle events at the championships.

VIJAYVEER SIDHU TOPS 66TH NSCC

NEW DELHI: India international Vijayveer Sidhu, finished on top of a star-studded men's 25m centre fire pistol field at the concluding day of the 66th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) for Pistol events on Sunday. Haryana finished comfortably on top of the medal tally with 45 medals including 20 gold at the M P State Shooting Academy ranges. Vijayveer shot 587 to ward off Udit Joshi of the CISF, who finished second with 582.

TENNIS LEAGUE: GURGAON SAPPHIRES WIN 2ND TITLE

NEW DELHI: Gurgaon Sapphires became the first team in the history of the Harven Pro Tennis League (PTL) to win back-to-back titles when they beat Ichiban Samurrai in the final at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi. It took their tally to two titles as they triumphed 81-56 in the final played under the lights at the RK Khanna Stadium.

EMPOWERING

ANURAG THAKUR: KHELO INDIA WILL SHOWCASE TALENTS OF PARA-ATHLETES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said that the Khelo India Para Games aims to provide a massive platform to para-athletes to showcase their talents and it is the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a sporting superpower.

He said this while inaugurating the Khelo India Para Games in New Delhi on Monday.

While talking to the media, Anurag Thakur said, "Khelo India Para Games 2023 began on Sunday. It is PM Modi's vision to make the country a sporting superpower where athletes



perform well and have the ability to win medals and big sports events are held in India.

"We had won 19 medals in the Tokyo Paralympics (in 2021) and 100-plus medals (111 in total) in the recent Para Asian Games. To strengthen the domestic championship, Khelo India Para Games has been start-

ed. Athletics, powerlifting, archery, weightlifting, table tennis and other sports are part of Khelo India Para Games. 1,450 players will participate. It is happening for the first time ever in Indian sports. Our para-athletes used to win medals for the country in many events, but they did not have a big domestic championship

where they could showcase their talents and Khelo India Para Games aims to fill this gap," added Thakur.

The opening day of the event on Sunday witnessed a total of 66 matches being played at the Indira Gandhi Stadium.

Over 1400 participants from 32 states and Union Territories will take part in the prestigious event to be held across three venues in New Delhi from December 10 to 17.

The inaugural Khelo India Para Games are being organised at three venues - Indira Gandhi Stadium, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium and Karni Singh Shooting Range.

The competition will be

held in seven para-sports: athletics, shooting, archery, football, badminton, table tennis and weightlifting. Some of India's top international para stars, like Sheetal Devi, Bhavina Patel, Ashok, and Pramod Bhagat among others will participate.

After the immense success of Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games, now Khelo India Para Games is being organized and there is an atmosphere of celebration in the national capital regarding Khelo India Para Games being organized for the first time.

This week-long sports festival will be a symbol of inclusivity as well as celebrate human dignity.

CHALLENGES

Positive mindset essential for international gold triumph

SARABJOT SINGH
NEW DELHI

Having a proper mindset is essential for achieving success in any international competition, as it allows one to navigate challenging situations effectively. A positive mindset enables individuals to overcome any difficult challenge. At the junior level in the sport of shooting, the competition is fierce, and a notable challenge is the absence of an international shooting range in Haryana.

While the Karni Singh Shooting Range is located on the Delhi-Haryana border, traveling there from Ambala presents significant challenges for me. Importantly, shooters residing in distant areas such as Hisar, Bhiwani, and Jind find it impractical to consider going there for practice.



My recent visit to Bhopal for the National Championship exposed me to their high-level shooting range. Even shooters based in Delhi derive benefits from the Karni Singh Range. I sincerely hope that the government

considers this direction, enabling shooters from Haryana to excel in this sport. If any athlete performs well, they should promptly receive their prize money. We invest a considerable amount in this sport, and after our commendable performances, we eagerly anticipate the prize money. The burden of substantial expenses is shouldered by our families. As you are aware, this sport incurs significant costs, with approximately 50 thousand rupees spent every month. With dedicated effort and support from my coach, Mr. Abhishek, along with encouragement from my family, I am delighted to share that I recently achieved success by winning a gold medal in the 10-meter air rifle team event and a silver medal in the mixed team event at the Asian Games.

Subsequently, I went to Korea to participate in the Asian Championship; unfortunately, I couldn't attend the award function. Upon my return, I was informed that the committee had changed, and as a result, I have not yet received the prize money. Furthermore, the heightened competition at the national level adds to the overall competitiveness of the sport. In the recent National Championship held in Bhopal, over nine thousand shooters participated in the pistol and rifle categories. Winning gold in the National Championship is undoubtedly as prestigious as securing gold in the World Cup. (The writer is a champion in shooting at the Asian Games and holds the title of World Champion in both junior and senior categories.)

VICTORIOUS

Nice triumphs over Reims 2-1, reclaims 2nd place in French League

TDG NETWORK
PARIS



Ivory Coast forward Jeremie Boga scored the winner as Nice beat Reims 2-1 to take back second place in the French league.

Boga picked his spot from 18 yards to unleash a low strike that Reims goalkeeper Yehvann Diouf palmed into his own net in the 82nd minute.

Nice is known for patiently probing for an opening by swapping passes in its own half. But goalkeeper Marcin Bulka diverted from the script with a long punt in the 55th. The Reims defence cleared the ball into the path of Gaetan Laborde, who drove forward to open the scoring for Nice with a shot off the underside of the bar.

Reims captain Yunis Abdelhamid met a cross from Junya Ito to equalize with a downward header in the 78th. Ito also hit the woodwork with an effort in the 67th.

"I think we were a bit too excited sometimes," Nice cen-

tre back Dante told Amazon Prime Video. "We will have to correct that for the next games so that we can have more control."

Nice has built its success on a solid defence this season, the stingiest in Europe's top five leagues, conceding only six goals in 15 league games. Nice moved two points clear of Monaco while Reims dropped to eighth place.

AUBAMEYANG STAYS HOT

Ten-man Marseille secured their first away league victory, defeating Lorient 4-2 to claim the sixth spot, trailing Brest by two points. Chancel Mbemba, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, and Leonardo Balerdi gave Marseille a 3-0 lead, with Romain Faivre pulling one back for Lorient. Aubameyang extended the lead before half-time, but Lorient's Benjamin Mendy and a red card for Marseille's Jonathan Clauss shaped the second half.

TALKS

PGA TOUR PICKS FENWAY SPORTS GROUP AS PRIVATE INVESTORS

TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON

The PGA Tour has narrowed its choice of potential investors to a new consortium led by Fenway Sports Group and said it would continue negotiations with Saudi Arabia's national wealth fund as it races to meet a Dec. 31 deadline.

The PGA Tour board — six players and five independent directors — sent an email to players Sunday afternoon to say Strategic Sports Group was the unanimous choice to further negotiate a potential partnership in the new PGA Tour Enterprises.

The new for-profit company was at the heart of a framework agreement announced June 6 among the PGA Tour, European tour and the Public Investment Fund, the Saudi financial backing of LIV Golf.

"We also anticipate advancing our negotiations with PIF in the weeks to come," the board said in the email to tour membership. "Please know that while we can't get into more details at this time, we are very confident in an eventual, positive outcome for all players and the PGA Tour as a whole."

The update came three days after Masters champion Jon Rahm, for two years a consistent voice against the 54-hole, no-cut rival league, bolted for LIV Golf in a deal that various reports put in the neighborhood of \$500



million. The agreement includes the Dec. 31 deadline to finalize the deal, and signing Rahm away from the PGA Tour was an indication that without Saudi involvement in the new commercial enterprise, the PIF has more than enough money to lure away whomever it wants.

"It's a really nice play by them," Jordan Spieth said Friday. "I think we hold the best hand, but they know what our hand is. It's a nice leveraging tool with everything going on."

Several private equity groups expressed interest in investing in recent months, and the tour board last month narrowed the group to five, including Fenway Sports Group, Acorn Growth and Liberty Strategic Capital. The group the board unanimously chose was described as a consortium of American-based professional sports teams, led by Fenway Sports Group.

Strategic Sports Group includes owners Marc Atanasi (Milwaukee Brewers); Arthur Blank (Atlanta Falcons); Cohen Private Ventures (New York Mets); Wyc Grousbeck (Boston

Celtics); Tom Werner and John Henry (Boston Red Sox); Tom Ricketts (Chicago Cubs); and Marc Lasry (Milwaukee Bucks). Others in the group include Gerry Cardinale, managing partner of RedBird Capital who has ownership in AC Milan.

Lasry, Blank, Cohen and Werner also are team owners in the TGL league founded by Tiger Woods, who is on the PGA Tour board, and Rory McIlroy, who recently left the board.

Acorn Growth was believed to include Randall Stephenson, the retired AT&T chairman who resigned from the PGA Tour board in July over objections to its deal with Saudi Arabia. However, Stephenson wrote to PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan last Tuesday to say he has no interest in Acorn or its proposal, only that he has responded to Acorn questions about putting together an attractive proposal.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter. Stephenson said he also provided similar input to Liberty Media but that "I felt it would be inappropriate to engage directly as an investor or event paid advisor." Monahan had said he would be meeting the Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the governor of PIF, last week until it was postponed. It was unclear if they would be meeting this week. PIF is the presenting sponsor of the Saudi Open this week, which concludes the Asian Tour season.

DRAW

Roma draws 1-1 with Fiorentina, finishes with 9 men

TDG NETWORK
ROME

Jose Mourinho's Roma earned a point that seemed like a victory. The Giallorossi held on with only nine men for a 1-1 draw with visiting Fiorentina in Serie A on Sunday.

Roma moved up to fourth place and into the Champions League spots — a significant step for a team that didn't qualify for Europe's elite competition during Mourinho's first two seasons in charge.

But it was a costly point for Roma as Paulo Dybala limped off with an apparent injury and Romelu Lukaku was shown a red card that will keep him out of a match against Bologna next weekend.

Lukaku crouched down to head in a cross from Dybala five minutes in at the Stadio Olimpico. Dybala then



limped off 20 minutes later.

After Roma full back Nicola Zalewski picked up his second yellow card midway through the second half, Lucas Martinez-Quarta equalized for Fiorentina by flicking in a header with his back to the goal.

Lukaku was then shown a straight red for a foul on Christian Kouame in the 87th.

But Mourinho's men held tight and extended their unbeaten run at home to six matches. Roma moved within four points of struggling third-place AC Milan.

DYNAMIC DUOS

JASON DAY AND LYDIA KO TRIUMPH IN MIXED TEAM EVENT

TDG NETWORK
NAPLES

Lydia Ko hit a fairway metal to 8 feet to set up the birdie she and Jason Day needed to win the Grant Thornton Invitational. They closed with a 6-under 66 in modified fourballs to capture the first mixed-team event in 24 years.

Playing the par-5 17th hole, Ko and Day were tied with the Canadian duo of Corey Connors and Brooke Henderson, who had to settle for two closing pars and a 63.

The format allowed for both players to hit tee shots, then switch to the other player's golf ball and finish out the hole. Day was in a bunker left of the green at the par-5 17th, no easy up-and-down. Ko had 208 into a slight wind and her fairway metal never left its target. It landed near the hole and rolled out about 8 feet. Her eagle putt never had a chance, but the hard work was done. Both secured easy pars on the 18th to finish at 26-under 190.

It was the first time the PGA Tour and LPGA had a mixed-team event since the JC Penney Classic in 1999. Ludvig Aberg, the sensational rookie to win on the PGA Tour and European tour and played in the Ryder Cup since turning pro in June,



teamed with fellow Swede Madelene Sagstrom to post a 60 in the final round. They finished third.

PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS Bradenton: Toms, Andrade Secure Late Points, Americans Win Inaugural World Champions Cup. Andrade, replacing Furyk, birdied to earn crucial points. Toms' birdie secured the lead, and Goosen's double bogey sealed the victory. The U.S. team finished with 221 points, surpassing the international team (219) and Europe (208). Jerry Kelly led with 61 points

LIV GOLF LEAGUE Abu Dhabi: Samooja, Vincent, and Kozuma secure spots on LIV Golf rosters for 2024. Samooja leads with 8-under 136, while Vincent and Kozuma clinch spots in a playoff. Canter settles for Asian Tour exemptions. Chappell and Trainer also secure exemptions in the International Series.

DOMINATES

Girona stuns Barcelona 4-2, takes top spot in Spain

TDG NETWORK
MADRID

Girona made its strong case to be considered a genuine contender for the Spanish league title by beating Catalan rival Barcelona 4-2 and overtaking Real Madrid at the top of the standings.

Ukraine forwards Artem Dovbyk and Viktor Tsygankov teamed up for Girona's opener, and Miguel Gutierrez, Valery Fernandez and Cristhian Stuani scored a goal each to seal the away victory against the defending league champions. Robert Lewandowski and Ilkay Gundogan scored Barcelona's goals.

The statement wins moved Girona two points ahead of Madrid, which drew 1-1 with Real Betis on Saturday. Barcelona dropped to fourth place, seven points



behind its regional rival and five behind Madrid. Atletico Madrid regained third place with a 2-1 win over last-place Almeria to extend its winning streak at home in the league to 17 matches. Atletico has the same 34 points as Barcelona with a game in hand.

Barcelona had never lost in six matches against Girona in the league, with four wins and two draws.

"Girona deserves a lot of credit. It has a great team," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said.

ABANDONMENT OF FIRST T20I

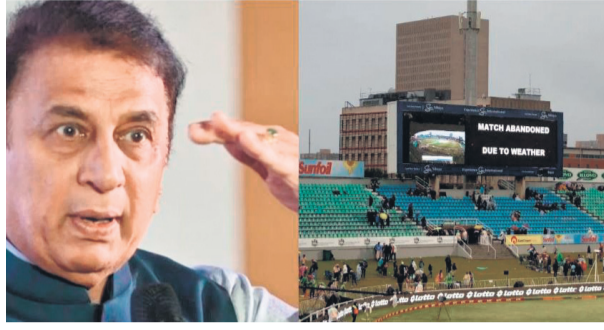
GAVASKAR URGES CSA TO ADOPT EDEN GARDENS MODEL OF COVERING GROUND

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Legendary Sunil Gavaskar has urged Cricket South Africa to take a page from Eden Gardens' playbook after rain forced the abandonment of the first T20I between India and South Africa at Durban without a ball being bowled.

Gavaskar emphasized that the South African board should adopt the Eden method of covering the entire perimeter of the ground during rain to minimize damage.

"What the boards need to do now is to cover the entire



ground. Let's have no excuses. Every cricket board is receiving a substantial amount of money. Let's make no mistake.

"All the cricket boards have ample financial resources. If they claim otherwise, they

are lying," Gavaskar asserted. "They might not have as much money as the BCCI, and that's fair enough. But every board has the means to purchase covers for the entire ground," Gavaskar added. Kolkata's Eden Gar-

dens currently stands as the only stadium in the country with the capability to cover the entire ground in the event of rain, an initiative undertaken by Sourav Ganguly when he was at the helm of the Cricket Association of Bengal. The former Indian captain then referred to the 2019 World Cup in England, where four matches were washed out.

"So many World Cup matches in England did not take place because the ground was not covered. The rain had stopped, but the rest of the ground was

wet. Consequently, several teams lost points. "I remember South Africa wanted to play against a certain team, but the match didn't take place, mainly because the outfield was wet," Gavaskar recalled.

Gavaskar then commended Sourav Ganguly's vision in making Eden Gardens a rain-safe venue.

"I think there was one Test match at Eden Gardens called off. During the next game, Eden Gardens had the entire ground covered. That is the kind of initiative that you want to have.

IMPORTANT BATTLE

Kallis predicts Kohli to play pivotal role in upcoming Test series

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli's form and knowledge of South African conditions will be key to India's success in the upcoming two-Test series, according to legendary all-rounder Jacques Kallis.

India is scheduled to play two red-ball games in Centurion and Cape Town from December 26-30 and January 3-7, respectively, as part of the ICC World Test Championship.

"I am sure he will want to have a big series here in South Africa. He has been in good form. He will play a major role in helping India. If they are to win here, he will have to have a good series," Kallis said.

Kohli amassed 932 runs from 30 innings to emerge as the highest run-scorer for India during the last WTC cycle. He has already scored a century and a fifty in two completed Tests against the West Indies as part of the current cycle.

Kohli is in imperious form, having racked up a whopping 765 runs in the



ODI World Cup on home soil to be awarded the Player of the Tournament.

"He's a massive player, no matter where it is. Having played here quite a bit and had a fair amount of success," Kallis said. "He'll be able to pass that knowledge on to the other guys, especially the younger guys and give them ideas on how to manage these conditions and then what to expect."

Kohli, 35, scored two of his 29 Test centuries against the Proteas away from

home. India had suffered a 1-2 loss in South Africa during the last World Test Championship cycle.

"This is a good Indian team, but South Africa is tough to beat in South Africa," Kallis said. "Centurion will probably suit South Africa, and Newlands will probably suit India. It will be a good series, and it will come down to one or two sessions that one team might play better than the other. It would be a closely-fought contest.

TRIAL

Young talent faces time pressure with only 5 games left prior to T20 WC

TDG NETWORK
QOBERHA

After a washout in the series-opener robbed the auditioning Indian youngsters of valuable game time, the think tank will be hoping for clear weather in the second T20I against South Africa here on Tuesday.

Even the toss could not be held in Durban on Sunday and there is a rain forecast even for the second game of the three-match series. Now only five games are left in the build up to the T20 World Cup in June and the management has a very small window to try out players.

In the current scenario, form in the IPL will carry a lot of weight for selection in the Indian team bound for USA

and Caribbean.

The selectors announced a 17-man squad for the series and it is highly unlikely that all of them would get an opportunity in the remaining two games.

Shubman Gill, who was not part of the T20 series against Australia held right after the World Cup, Suryakumar Yadav and Rinku Singh seem to be the only certainties in the batting order for the ICC event six months later.

Both Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad have got runs under their belt but if Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma make themselves available for the World Cup, the two fringe players would need a sensational effort in the IPL to make the cut.



IMMENSE STRIDES

Women's cricket outpaces men's progress since 2019: Ganguly

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly feels that women's cricket has made immense strides in growth and reach since 2019, perhaps more than their male counterparts. Ganguly based his argument on the emergence of the Women's Premier League, a pool of talented players like Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana, and the team's recent success in global events.

"The progress in women's cricket in India since 2019 is, perhaps, more significant than the men's team. The men's team has always been very good. But from where the women's team was to where they have reached -- winning the Asia Cup, their performance in the World Cups, and being the runners-up in the Commonwealth Games (in 2022)," Ganguly



said. "Players like Harmanpreet, Smriti, Richa, Jemimah, Shafali, the way they have progressed is impressive."

Ganguly also praised young pacer Renuka Singh, saying, "When Jhulan (Goswami) finished, we wondered where the next seamer would come from, and then Renuka (Singh) Thakur has developed over the last three years. That's the best thing about women's cricket," added the former BCCI president.

As the Director of Cricket at the Delhi Capitals, Ganguly expressed delight in the team acquiring talented Indian players from the recent WPL auction.

"I think Ashwani Kumari is someone they (DC) kept an eye on because she can hit the ball a long way and she bowls. We needed a backup keeper, so we got another one.

With three slots to fill, we knew one would always be the most important, and we got (Annabel) Sutherland," Ganguly said."

NEW-LOOK TEAM

ENGLAND'S WHITE-BALL COACH, MOTT, URGES FANS TO BE PATIENT

TDG NETWORK
ST JOHN S

England's head coach, Matthew Mott, has urged fans to be patient with the new-look white-ball team, considering it is a work in progress. He stressed that the team has had only three opportunities to play together as a group. The revamped England side suffered a four-wicket defeat to West Indies in the third and final ODI, resulting in a 2-1 series loss. This came after a disappointing ICC Cricket World Cup campaign, where the then-defending champions won only three out of nine matches and finished in seventh place.

A group of fresh talents, including Phil Salt, Will Jacks, Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Gus Atkinson, and Reham Ahmed, played under the leadership of skipper Jos Buttler. Only four players had played 10 or



more ODIs. They faced the West Indies, who are also undergoing a transition after failing to qualify for the 50-over World Cup for the first time this year.

Despite being in strong positions for a significant part of the series, England couldn't secure the win. Shai Hope, Romario Shepherd, Alick Athanaze, Sherfane Rutherford, and Matthew Forde produced impressive performances to secure the trophy. Mott expressed frustration, stating that the group has not put a complete game together. However, he ac-

knowledgeable positive signs and emphasized the camaraderie among the players.

"We have not put a complete game together, and that's the frustration," said Mott, England's head coach. "We put ourselves in a chance to win all three games and come away with a series loss, so that is not ideal. But there are definitely some really good signs that there is a group of players who love playing with each other. They are good mates, and I think it will really take the game forward," concluded Mott.

INDICATION

MCDONALD CONSIDERS WHITE-BALL SPECIALIST AS POTENTIAL REPLACEMENT FOR WARNER

TDG NETWORK
PERTH

Australian head coach Andrew McDonald has indicated that, although selectors haven't firmly decided on who will replace David Warner as an opener, doors are open for batters with strong white-ball form.

During training in Perth on Sunday, David Warner batted in sunglasses as Australia assembled for its final Test series of the year. The 37-year-old aims for a Test farewell in Sydney during the third Test against Pakistan, and McDonald has



maintained that, like everyone else, the opener's spot remains subject to constant review.

"Davey's playing the first Test match, and we'll go from there," the coach told reporters following a centre-

wicket session at the WACA Ground, as quoted by cricket.com.au.

McDonald emphasized that until a replacement for Warner is needed, no succession plan has been put in place. Matthew Renshaw,

who scored a ton in a tour match against Pakistan in Canberra, along with Cameron Bancroft and Marcus Harris, are front-runners to replace Warner due to the varying success they have had in the Shield over the years. "We know they can play; they have good numbers in Shield cricket, and I think if we were to go down that path and choose one of them, I think they would do a really good job," McDonald said of the trio, each having played 10 Tests.

However, a less conventional approach could be considered. All-rounder

Cameron Green will start the summer from the sidelines as McDonald confirmed that Mitchell Marsh will play at number six against Pakistan, taking Green's spot during the Ashes this year.

The young all-rounder could replace Warner when his spot becomes available. In this scenario, another batter will be promoted to open to allow Green back into the middle order.

Marsh and Marnus Labuschagne have been considered as options to be promoted to the top of the line-up.

AWARD

Travis Head wins ICC men's Player of the Month award for Nov 2023

TDG NETWORK
DUBAI

Australian batter Travis Head, who smashed an explosive century to help Australia secure their sixth ICC Cricket World Cup title, has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for November 2023.

Head faced tough competition from teammate Glenn Maxwell and Indian seamer Mohammed Shami to claim the honor. Maxwell scored a magnificent double-century against Afghanistan during the World Cup, while Shami had a brilliant run with the ball during the same tournament, becoming the leading wicket-taker with 24 wickets in just seven matches, as per the ICC. However, it was Head's 220 ODI runs in November -- including a half-century and a century -- that proved the difference, with the left-hander winning his first Player of the Month award. The 29-year-old expressed his gratitude to his teammates for their support throughout the last year. "It has been an incredible 12 months for the team, and it



has been a real privilege to be a part of it. The way we navigated a home summer, away trips to India, England, South Africa, and the World Cup has been a great credit to Pat (Cummins), the players, and the staff," Head said, as quoted by ICC.

"I was fortunate that they kept faith in me for the World Cup after breaking my hand, so it was a great opportunity for me to pay them back. I felt the World Cup was amongst the best I have ever batted, so maybe having a rest before

every campaign is the key." Head continued, "It is a great honor to be recognized with this award, but it is a team effort. Without my teammates across all formats, this would not have happened; so these types of awards are as much for them as they are for me."

The two best knocks during November came in the most critical stage of Australia's Cricket World Cup campaign, earning Head the Player of the Match award in the semi-final and final of the 50-over showcase.

ACHIEVEMENT

Nahida wins women's Player of the Month for Nov

TDG NETWORK
DUBAI

Bangladesh's spin bowling sensation, Nahida Akter, on Monday, clinched the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for November due to her wicket-taking exploits in last month's competitive ODI series



victory over Pakistan on home soil.

The International Cricket Council (ICC)

today revealed the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month award winners for November 2023 after shortlists was announced last Thursday.

She is the first Bangladeshi women's player to win the award.

In the first ODI encounter of the series, Ak-

ter claimed three wickets for 30 with a consistent spell of pressure bowling. With Pakistan chasing down a lowly 82 for victory, the spinner kept the contest competitive, claiming the wickets of Sidra Ameen, Bismah Maroof, and Aliya Riaz to trouble the tourists in their charge to victory.

A quieter second match followed before Akter again starred in the decisive third fixture. In the final game, she picked up 3/26 and helped Bangladesh restrict Pakistan to 166/9, laying the foundations for Akter's teammates to seal the series with the bat in a seven-wicket victory.