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HARYANA CM EXTENDS GREETINGS ON STATE'S 59TH FOUNDATION DAY



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SEVEN KILLED IN ISRAEL AFTER HEZBOLLAH TARGETS METULA, HAIFA



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3RD TEST: INDIA BATTERS COLLAPSE AS NZ TAKE CONTROL ON DAY 1

DEBATE ON FREEBIES IN MIDDLE OF POLLS

Kharge cautions against ill-conceived guarantees

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge has meted out advice to the Congress units headed for polls cautioning them to announce guarantees on the basis of their budget.

Kharge urged for careful considerations and warned that an unplanned approach could lead to financial difficulties and negatively impact future generations.

During the press conference, he underscored the importance of fiscal responsibility, stating that if the government fails to deliver on its commitments, it could result in a bad reputation and hardships for the community.

Kharge said, "In Maharashtra I've said that they shouldn't announce 5, 6, 10 or 20 guarantees. They should announce guarantees based on budget. Otherwise, there'll be bankruptcy. If there's no money for roads, everyone will turn against you. If this government fails, the future generation will be left with nothing but a bad name. They'll have to live in exile for 10 years."

Kharge's statement came after the Congress government in Karnataka suggested that it could review the Shakti scheme which ensured free buss trans-

SECOND THOUGHTS



- Announce guarantees on the basis of their budget.
- Unplanned approach could lead to financial difficulties and negatively impact future generations..
- If the government fails to deliver on commitments, it could result in a bad reputation and hardships for the community..
- In Maharashtra they shouldn't announce

port for women. However, on Thursday, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that there will be no review or stoppage of the scheme.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday reconsidered his statement a day after Kharge pulled up Shivakumar over his statement that the state government would re-

5, 6, 10 or 20 guarantees. They should announce guarantees based on budget. Otherwise, there'll be bankruptcy

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■ Kharge's statement came after the Congress government in Karnataka suggested that it could review the Shakti scheme which ensured free buss travel for women.

view the 'Shakti' guarantee scheme. The scheme offers free bus travel to women in the state.

While speaking to the media reporters, Shivakumar said his statement was twisted and whatever the elders say we have to follow that.

"Whatever our elders say we follow that. My state-

PM seizes on Kharge's remark, hits out at Cong

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said the Congress stands "badly exposed" in front of people for promising to them what the party knows it will never be able to deliver.

Modi launched a fierce attack on the opposition party as he seized on its president Mallikarjun Kharge's comments that the Congress state units should make promises that are properly budgeted and do not lead to financial troubles amid reports of fiscal problems the party-ruled states are facing in keeping some of their pre-poll announcements.

The Prime Minister said, "The Congress party is realising the hard way that making unreal promises is easy but implementing them properly is tough or impossible. Campaign after campaign they promise things to the people which they also know they will never be able to deliver. Now, they stand badly exposed in front of the people!"

He said the developmental trajectory and fiscal health in the Congress-ruled states of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana is turning from bad to worse.

People will have to be vigilant against the Congress-sponsored culture of fake promises, he said. "We saw

UNBRIDLED ATTACK



- Developmental trajectory and fiscal health in Congress-ruled Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana is turning from bad to worse
- People will have to be vigilant against the Congress-sponsored culture of fake promises
- There is a growing realisation across India that a vote for the Congress is a vote

for non-governance, poor economics and unparalleled loot

■ In Karnataka Congress is busier in intra-party politics and loot They are also going to roll back existing schemes.

■ In Himachal, salaries of government employees are not paid on time

■ In Telangana, farmers are waiting for the waiver they were promised.

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■ In Himachal, salaries of government employees are not paid on time

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■ Victims of Congress politics are the poor, youngsters, farmers and women who are not only denied the benefits of these promises but also see their existing schemes diluted.

Cong slams ECI over reply to EVM questions

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

In an escalating exchange between the party and the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Congress has expressed deep dissatisfaction with what it described as the ECI's "dismissive and condescending" response to serious allegations of irregularities in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in Haryana's recent assembly elections.

The latest letter from the Congress, signed by prominent leaders such as KC Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot, Bhupinder Hooda, Ajay Maken, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, and others, high-

lights multiple grievances and takes aim at the tone and handling of their complaints by the electoral body.

The issue began when Congress filed a complaint, listing specific irregularities in EVMs across 20 constituencies in Haryana, citing issues they believe compromised the fairness of the election process. The ECI, however, responded on October 29, dismissing the complaints as "baseless, misplaced, and devoid of facts." The Congress's rebuttal, issued just days later, accuses the Commission of shirking its responsibilities by issuing a "clean chit" to itself instead of addressing the party's

PMEAC chief Bibek Debroy dies

NEW DELHI:
Renowned economist Bibek Debroy,



Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India (PMEAC), passed away on Friday. "Dr. Bibek Debroy Ji was a towering scholar, well-versed in diverse domains like economics, history, culture, politics, spirituality and more.

DETAILS P4

BJP MLA from Jammu passes away

JAMMU:
BJP leader and sitting M L A of Jammu and Kashmir's Nagrota,



Devender Singh Rana, passed away on Thursday. Rana is the brother of Union Minister Jitendra Singh. The mortal remains were brought to his residence. Deputy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary said he has no words to express his condolences.

DETAILS P4

Post-Diwali, air turns 'very poor' in Delhi

TDG NETWORK/AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A thick layer of smog covered parts of Delhi on Friday, the day after Diwali, pushing the city's air quality into the 'very poor' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Most areas in the capital recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) over 350, raising health concerns for residents.

At around 7:00 am, Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 395, Aya Nagar

stood at 352, Jahangirpuri at 390, and Dwarka reached 376. All these areas reported 'very poor' air quality levels, posing significant health risks.

The pollution issue wasn't limited to Delhi; several other cities across India, including metropolises like Chennai and Mumbai, reported similar conditions, with smog and poor air quality affecting large areas.

The CPCB data shows significant pollution levels, especially after Diwali



Layer of smog can be seen at Anand Vihar as air quality remains in 'very poor' category, in New Delhi on Friday. (ANI Photo)

celebrations, raising concerns about air quality and potential health impacts nationwide.

Delhi Environment

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

As Diwali festivities concluded, residents of Haryana and Punjab, especially those are living in National Capital Region (NCR) woke up to a hazy Friday morning, with air quality levels plunging into the "Very Poor" and "Poor" categories across several cities.

The thick layer of smog covering the region underscored the impact of widespread firecracker use.

Monthly GST collection closes in on Rs 2 lakh cr

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in October, in gross terms, were at Rs 1.87 lakh crore, with a yearly jump of 8.9 per cent, according to data from the finance ministry released on Friday.

In October 2023, the total collection was to the tune of Rs 1.72 lakh crore.

CGST, SGST, IGST, and cess all increased year-on-year in October, official data made available showed today.

So far in 2024, the total GST collection has been 9.4

Haryana, Punjab wake up to hazy morning

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

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ISRO's analogue mission kicks off in Ladakh

AJAY JANDYAL
LEH (LADAKH)

India marked a new milestone in space exploration with the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) launching its first analogue space mission on Friday. Led by ISRO's Human Spaceflight Centre, this mission commenced in Leh, Ladakh, in collaboration with AAKA Space Studio, the University of Ladakh, and IIT Bombay, and with support from the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

The analog mission aims to replicate life within an interplanetary habitat, addressing the complex challenges involved in building

'VERY POOR' CITIES (AQI 300 AND ABOVE)

Chandigarh
Gurugram
Ambala
Kurukshetra
Amritsar

This sharp rise in pollution levels was most pronounced in the early hours after the late-night celebrations, as Air Quality Index (AQI) readings across several locations reflected a significant de-

terioration.

Even, in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, some of the year's worst air quality levels were recorded following Diwali night. Cities such as Chandigarh, Gurugram, Ambala, Kurukshetra, and Amritsar fell into the "Very Poor" category for the first time this year, with AQI readings exceeding 300. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported particularly high readings on Friday for Bahadurgarh, Bhiwani,

Dharuhera, Faridabad, Hisar, Yamunanagar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Manesar, Panchkula, Panipat, Rohtak, Sirsa, and Sonapat in Haryana, and Jalandhar, Khanna, Ludhiana, and Patiala in Punjab, where AQI values ranged between 200 and 300, classifying them as "Poor."

Real-time CPCB monitoring data showed a quick decline in air quality from Thursday evening. As of 11 p.m. on Diwali night, AQI readings in

Veteran fashion designer Rohit Bal passes away



NEW DELHI: Legendary fashion designer Rohit Bal is no more. He breathed his last on November 1.

The news of his demise was shared on the official Instagram handle of Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI). He was a founding member of the FDCI. Known for his unique blend of traditional patterns with modern sensibilities, Bal's work redefined Indian fashion.

DETAILS P13

Two migrant workers hurt in terror attack in J&K

AJAY JANDYAL
MAZAHAMA (J&K)

Terrorists have attacked two non-local workers in the Mazahama area of Budgam district, leaving both men injured. The victims, who belong to Uttar Pradesh, were targeted near the Mazahama graveyard on the banks of Nallah Sukhnag while working on a Jal Jeevan project initiated by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

One of the workers was hit by a bullet in the arm, while the other sustained an injury to his leg. Both were immediately rushed to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Magam, where they are currently

receiving treatment. Medical sources have confirmed that their conditions are stable.

Security forces launched an extensive search operation in and around Mazahama following the incident, deploying additional personnel to secure the area and locate the assailants. Area domination exercises and thorough searches along Nallah Sukhnag are ongoing as part of the heightened security measures.

The incident marks another targeted attack on non-local workers in Kashmir, raising security concerns for laborers involved in development projects across the region.

PM MODI, SHAH EXTEND GREETINGS TO STATES ON FOUNDATION DAY

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his wishes to the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, and Kerala on their foundation day on Friday.

Wishing each state individually in various posts on X, he highlighted the contributions of each state to the country in various fields including cultural heritage, development, preservation, and natural resources, posting in various languages.

"Best wishes to all the residents of Madhya Pradesh on the State Foundation Day. I wish that this state, rich in natural wealth and cultural heritage, continues to set new standards of development in every field," read a post by the PM. "Our Hary-



ana, known for its rich historical heritage, has always contributed significantly to the development of the country. On the foundation day of the state, along with extending my heartfelt greetings to all my brothers and sisters who are partners in the progress of this state, I wish them happiness, prosperity and good health," said another post.

For Chhattisgarh, he said, "I wish that this state, adorned with a wonderful confluence of glorious folk

traditions and tribal culture, continues to progress rapidly on the path of development."

"Kerala Piravi greetings! The state is known for its mesmerizing landscapes, vibrant traditions and hardworking people. People from Kerala have made their mark all over the world, across different fields," said a post for Kerala.

"Kannada Rajyotsava is a very special occasion, recognising the exemplary culture and traditions of Karnataka.

This state is blessed with outstanding people, who are powering growth and innovation across sectors," the PM added, highlighting the contributions of Karnataka. Additionally, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also highlighted the unique heritage and contribution of each state while extending his warm wishes

Wishing Chhattisgarh's continued growth and preservation of rich tribal culture, he said in a post on X, "I wish that the journey of preservation and promotion of tribal culture and art in Chhattisgarh continues at an uninterrupted pace and the state reaches the pinnacle of development and progress." For Madhya Pradesh, he highlighted how the state is going through a "golden period of preservation of its rich cultural heritage."

"Madhya Pradesh is witnessing a golden period of preservation of its rich cultural heritage and public welfare works. I wish for the progressive progress of the people of the state," read another post by Shah.

Putting the spotlight on the farmers, sportspersons and the soldiers from Haryana, he said, "The hardworking farmers of the state, the soldiers dedicated to the nation's defence and the energetic sportspersons are playing a leading role in accelerating the country's development journey, making it secure and bringing glory to it on global platforms. The way Haryana has been progressing on the path of development and progress for the last decade, I wish that this journey of prosperity continues uninterrupted."

Govt committed to all-round development of Kedarnath Dham: Dhami

AGENCIES
KEDARNATH

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited Baba Kedar at Shri Kedarnath Dham on Friday, ahead of its winter closure.

During his visit, Dhami said that under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi the state government is committed to the all-round development of Kedarnath Dham.

He wished happiness, prosperity and well-being for all the people of the state. On this occasion, the Chief Minister also met the saints, devotees and residents present in the temple premises. The doors of Shri Kedarnath Dham, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, are set to close for the winter on Saturday.

"Development work is being done at a rapid pace in the Dham, which is giving a new direction to the economy of the region and the local people are getting employment opportunities. Due to the better management of the state government, the number of pilgrims is increasing every year. Also, after this year's disaster, the rescue of all the passengers was completed in time," CM Dhami said.

CM Dhami also said during a program

organized in Kedarnath that until Kedarnath gets an MLA, he himself will serve Kedarnath as an MLA.

It is known that PM Modi and Chief Minister Dhami have a special attachment to Kedarnath.

Prime Minister Modi has come to Kedarnath several times to visit Baba Kedar and personally monitors the reconstruction work going on in the Dham.

CM Dhami praised the arrangements made for the Char Dham Yatra by the state's administration, claiming that this year's Kedarnath Dham has set a new record of receiving devotees this year.

"Even after the disaster this year, the number of devotees coming to Kedarnath Dham has set a new record as a result of the better arrangements made by the administration. The smooth, safe and well-organized Char Dham Yatra is the top priority of our government," he said.

Kedarnath is part of one of the four high-altitude Dhams in Uttarakhand, consisting of Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath.

The shrines remain shut for around six months every year, opening in the summers during April or May generally, and closing usually around October or November.

Mamata performs Kali Puja at residence

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee celebrated her 47th Kali Puja and offered prayers to the Goddesses at her residence in Kolkata. She said that over the years she has turned to Maa Kali for strength and guidance.

In a post on X, CM Mamata Banerjee said, "This is the 47th Kali Puja at my residence. Over the years, through life's joys and sorrows, I have turned to Maa Kali for strength and guidance. It is a bond rooted in faith, trust, and deep devotion. This year, like every year, I fasted through the day and prepared bhog for Bhavatarini Maa Kali, hoping to honour her divine feminine energy that I believe sustains and empowers us all."

She extended her gratitude to everyone



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offers prayers to Goddess Kali on the occasion of Kali Puja, at her Kalighat residence in Kolkata on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

who joined in offering the prayers on Thursday.

"As I offered my prayers, I asked Maa to bless every one of you with happiness, health, and prosperity. I convey my gratitude to everyone who joined in today, from friends to colleagues to the many well-wishers who are like

family. Shubho Kali Pujo to all!" she further added.

Kolkata was decked up for Diwali and Kali Puja celebrations with bustling markets filled with shoppers buying sweets, diyas, decorations, and festive clothing.

On the occasion of Kali Puja, Kolkata's Park Street

was decorated with LED lights.

Kali Puja is a very significant festival for Hindus, especially in the state of West Bengal.

This celebration centres around the worship of Shakti, or Goddess Kali, symbolizing the triumph of Good over Evil. Also referred to as Shyama Puja, Goddess Kali is often known as Shyama, signifying black or dark, the festival is also observed in Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Tripura, and certain regions of Maharashtra. The festival signifies the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance."

Earlier on Wednesday, Ayodhya made history during the 'Deepotsav-2024' celebrations by setting two Guinness World Records.

ECI okays Alka Tiwari as Chief Secy of J'khand

AGENCIES
RANCHI

The Election Commission of India has approved the Jharkhand government's proposal to appoint Alka Tiwari as the Chief Secretary of the state.

Tiwari, a 1988 batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre, is currently the senior-most IAS officer in the state. Earlier, the Commission had also consented to a five-month extension of the tenure of former Chief Secretary Lalbiaktuanga Kiangte. Elections for the 81 seats in the Jharkhand Assembly will be held in two phases on November 13 and November 20, with the counting of votes scheduled for November 23. On October 19, the Election Commission of India (ECI) directed the Jharkhand State Government to remove Anurag Gupta from his position as the Acting Director General of Police (DGP) with immediate effect.



Suryakiran Aerobatic Team of the Indian Air Force performs an air show during the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' programme on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

VHP welcomes Trump's remarks on condemning violence against Hindus

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Vinod Bansal on Friday welcomed former US President Donald Trump's remarks condemning violence against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities in Bangladesh and said that UN Secretary-General and others should also come forward in this regard.

"It is a welcome step to see a world leader and especially an American leader acknowledging that what happened in Bangladesh was serious and should not have happened and this should have been stopped. At the same time it is a strange irony that when Hindus

are attacked, not only do the rest of the world leaders maintain silence but also that oppression is not considered oppression, such news is also hidden. UN Secretary-General and others should also come forward in this regard," the VHP leader said.

In a post on X, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad also questioned Human Rights activists for their silence on the issue of atrocities against Hindus.

"Thanks Donald Trump for raising the voice of oppressed Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh playing in the hands of Islamic Jihadi forces. In the name of protest, the anarchists first kicked off their own dedicated old-aged lady

PM, CJB, and minorities and now targeting the President. Why the other World leaders and so-called human right activists kept mum on the genocide of Minorities in the Islamic country? Where the UN Human Rights," he added.

He further said that Trump is probably the only Western leader who has ever recognised Hindu persecution in Bangladesh.

"It's true that Hindus are the only people in the world who are not just persecuted in some countries captured by Jihadi forces like Bangladesh, Pakistan Bangladesh but also face denial of their oppression. You are probably the only Western leader who has ever recognised Hindu persecution in

Bangladesh," he said.

Earlier, Donald Trump vowed to safeguard the interests of Hindu Americans, protecting them from the "anti-religion agenda of the radical left." In a bid to strengthen ties with India, Trump also expressed his desire to boost partnership with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom he referred to as a "good friend." Sharing a post on X, Trump wrote, "We will also protect Hindu Americans against the anti-religion agenda of the radical left. We will fight for your freedom. Under my administration, we will also strengthen our great partnership with India and my good friend, Prime Minister Modi."

Centre can't implement UCC unless Muslims are taken into confidence: Prashant Kishor

TDG NETWORK
GAYA (BIHAR)

Jan Suraj chief Prashant Kishor said on Friday that the Centre cannot implement the Uniform Civil Code in the country unless the Muslim community is taken into confidence.

He said that in a democracy, before introducing a law, the government must gain the confidence of the people who will be affected by it.

"Whether the Uniform Civil Code should be implemented or not remains to be a big debate. Unless the Muslim population, which is 20% of the country's population, is taken into confidence, you cannot implement this kind of radical law," Kishor told ANI.

"We saw protests all



over the country in the case of CAA-NRC. Unless the government takes into confidence the people who will be affected by the law, it cannot be implemented," he added.

He pointed out the Centre's revocation of farm laws as an example of what will happen when the stakeholders are not taken into confidence

before bringing laws.

"See, for example, the farm laws that did not have any Hindu-Muslim issues. The Central government passed the laws without taking farmers into confidence. So what is the result of it? The government had to repeal the law. So whether it is UCC or another law if you do not take into account

the people who are going to be affected by that law, you cannot implement it. It is the strength of the democracy," he said. During this year's Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi batted for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) stating that India will now have to move towards a secular civil code to free the country from religion-based discrimination.

PM Modi said, "In our country, the Supreme Court has held discussions regarding the Uniform Civil Code again and again, and it has given orders several times. A large section of the country believes, and it is true, that the civil code that we are living with is actually a communal civil code in a way, a discriminatory civil code..."

Railways to run more than 170 trains for Chhath Puja

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian Railways is running special trains across the country to ensure the safe travel of passengers to their hometowns on the occasion of Chhath Puja.

Dilip Kumar, Executive Director of Information and Publicity for Railway Board, informed that the Indian Railways have made special arrangements in all important stations in the country including New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda, Mumbai, Bandra, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru.

travelling to their hometown during Chhath Puja. We are running different trains to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to clear the rush. Yesterday, we ran more than 160 trains and today we have planned to run more than 170 trains. Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railways Protection Force (RPF) staff have been deployed to manage the crowd and Rail Sawks have been deployed to clear doubts regarding travelling," the railway official said.

The sky is covered with smoky haze day after the Diwali celebration on Friday morning in Haridwar. Due to firecrackers burst on Diwali night, the city was enveloped with thick layer of smoke and saw a drastic difference in air visibility.

Haridwar: Sky covered in haze due to firecrackers pollution post-Diwali

TDG NETWORK
HARIDWAR

The sky is covered with smoky haze day after the Diwali celebration on Friday morning in Haridwar. Due to firecrackers burst on Diwali night, the city was enveloped with thick layer of smoke and saw a drastic difference in air visibility.

Due to reduced visibility, some complained about respiratory problems and found it impossible to go for a morning walk.

On the deteriorating air quality, one of the Residents,



Harendra Singh said "Firecrackers should be banned in the whole country. What kind of damage is done to the body? Even the people who did this are also affected. The damage is very disturbing due to air pollution. These firecrackers make so much

noise that sick or weak people are affected. Firecrackers are a waste of money in the country. And people should be educated and taught not to use crackers. These crackers are very harmful, they spoil the air quality. It is necessary to educate people."

Another resident, Saurav said "Today, because of Diwali, there is some pollution in the air, which is causing problems in breathing. The air is not as it was before, there is a change and also there is a lot of pollution. It's incredibly bad for our health. Like how the last night, firecrackers were burned. It emits huge pollutants. It's incredibly bad for our health. It significantly reduces visibility."

Rajkumar Pal, a resident, also expressed concern regarding the change in the air quality of Haridwar and also

advised restraint to the use of firecrackers.

"There is alarming level of pollution in our environment today is, in my opinion, largely attributed to the excessive use of firecrackers during Deepavali. The dangers associated with these crackers are numerous, including severe burns to children's hands and feet. Moreover, the emissions from these crackers pose a significant threat to our respiratory health. It's sad to see that the environment in Haridwar deteriorated to such an extent," he said.

NTR'S STATUE UNVEILED IN ATLANTA AT HIS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

TDG NETWORK
AMARAVATI

On the occasion of the former Andhra CM and TDP founder N.T. Rama Rao's Centenary celebrations, his statue was unveiled in Atlanta, US. The event, which was marked by the inauguration by General Secretary Nara Lokesh, represents a tribute to N.T. Rama Rao's enduring legacy. "The legendary NTR Garu stood for more than just cinema and politics--he was a movement, a symbol of Telugu pride, and a fearless voice of our people. He championed our culture, our language, and our people, redefining Telugu identity both on and off the screen. From unforgettable characters to visionary leadership, NTR Garu taught us to dream big and devote ourselves to serving the people. He remains a timeless icon, and a symbol of Telugu pride worldwide. I'm honoured to unveil his statue in Atlanta today. Proud to see him celebrated on foreign soil, reminding us of both, the power of our dreams and roots anchored in Telugu Atmagouravam,"



Nara Lokesh posted on X. Venigandla Ramu, MLA from Gudivada, said "There is no other leader who has gained as much fame and reputation in the Telugu community as NTR. The name of NTR will remain forever in the pages of history as long as the Telugu community exists." He expressed his delight at the unveiling of NTR's statue and praised Nara Lokesh as the "beacon of hope" for the future of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). "Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Lokesh are tirelessly working for the state, and NRIs should support their efforts. Minister Lokesh is meet-

ing dozens of investors in a single day for investments. Lokesh is a beacon of hope for the future of the Telugu Desam Party, and he will lead the party effectively. The unveiling of NTR's statue today made us forget the struggles of the past five years," he said. Gannavaram MLA Yarl-agadda Venkata Rao on the NTR Centenary Celebrations, said "NTR, a great personality who established a regional party at the age of 60, brought it to power within nine months. The revolutionary reforms he introduced serve as a model for today's leaders. No government has dared to provide rice at two rupees

a kilogram, but our leader NTR did during his period. NRIs play a crucial role in the economies of India and Andhra Pradesh." Gannavaram MLA further said "NTR was a great personality who brought the Equal Rights Act for women in property. Unfortunately, former Chief Minister Jagan does not respect that law and has wronged his mother and sister." He urged for investments in Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh. He called for support for Chandrababu and Lokesh, who are working towards the goal of providing 2 million jobs in five years. Nagari MLA Gali Prakash emphasized that the enthusiasm displayed by NRIs in the area creates an atmosphere reminiscent of Andhra Pradesh. "Lokesh played a key role behind the grand victory with 164 seats. He undertook foot marches to save the state's future and the TDP. As the Minister for Panchayati Raj, he has constructed 25,000 kilometres of rural roads and provided LED lights in ways no other

minister has. The party's future will be bright under Lokesh's leadership. There is so much to say about NTR, yet it feels insufficient. After the establishment of the TDP, Telugu people gained recognition on a global scale. He called upon all NRIs to be partners in the state's development in the coming days" he said. Udayagiri MLA Kakarla Suresh also mentioned that Nara Lokesh is the only leader among Indian politicians who studied at a prestigious institution like Stanford and entered politics. He acknowledged Lokesh's role in his election as an MLA. USA NRI TDP President Komati Jayaram stated that they celebrated NTR's centenary events grandly. "As long as the Telugu community exists, NTR's name will remain immortal. We NRIs will always support the government. He urged recognition for the NRIs who selflessly worked for the party, believing that they would lead the state on the path of progress." He affirmed that they will continue to support the party's success in the future.

Ajit Pawar assures support for Dhangar community

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar is touring 59 villages in Baramati on Friday, starting his visit from Malad village, to address key local issues ahead of the upcoming elections. During his visit, the Deputy CM discussed the Dhangar reservation issue and assured residents that the government's popular "ladki bahini" scheme would continue, underlining that no one's reservation would be taken away. When questioned by ANI about Nawab Malik receiving a ticket amid controversy, Pawar stated, "On the 4th, we will get a clear picture of who will be a candidate or not and from which party. We will get a complete picture by the evening of the 4th." During his tour, Pawar addressed several issues, including the Dhangar reservation matter and the Mahayuti's "ladki bahini" scheme. The Deputy Chief Minister assured that the government's



"ladki bahini" scheme, which has been well-received by the public, will continue and that no one's reservation would be taken away. Pawar then emphasised the government's commitment to supporting the Dhangar community, which has long sought reservation. Currently categorised under the Nomadic Tribes (NT) or Bhatakya Vimukta category, they have a reservation of 3.5 percent. Additionally, Pawar mentioned various schemes implemented for the benefit of Muslim communities and the Dhangar community, including the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swyam

Yojana, aimed at uplifting nomadic tribes, and the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, which provides financial assistance to farmers. Pawar has focused on the government's commitment to social welfare, economic development, and inclusive growth. The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly elections are scheduled for November 20, with the results to be announced on November 23. Following this year's Lok Sabha elections, Baramati is once again witnessing a contest between the Pawar family members, with Ajit Pawar's nephew, Yugendra Pawar, contesting from the NCP, Sharad Pawar faction.

Case registered against Arvind Sawant over his 'imported maal' remark on Shaina NC

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Mumbai's Nagpada Police Station on Friday registered a case against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant on a complaint by Shiv Sena leader Shaina NC over his "imported maal" remark. Shiv Sena Party on Friday filed a complaint against Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and MP Arvind Sawant in the Nagpada police station for calling party leader Shaina NC "imported maal", and requested them to register an First Information Report (FIR) in the matter. This comes after Sawant stoked a controversy calling Shaina "imported maal". He said, "Look at her condition. She was in the BJP all her life and now she has gone to another party. Imported 'maal' does not work here, only original 'maal' works here." The Shiv Sena party emphasised that under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sahita (Indian Penal Code), this behaviour amounts to an act of outraging a woman's modesty, in violation of Sections 354 and 509 of the IPC. "I am writing to file a formal complaint against Arvind Sawant, a sitting Member of

Parliament, for his derogatory and highly objectionable remarks directed at Shaina NC, referring to her as a "real maal" (translated as "sexy bomb"). This language, objectifying a woman in a public and influential setting, not only demeans the individual but also sends a deeply disturbing message to society, trivializing the respect and dignity of women," the letter said. "Under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sahita (Indian Penal Code), this behavior amounts to an act of outraging a woman's modesty, in violation of Sections 354 and 509 of the IPC. By using such terms, Sawant has exhibited a gross disregard for the principles of respect, equality, and decency that are fundamental to our society and legal framework," it added. The letter further said that such remarks by a public figure have a broader societal impact, contributing to the perpetuation of gender-based discrimination and disrespect towards women. "The incident has not only caused immense mental harassment to Mrs. Shaina NC but has also left a significant impact on the collective

conscience of women across India. Such objectifying remarks by a public figure have a broader societal impact, contributing to the perpetuation of gender-based discrimination and disrespect towards women," it said. "In light of the above, I humbly request your good office to register a First Information Report (FIR) against Arvind Sawant for his offensive statements under Sections 354 and 509 of the IPC for outraging the modesty of a woman," it added. Shaina in her letter also requested the police to investigate the matter thoroughly and take appropriate action against the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader. "Investigate this matter thoroughly and take appropriate legal action against Sawant. Send a strong message to deter public figures from making such statements and to promote a culture of respect and dignity towards women in public discourse. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. I trust that your office will act promptly to uphold justice and ensure the protection of women's dignity in our society," the letter said.

'Ladki Bahin Yojana has benefited 2.15 crore women'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde expressed strong confidence in the Mahayuti alliance's prospects in the upcoming Maharashtra elections, highlighting the achievements of the current government under Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, particularly the 'Ladki Behin Yojana', which has reportedly benefited 2.15 crore women across the state. "Mahayuti is confident of winning. The way our government, under the leadership of CM Eknath Shinde, has worked--especially through schemes like the Ladki Behin Yojana--gives us confidence as we approach the people with our development agenda. Maharashtra leads in infrastructure, startups, and welfare schemes," Shrikant Shinde told ANI. Shinde also criticised the opposition, accusing them of fearing the success of the Ladki Behin Yojana and resorting to unfounded allegations against it. "Seeing the reach of Ladki Behin Yojana, I am pleased to say that 2.15 crore women have benefited. We are tak-



ing our development agenda to the people. Over the last two years, the Chief Minister has focused on the state's progress. The opposition is so unsettled by Ladki Behin Yojana that they keep levelling baseless allegations against it. But if you ask women what Rs1,500 means to them, they will tell you. Congress, over the years, has not delivered on its promises, whereas our government has focused on women's empowerment," Shinde stated. Earlier, Maharashtra minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Girish Mahajan stated that the Mahayuti government needs to return to power to continue welfare initiatives for the underprivileged, farmers, labourers, and students. "I prayed to Lord Hanuman

today for the Mahayuti government's return so we can continue welfare measures for the poor, farmers, labourers, and students. We need to expand irrigation and education facilities and provide farmers with 24-hour electricity," Mahajan told ANI. The assembly polls for the 288 seats are scheduled for November 20, with vote counting set for November 23. The Model Code of Conduct for the Maharashtra Assembly Election took effect on October 15, 2024. The election notification was issued on October 22, with Tuesday as the final day for filing nominations. Meanwhile, the C-Vigil app, which enables vigilant citizens to report code of conduct violations, received 1,648 complaints from October 15 to 29, of which 1,646 have been addressed by the Election Commission, according to the Chief Electoral Officer's office. The C-Vigil App, available on any app store, allows citizens to register complaints of code violations. Once a complaint is submitted, the relevant team investigates and takes appropriate action.

'Entire system of JMM is fake': Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

TDG NETWORK
JAMTARA (JHARKHAND)

Amid the controversy over Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's age, Assam CM and BJP co-in-charge for Jharkhand Assembly elections Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday called the entire system of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) "fake." "The entire system of JMM is fake. If you look at the details of their property in the affidavit, their age has also increased... This is a government of infiltrators. If the state government comes to power again, no one will be safe... It is the responsibility of the people of Jharkhand to remove them from power," CM Sarma told reporters. He further reacted to Congress leader Irfan Ansari's derogatory statements against BJP leader Sita Soren and said that the Jharkhand government took no action against him. "No action is being taken against Irfan Ansari who made derogatory statements about the people of the tribal community," he added. Ansari stirred a controversy after he called Sita Soren a "rejected" and a "borrowed



player. Earlier today, BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla said that JMM stands for 'Jhol, Muslim appeasement and Mafia'. "JMM means 'Jhol, Muslim appeasement and Mafia'. The JMM gov't which has set new standards of corruption is now doing corruption in affidavits also. Mr Hemant Soren has aged 7 years in the last 5 years. Similarly, they did corruption and scams," Shehzad Poonawalla said in a self-made video. Meanwhile, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha said that the people of the BJP have become distracted as everything is "crystal clear." JMM Rajya Sabha MP and candidate from Ranchi, Mahua Maji said that JMM will win the elections and form the government.

DRI seizes hydroponic weed worth Rs 7 crore at Hyderabad airport, two arrested

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Hyderabad, seized hydroponic substance worth Rs 7 crore from two Indian passengers arriving from Bangkok at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, officials said on Friday. According to an official release, based on specific intelligence, officers of DRI, Hyderabad intercepted two Indian passengers coming from Bangkok at Hyderabad International Airport on October 31. Upon systematic search of their check-in luggage, 13 vacuum-packed transparent packets were found inside the packets of chocolates. The DRI said that a greenish substance in lumpy form was recovered from

all 13 packets, and when tested with a field test kit, it indicated positive for Marijuana. The packets containing 7.096 kgs of hydroponic weed have been seized, and the passengers have been arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985, and remanded to Judicial Custody, the DRI said in a release. Further investigation is in progress, it added. Earlier Telangana Police recovered 150 grams of MDMA drugs and arrested an individual for selling drugs, said police officials. Acting on credible information, Chanda Nagar police conducted a raid on a house and arrested an individual for selling drugs for easy money. The arrested person has been identified as Krishna Ram, a native of Rajasthan.

TVK chief Vijay calls for November 1 to be celebrated as Tamil Nadu Day

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) party chief Vijay on Friday called for celebrating November 1 as Tamil Nadu Day. In a post on X, Vijay emphasized that November 1 marks a day of remembrance for the sacrifices made by the "border fighters" who advocated for the integration of Tamil-speaking areas into Tamil Nadu. "November 1 is the day when our state became a separate state geographically with the establishment of linguistic provinces in 1956. Martyr Shankaralingam went on a fast and gave up his life demanding that our state, which was Madras province, be renamed as Tamil Nadu. Bearing this in his heart, Kaniv's Thiruvuvam Perunthagari Anna, when he came to power, passed a resolution in the Legislative Assembly and named it Tamil Nadu," the TVK chief said.



"Let us celebrate this day (November 1) when a separate state was born for Tamils as Tamil Nadu Day with historical memories," he added. Notably, Tamil Nadu was initially created as Madras State on November 1, 1956, as part of a reorganization based on linguistic lines. Sankaralinganar, a Tamil Independence activist, was imprisoned for six months in Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) due to his involvement in the independence movement. He persistently urged the Con-

gress party to fulfil his 12-point agenda, which included the primary demand of renaming 'Madras State' as 'Tamil Nadu.' He ultimately fasted to death in his effort to see the state renamed as Tamil Nadu. In 1967, a resolution was unanimously passed in the Madras State Legislative Assembly under the leadership of the then Chief Minister CN Annadurai, officially renaming the state as Tamil Nadu on July 18, 1967.

TN: Diwali celebrations leave Thoothukudi in trash trouble with over 1,000 tons of garbage

TDG NETWORK
THOOTHUKUDI

The Diwali celebrations have left Thoothukudi city in a mess as more than one thousand tons of garbage is expected from the city, said the officials. Garbage has accumulated in all 60 wards of Thoothukudi Corporation, especially on the day of Diwali alone, added officials. Sanitation workers are working to remove this garbage from this morning. With the festival over, the sanitation workers are working tirelessly to clear the garbage. Speaking on the issue, the Corporation Officer said that some sanitation workers were on vacation. He added that this has caused a delay in garbage removal in certain areas, but assured that all employees will return to work tomorrow and



Garbage has accumulated in all 60 wards of Thoothukudi Corporation, especially on the day of Diwali alone, added officials.

garbage removal will resume as usual. Thoothukudi City was upgraded to a Municipal Corporation on August 5, 2008. The Corporation was expanded to 90,663 square kilometres. The population as per the 2001 census was 3,20,466. After expansion in 2011, it was divided into 60 wards. Four mandals comprise these wards (East, West, North and South).

PMEAC CHIEF BIBEK DEBROY DIES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Renowned economist Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India (PMEAC), passed away at the age of 69 on Friday.

Expressing his grief, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a tribute on social media platform X, saying, "Dr. Bibek Debroy Ji was a towering scholar, well-versed in diverse domains like economics, history, culture, politics, spirituality and more. Through his works, he left an indelible mark on India's intellectual landscape. Beyond his contributions to public policy, he enjoyed working on our ancient texts, making them accessible to the

Debroy was celebrated for his extensive contributions to economic policy and research.



youth."

Senior Congress leader and RS MP Jairam Ramesh also mourned the passing away of Bibek Debroy.

"A man of unusually wide-ranging interests, Bibek Debroy was first and foremost a fine theoretical and empirical economist who worked and wrote on various aspects of the Indian economy. He also had a special skill for lucid ex-

position, in a manner that would make laypersons easily understand complex economic issues. Over the years, he has had numerous institutional affiliations and he left his mark everywhere. Bibek was also a very prolific, and always thought-provoking, commentator in the media on public issues going well beyond economics, "Ramesh

said in a post on X.

Debroy was celebrated for his extensive contributions to economic policy and research. He also chaired the Finance Ministry's 'Expert Committee for Infrastructure Classification and Financing Framework for Amrit Kaal,' an initiative to elevate India's economic standing over the next 25 years.

Born on January 25 in a Bengali family in Shillong, Debroy's educational journey began at Ramakrishna Mission School, Narendrapur, followed by studies at Presidency College, Kolkata, Delhi School of Economics, and Trinity College, Cambridge. His teaching career included stints at Presidency College, Kolkata (1979-83), Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics,

Pune (1983-87), and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi (1987-93).

From 1993 to 1998, he served as Director of a Ministry of Finance and UNDP project on legal reforms, and in 1994-95, he worked with the Department of Economic Affairs. Since its inception, Debroy was an integral part of NITI Aayog, the government's primary think tank.

Over his career, Debroy made significant contributions in economics, with interests spanning game theory, income inequality, poverty, legal reforms, and railway policy. He was also a well-known scholar of Indian texts and culture, with his ten-volume translation of the Mahabharata acclaimed for its clarity and accessibility.

BJP MLA from Jammu Devender Singh no more

TDG NETWORK
JAMMU

BJP leader and sitting MLA of Jammu and Kashmir's Nagrota, Devender Singh Rana, passed away on Thursday night at the age of 59. Rana is the brother of Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

The mortal remains were brought to his residence in Jammu on Friday.

Jammu and Kashmir Deputy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary said that he has no words to express his condolences on the demise of Devender Singh Rana.

"It is a big loss for the people of J-K. I have no words to express my condolences on his demise," Surinder Kumar Choudhary said.

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said that the



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with Union Minister Jitendra Singh and others pay last respects to the mortal remains of BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on his demise, in Jammu on Friday. (ANI Photo)

demise of his brother is not only irreparable and painful, but the void created will continue to haunt him for the rest of his life.

"Untimely demise of my brother Sh Devender Singh Rana is a deep personal loss, which is not only irreparable and painful, but the void created will continue

to haunt me for the rest of my life. I sincerely thank all those standing by me and the family in these testing times. Singh posted on X. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also offered his condolences and said that the BJP leader worked diligently towards Jammu and Kashmir's progress.

Indian troops start patrolling Demchok sector in Ladakh

TDG NETWORK
LADAKH

Following disengagement between India and China, Indian troops started patrolling the Demchok sector in eastern Ladakh on Friday.

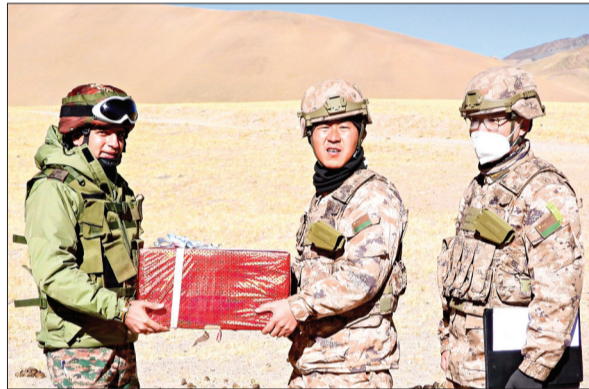
This development comes after India and China agreed to disengage and start coordinated patrols as per their perception of the Line of Actual Control in the Demchok and Depsang sectors.

Patrolling by Indian

troops in the Demchok sector in Eastern Ladakh has started today. Patrolling in the Depsang sector is expected to start soon, Indian Army Sources said. The co-ordinated patrolling would mean that both sides will know about the schedules of patrols or both sides.

Earlier on Thursday, Armies of both the countries exchanged sweets at various border points in the Ladakh sector on the occasion of Diwali.

Indian and Chinese Army exchange of sweets



Soldiers of the Indian and Chinese Army exchange sweets at KongkLa on the occasion of the Diwali festival, in Leh on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

took place at Hot Springs, Karakoram Pass, Daulat

India and China have recently agreed on patrol arrangements along the LAC at the India-China border.

Beg Oldi, KongkLa and Chushul-Moldo border meeting point in Ladakh. Ladakh MP Haji Hanifa

welcomed the disengagement between the Indian and Chinese armies along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"Those of us who live near the border know what war feels like. We desire peace along the border. We welcome the agreement between the two countries, but we want to see it implemented on the ground. Tensions along the border should be reduced through diplomatic means," said MP Hanifa.

Earlier, Chief of Army

Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi stressed that restoring trust along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) would be a gradual process, to return to the April 2020 status quo, highlighting the steps of disengagement, de-escalation, and buffer zone management as crucial for easing tensions between the two nations. He further explained that the process will take place in phases, with each step aimed at reducing tensions between the two nations, significantly straining their relations.

India and China have differences as neighbouring countries but the important thing is how to handle and solve these differences. India and China have recently agreed on patrol arrangements along the LAC at the India-China border. The border standoff between India and China began in eastern Ladakh along the LAC in 2020, triggered by Chinese military actions. This incident led to prolonged tensions between the two nations, significantly straining their relations.

Cong slams ECI over reply to EVM questions

CONTINUED FROM P1

concerns substantively.

In the letter, Congress leaders conveyed disappointment over the ECI's tone, which they claim was "laced with ad-hominem attacks" against both party members and the party as a whole. The letter states, "If the ECI's goal is to strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality, it is doing a remarkable job at creating that impression," underscoring that they found the response dismissive and lacking respect for the high office of the Chief Election Commissioner and his associates. Congress leaders asserted that their communications have always

upheld respect for the ECI's office, adding that they expect a similar decorum in return.

The letter also questioned the ECI's assertion that hearing out Congress's grievances was an "indulgence." "The Commission is forgetting that it is a body set up under the Constitution and charged with crucial functions — both administrative and quasi-judicial," Congress leaders argued, pointing out that granting a hearing to a recognized national party is not an "indulgence" but rather a fundamental responsibility of the Commission.

In a strongly worded segment, Congress expressed alarm at what

it perceives as an emerging pattern of bias within the ECI. The letter cited the Commission's inaction on more than a hundred complaints filed against the Prime Minister and Home Minister, juxtaposed with quick responses to minor complaints against Congress leaders.

"The ECI has taken action in precisely zero complaints against the PM and HM," the letter claimed, further noting that attempts for transparency, including increased Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) verification, were actively resisted by the ECI and only enforced after Supreme Court intervention.

The crux of Congress's dissatis-

faction lies in what they describe as a lack of specificity in the ECI's response to particular issues in Haryana's EVM operations. The party accused the Commission of providing only general explanations that failed to address specific complaints raised about alleged "fluctuating batteries" in EVMs, among other technical issues. "The ECI reply is nothing more than a standard and generic set of bullets on how the machines function rather than a specific clarification on specific complaints," the letter stated, expressing frustration over what Congress sees as an attempt by the Commission to obfuscate rather than clarify.

Kharge cautions against freebies

CONTINUED FROM P1

ment was twisted. A few have suggested is what I have said. There is no question of closing the schemes. I had just said that we will discuss it. But the BJP just wants to do politics. They have nothing to do better," he said.

He further stated that this was the first time such incident has ever occurred. He said, "Since the day I became the Deputy CM have you seen or heard a single incident. No word of interference".

The Congress government has introduced Shakti scheme, one of the five guarantees offering free ride for women in the non-luxury government buses.

Kharge also assured that the Karnataka government is committed to protecting farmers' properties.

The Congress leader fur-

ther questioned the BJP's record on protecting temples during its previous government, stating that the Karnataka government is committed to safeguarding temples and common people's properties.

The Congress President dismissed Prime Minister Modi's comments on 'One Nation, One Election,' saying that the initiative is impossible without consensus in Parliament. Speaking to reporters, Kharge said, "What PM Modi has said, he will not do it because when it comes to Parliament, he has to take everybody into confidence; then only this will happen. This is impossible; 'One Nation, One Election' is impossible."

Prime Minister Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations had stated that the BJP-led Central government was working

towards achieving 'One Nation, One Election' and a Secular Civil Code. Addressing the National Unity Day parade in Gujarat's Kevadia, Prime Minister Modi said, "We are now working towards One Nation, One Election, which will strengthen India's democracy, give optimum outcomes from India's resources, and the country will gain new momentum in achieving the dream of a developed India."

Notably, on September 18, the Union Cabinet approved the government's 'One Nation, One Election' proposal, which suggests simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with urban body and panchayat polls to be held within 100 days. The recommendations were made in a report by a high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

Monthly GST mop-up closes in on Rs 2 lakh cr

CONTINUED FROM P1

per cent higher at Rs 12.74 lakh crore, as against Rs 11.64 lakh crore mopped up in the corresponding period of 2023.

In April this year, the total GST mop-up surged to a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore.

During the financial year 2023-24, the total gross GST collection was recorded at Rs 20.18 lakh crore, with an 11.7 per cent increase compared to the previous fiscal year. The average monthly collection for the fiscal year, that ended in March 2024 stood at Rs 1.68 lakh crore, surpassing the previous year's average of Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

The surge in recent GST collections reflects a positive trajectory for India's economy, underscoring robust domestic consumption and buoyant import activity. The figures bode well for the country's fiscal health and economic recovery efforts, signalling resilience amidst global uncertainties.

The Goods and Services Tax was introduced in the country with effect from July 1, 2017, and states were assured compensation for loss of any revenue arising

The surge in recent GST collections reflects a positive trajectory for India's economy, underscoring robust domestic consumption and buoyant import activity.

on account of the implementation of GST as per the provisions of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 for five years.

Hair oil, toothpaste, soap, detergents and washing powder; wheat; rice; curd, lassi, buttermilk; wrist-watches; TV up to 32 inches; refrigerators; washing machines, mobile phones, are among key items on which GST rates have been slashed substantially, or for some kept at zero, benefiting people of this country.

The GST Council, a federal body comprising the Union Finance Minister as its Chairman and Finance Ministers of all States as members, has played its part in the forum.

Air turns 'very poor' in Delhi

CONTINUED FROM P1

"The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi remains in the 'very poor' category, with some areas showing extremely high levels. With Diwali tonight, it's an important night for Delhi and its people. I request everyone to avoid burning crackers to help control pollution across the state. Delhi's air quality remains 'very poor'."

Today being Diwali, tonight is critical for us. Let's celebrate by lighting diyas and sharing sweets, but we must avoid crackers to protect the children and elderly at home," he said.

Residents across the country voiced their frustrations over worsening pollution levels, particularly due to the aftermath of fireworks and the burning of crop residue in neighbouring states.

A thick layer of smog blanketed major cities on Friday, the day after Diwali, significantly deteriorating air quality in these regions and causing respiratory issues and other health problems.

Manish, a Delhi resident, expressed his concerns about pollution's impact on vulnerable individuals. "Pollution has always been a problem, and it increases during Diwali because of the fireworks. The biggest issue is that it affects our small children the most."

The elderly at home also face significant difficulties, experiencing breathing issues, eye irritation, and hearing problems. It becomes quite challenging for us," he

said.

When I went outside, I could feel the pollution in the air, making it difficult to breathe. In my opinion, the burning of crop residue in surrounding states is the primary cause of this pollution. Fireworks have been around before and continue to be, but the pollution starts rising well before Diwali."

"Despite a ban on fireworks in Delhi, a large number of firecrackers were still set off. The question is whether these firecrackers increase pollution. The government knows what really contributes to pollution. The Delhi government has been blaming Haryana and Punjab for the last ten years."

When Congress was in power in Punjab, they blamed that state, and now they blame Haryana. The burning of crop residue and the operation of unauthorised factories are significant sources of smoke," another resident Nitin said.

In Anand Vihar, the AQI was recorded at 395, while Aya Nagar had 352, Jahangirpuri at 390, and Dwarka reached 376. All these areas reported 'very poor' air quality levels, posing significant health risks.

The pollution issue wasn't limited to Delhi; other cities like Chennai and Mumbai also reported similar conditions, with smog and poor air quality affecting large areas and residents voicing their concerns about the pollution levels linked to the celebrations.

Hazy morning in Punjab

CONTINUED FROM P1

Gurugram reached 322, Jind 336, and Charkhi Dadri 306, indicating "Very Poor" conditions. In Ambala, Bahadurgarh, and Bhiwani, the AQI was recorded at 201, 292, and 278, respectively, while Faridabad measured 245, Kurukshetra 270, Panchkula 220, Rohtak 222, and Sonapat 258.

Chandigarh, the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana, saw an AQI of 239 by 11 p.m on Thursday which reached to 302 by Friday evening. While in Jalandhar, the AQI stood at 256, while Ludhiana recorded 234, Mandi Gobindgarh 266, and Patiala 244 and it was continue to deteriorate further.

The air quality index

measures pollution levels as follows: 0-50 is deemed "Good," 51-100 "Satisfactory," 101-200 "Moderate," 201-300 "Poor," 301-400 "Very Poor," 401-450 "Severe," and anything above 450 as "Severe Plus." While the authorities permitted only "green crackers" — eco-friendly firecrackers designed to produce less smoke and noise — and imposed restrictions on their usage, adherence was inconsistent. In Chandigarh, for instance, residents were allowed to burst green crackers only from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., yet in many areas, celebrations continued well past this time.

The Punjab government had issued strict guidelines on firecracker use for Diwali, Gurpurab, Christ-

mas, and New Year's Eve, permitting only green crackers free from harmful chemicals like barium, antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic, lead, or strontium chromate. Nonetheless, enforcement challenges persisted, leading to spikes in pollution.

With the post-Diwali smog now settled over many areas, concerns are mounting over the longer-term health implications for residents exposed to "Very Poor" and "Poor" air if the smog continue to cover the region for the next couple of days.

Meanwhile, the health experts have raised alarms over respiratory health risks, especially for children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions.

PM seizes on Kharge's remark

CONTINUED FROM P1

these promises but also see their existing schemes diluted.

In Karnataka, the Congress is busier in intra-party politics and loot instead of even bothering to deliver on development. Not only that, they are also going to

roll back existing schemes, Modi said.

In Himachal Pradesh, he added, salaries of government employees are not paid on time and Telangana farmers are waiting for the waiver they were promised.

"Previously, in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, they

promised certain allowances which were never implemented for five years. There are numerous such examples of how the Congress works. The people of India want development and progress, not the same old fake promises of Congress," the prime minister said.

COURT REVOKES DISCHARGE OF GAUTAM GAMBHIR IN RS 3.5 CR REAL ESTATE FRAUD

The Rouse Avenue court reinstated charges against ex-BJP MP Gautam Gambhir in a Rs 3.5 crore fraud case involving real estate.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue court has recently overturned a magistrate court's order discharging former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and Indian Cricket Coach Gautam Gambhir in a case involving alleged cheating of home buyers by real estate companies. The amount involved in the alleged fraud is Rs 3.5 crore, with accusations that Gambhir was the brand ambassador of the project.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne set aside the discharge order initially passed by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on 10 December 2020.

The court stated that the allegedly defrauded amount of Rs 3.5 crore, collected as booking fees from investors, might need to be investigated as "proceeds of crime" if it resulted from criminal activities by any of the accused (whether charged or discharged). Furthermore, any of the accused involved



in actions connected to these potential "proceeds of crime," such as concealment, possession, or acquisition, might be investigated in relation to "money laundering."

The Special Court has sent the case back to the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, instructing a detailed new order on the charges, specifying allegations against each accused, the offences or provisions involved, and the relevant evidence cited by the prosecution in the chargesheet.

The original discharge order also involved other accused individuals, including Gautam Gambhir, Ashok Kumar Makkar, Rahul Chamola, Rakesh Kumar, Kuldeep Singh Wadhawan, and Romy Pawan Mehra.

These individuals were previously included by the Investigating Officer in column no. 12 (not charged) of the chargesheet but had been summoned by the trial court. The ACCM found a prima facie case under Section 420 read with Section 34 of the IPC against accused Mukesh

Special Judge Vishal Gogne set aside the discharge order initially passed by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on 10 December 2020.

Khurana, Babita Khurana, and Gautam Mehra. A prima facie case was also established under Section 420 IPC against two companies, M/S Rudra Buildwell Realty Pvt. Ltd and M/S H R Infracity Pvt Ltd.

"A person involved in activities connected to the 'proceeds of crime', including its concealment, possession, or acquisition, would be liable for prosecution for 'money laundering', as defined under Section 3 and punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA," the court stated. Upon enquiry from the Court, the Investigating Officer admitted that the allegations had neither been investigated for potential money laundering nor had information regarding the funds in question been shared with any other agency investigating money laundering.

"However, before a fresh hearing on the matter of charges, and to avoid any uninformed or unfounded conclusions, the Trial Court shall consider directions for further investigation in light of the observations made in this order and the broad powers outlined in Vinubhai and Hemendra Reddy," ordered Special Judge Vishal Gogne on 29 October.

The Special Court noted, "Interestingly, cheating (Section 420 IPC) is a scheduled offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

LG approves relaxation in educational qualifications for jobs to 1984 riot victims

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a significant move, Delhi LG V.K Saxena announced the relaxation in qualifications for the recruitment of victims of the 1984 riots on Friday.

With the LG's consent, the minimum educational qualification for the MTS position has been reduced from 10th grade to 8th grade, making a greater number of candidates eligible. The decision will be the critical step in ensuring assistance and justice for 1984 riot victims.

According to Delhi LG's press note, this decision comes after decades of procedural delays and insensitive red tape.

VK Saxena acknowledged the pressing need for support and directed the relevant departments to explore the feasibility of providing employment opportunities for the children of deceased or elderly applicants, grounded on humanitarian grounds.

The announcement will enable the victims to secure their employment and alleviate the financial burdens



According to Delhi LG's press note, this decision comes after decades of procedural delays and insensitive red tape.

faced by the affected families.

On the approval, Delhi LG V.K Saxena stated "The 1984 Sikh Riots were a blot on Indian democratic traditions. Terrible atrocities were committed upon a particular minority community, violating all standards of human rights."

He further added, "Given the significant trauma and hardship endured by the victims of the 1984 riots and the absence of relief for a few families for over the last 4

decades, a humanitarian view is needed."

In its suggestion, the Revenue Department recommended lowering the educational requirements and permitting relatives of original candidates to apply for MTS positions. The Delhi Chief Secretary, however, suggested concentrating only on the qualifying relaxation. Nevertheless, the LG returned the proposal to the Services Department for examination.

Public holiday on Nov 7 for Chhath Pooja

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi has declared a public holiday on November 7 for Chhath Pooja, calling it an "important festival" for the residents of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

In an official announcement, Chief Minister Atishi stated that the Delhi government has decided to observe a holiday on 7 November for Chhath Pooja, enabling the Purvanchal community to celebrate the festival with great enthusiasm.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary of Delhi, Atishi wrote, "Chhath Pooja is an important festival for the people of the NCT of Delhi. Accordingly, the Government of NCT of Delhi has decided to declare 7th



November 2024 as a Public Holiday on account of 'Chhath Pooja'."

The announcement follows a request from Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena, who had urged the Chief Minister to declare a full public holiday on the third day of Chhath.

"In just a few days, we will be celebrating Chhath,

a grand festival observed over four days, with the third day being particularly significant as offerings are made to the setting sun. This year, this important day falls on November 7, which has already been declared a restricted holiday. I urge the government to declare November 7, 2024 (Thursday) as a full holiday and to expedite the necessary process,"

LG Saxena wrote in his letter to Atishi.

In recognition of Chhath Pooja's significance in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Indian Railways is running special trains across the country to ensure safe travel for those returning to their hometowns for the festival.

Dilip Kumar, Executive Director of Information and Publicity for the Railway Board, stated that the Indian Railways operated over 160 trains on Thursday, with plans to run more than 170 trains today.

Kumar added that Indian Railways has made special arrangements at major stations nationwide, including New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Mumbai, Bandra, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Bengaluru.

Delhi court dismisses bail plea of man accused of cheating in agricultural land sale

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Rohini Court has recently dismissed a bail plea of a man accused of cheating of Rs 62 lakh on the pretext of the sale of 16 acres of agricultural land.

While dismissing the bail plea, the court considered the reply filed by the Delhi Police and the fact that a case was against the accused for absconding.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Sushil Kumar dismissed the bail plea of accused Jaiveer alias Jassu on October 29.

"Keeping in view of the above discussion as well as facts and circumstances of this case and also considering the seriousness of the offences alleged against the applicant/accused Jaiveer alias

In this case, an FIR was registered at PS Prashant Vihar Under sections. 420, 406, 34, 174A IPC in 2022 with the allegations that the accused has cheated the complainant to the tune of Rs. 62 lakhs on the pretext of selling an agricultural piece of land measuring about 16 acres.

Jassu, this court is not inclined to grant bail to the accused at this stage," ASJ Sushil Kumar said in the order dated October 29.

The court observed, "In the present case, no recovery of cheat money has taken place to date. Further, the accused was declared absconder on 06.04.2024 as he was evading his arrest and he had absconded.

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Vihar Under sections. 420, 406, 34, 174A IPC in 2022 with the allegations that the accused has cheated the complainant to the tune of Rs. 62 lakhs on the pretext of selling an agricultural piece of land measuring about 16 acres.

The court noted that as per the reply of the Investigation Officer, it has been found during the course of the investigation that accused Jaiveer

alias Jassu had also taken by from one Ajmer with respect to the same property but did not disclose anything about the same to the complainant.

During the course of arguments, it was stated by the complainant that the accused had also tried to sell the property in question to his neighbours through the registry, but the same was cancelled as there was a stay on the property in question by the Judicial Magistrate.

It was also mentioned in the reply filed by the investigation Officer that the accused is also involved in an FIR registered at Police Station Pillukhedda, District Jind, Haryana with the allegations that he had entered into an agreement to sell a piece of land to a person who committed suicide when the accused cheated him.

Diwali Farsh Bazar shooting: Father, 16-year-old nephew dead

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

On the evening of October 31, 2024, a tragic shooting occurred in Delhi's Shahdara district, resulting in the deaths of 40-year-old Akash Sharma, also known as Chottu, and his 16-year-old nephew, Rishabh Sharma. Akash's 10-year-old son, Krish Sharma, sustained injuries during the incident. The attack took place around 8:00 PM outside their residence in the Farsh Bazar area, where the family was celebrating Diwali. According to eyewitnesses, two assailants approached Akash Sharma, touched his feet—a gesture traditionally signifying respect—and then opened fire. Both Rishabh and Krish, who were nearby, were also struck by bullets.

Upon receiving a PCR call at approximately 8:30 PM, a police team arrived at the scene and discovered blood evidence. The victims were immediately transported to a hospital, where Akash and Rishabh were pronounced dead. Krish is currently undergoing treatment for his injuries.



Upon receiving a PCR call at approximately 8:30 PM, a police team arrived at the scene and discovered blood evidence. The victims were immediately transported to a hospital, where Akash and Rishabh were pronounced dead. Krish is currently undergoing treatment for his injuries.

Police (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam stated that initial investigations suggest the motive behind the attack was personal enmity. He noted that the assailants had been planning the attack for the past 15 to 17 days. A juvenile suspect has been apprehended in connection with the case. Preliminary findings indicate a financial dispute of Rs. 70,000 between the juvenile and the deceased, Akash Sharma.

The juvenile has a prior criminal record, including a charge of attempted murder.

The mother of the deceased, Akash Sharma, recounted the events leading up to the shooting. She mentioned that a man named Lakshay had been visiting their lane for the past three or four days. On the day of the incident, he came to their house with a box of sweets and urged her to come downstairs to receive

it personally. While her son was preparing to burst firecrackers, two individuals, including Lakshay, arrived, and she subsequently heard gunshots.

In response to the incident, Delhi Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Saurabh Bharadwaj held a press conference on November 1, 2024. He criticized the BJP-led central government, attributing the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi to such incidents. Bharadwaj remarked that due to the worsening security conditions, what should have been a joyful Diwali turned into a night of mourning for a family in Shahdara. He also accused the central government of frequent interference in Delhi's governance and suggested that a focus on improving law and order could prevent incidents of murders, gang wars, and robberies in the city.

The police have stated that five rounds were fired during the incident. They are currently recording statements from the victims' family members and conducting further investigations to apprehend all individuals involved in the attack.

Fire dept reports record fire calls in Delhi this Diwali

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

This Diwali, Delhi witnessed a record-breaking number of fire incidents, with the Delhi Fire Service receiving the highest number of calls since 2012. As of midnight on Diwali day, the service reported an unprecedented surge in fire incidents, marking a 12-year high.

According to Delhi Fire Service, they received 318 calls, from the year 2023 this figure was 208, in 2022 it was 201, in 2021 it was 152 and in 2012 it was 184. On Thursday night of Diwali, the peak hour calls in Delhi were 310 while last year it was only 195.

Speaking to ANI, Fire Services Director, Atul Garg said that there were not many major calls yesterday but there were a lot of calls. Yesterday, from 5 pm to 5 am, there were more than 300 calls, out of which 192 calls were received from 5 pm to 12 am and 158 calls were received from 12 am to 6 am.



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"The happy thing is that there was no major fire. A fire broke out in Vikaspuri in which two people fainted, a fire broke out in Mangolpuri in which a lady and two children suffered burn injuries, a factory caught fire in Nangloi, a showroom caught fire in Shahdara, these were small fires which we controlled,

the reason for this was the fire posts installed by us, 6 more fire posts were installed compared to last time. Yesterday, there were more calls but there was no major fire which required sending more vehicles and took more time," he said.

He further said that two people were injured in a fire in household goods in a

flat located on the first floor of Gangotri Apartment in Vikaspuri, Delhi. The DFS team broke the window and pulled out two unconscious persons from the flat, who were taken to the hospital.

Additionally, he said that more fire-related calls were received this year due to firecrackers, but more calls came in for fires caused by candles, diyas, and short circuits.

"This time the calls have been more as compared to previous years, but I would say that only one call has been made due to firecrackers, yesterday less fires were caused due to firecrackers but more were caused due to other reasons like candles, diyas, short circuit in lighting etc. due to these more fires were caused, in previous years around 130 calls used to be received due to firecrackers, but this time the calls have reduced due to firecrackers. I want to tell people that they should understand that they should not burn firecrackers as it harms the environment and that harms us in the future," he said.

'DON'T CARE FOR WHOLE YEAR, THEN BLAME FIRECRACKERS': BJP TARGETS AAP ON DELHI POLLUTION

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party leader R P Singh on Friday slammed the Aam Aadmi Party government for 'blaming' firecrackers for New Delhi's rising air pollution post-Diwali celebrations.

Following the Diwali celebration, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai thanked the public for maintaining the Air Quality Index near the 350 mark, which the national capital crossed four days ago.

RP Singh blamed the AAP government for the pollution issue, saying, "Delhi's AQI is of concern but not because of firecrackers. Today's AQI is lesser than what was before a day yesterday. The issue is that

the work that should've happened in Delhi, has not happened. Delhi needed 15000 buses, 15 years ago, today Delhi has approx 7200 buses. If you do not give buses, people will use their own transport which contributes 48 per cent of pollution."

Singh accused the AAP government of inaction for the whole year and then blamed firecrackers for rising air pollution, as well as, BJP-ruled neighbouring states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

"What about the trees that had to be planted? Is there any audit? There's no information. They look for October 25 and then go to sleep on January 25. They don't care for the whole year and then blame firecrackers for it. 2 years before they used



to blame 'Parali' of Punjab, now blame Haryana and UP," Singh said.

Earlier in the day, Gopal Rai flagged off the anti-smog guns to tackle the rising air

pollution in the national capital. He stated that to control air pollution in Delhi, 200 anti-smog guns will be deployed throughout the city.

"To control the pollution in Delhi, the AAP government is launching a water sprinkle campaign in Delhi. In all the 70 assembly constituencies of Delhi, two mobile anti-smog guns will be deployed that will sprinkle water in three shifts...200 mobile anti-smog guns will be deployed," Rai said.

The AQI of the national capital, post-Diwali celebration was reported over 350.

In Anand Vihar, the AQI was recorded at 395, while Aya Nagar had 352, Jahangirpuri at 390, and Dwarka reached 376. All these areas reported 'very poor' air

quality levels, posing significant health risks.

The pollution issue wasn't limited to Delhi; other cities like Chennai and Mumbai also reported similar conditions, with smog and poor air quality affecting large areas and residents voicing their concerns about the pollution levels linked to the celebrations.

The pollution issue wasn't limited to Delhi; several other cities across India, including metropolises like Chennai and Mumbai, reported similar conditions, with smog and poor air quality affecting large areas.

The CPCB data shows significant pollution levels, especially after Diwali celebrations, raising concerns about air quality and potential health impacts nationwide.

Delhi registers warmest Oct month since 1951

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

October 2024 becomes the warmest October after 1951 in terms of both Maximum and Minimum temperatures in Safdarjung, New Delhi, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

According to the IMD, this month has recorded an average maximum temperature of 35.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 21.2 degrees Celsius over Safdarjung respectively.

In 1907, the maximum temperature was 35.5 degrees Celsius, in 1930 maximum temperature was 35.0 degrees Celsius, in 1938 it recorded 35.0 degrees Celsius, in 1941 it recorded 35.8 degrees Celsius, in 1951 it recorded 36.2 degrees Celsius respectively.

Delhi recorded a jump in pollution levels and a smoky haze returned on Friday morning after residents flouted the ban on firecrackers on Diwali night.

Most areas in the capital recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) over 350, raising health concerns for residents.

Cyclist Stephen, passing through India Gate where the AQI stood around 317 post-Diwali, said, "Because of the pollution, terrible things are happening. The pollution came on very suddenly this time. Just a few days ago, there was nothing, and now my brother has fallen sick. I used to come here to cycle with my brother, but he has been severely affected by the pollution lately. And today, the pollution is extreme."

At around 7:00 am, Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 395, Aya Nagar stood at 352, Jahangirpuri at 390, and Dwarka reached 376. All these areas reported 'very poor' air quality levels, posing significant health risks.

The pollution issue wasn't limited to Delhi; several other cities across India, including metropolises like Chennai and Mumbai, reported similar conditions, with smog and poor air quality affecting large areas.

The CPCB data shows significant pollution levels, especially after Diwali celebrations, raising concerns about air quality and potential health impacts nationwide.

Property dealer stabbed to death in West Delhi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old man was stabbed to death by a group of people in Hastsal Road area of West Delhi, police said on Friday.

The victim, identified as Gagan Oberoi, was a property dealer, they said.

According to officials, the accused attacked him with knives and stabbed him.

Upon receiving informa-

tion, a police team reached the spot.

The victim was taken to the Mata Chanan Devi Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries due to excessive blood loss.

A case under Section 109(1) and 3(5) of the BNS has been registered based on a complaint.

The accused have been identified and a hunt to nab search for them is underway, police added.

Air India's flagship A350 now flies on Delhi-NY route

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Tata Group-owned Air India has launched its flagship Airbus A350-900 aircraft on the daily, non-stop route between Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). This deployment marks the airline's latest step in elevating the passenger experience on its U.S. routes following the carrier's privatization.

In addition to the Delhi-JFK route, Air India plans to expand its A350 service to Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), with five weekly flights slated to begin on January 2, 2025.

The inaugural flight, designated as AI101, departed Delhi at 2:49 AM IST aboard an A350-900, registered under the tail number VT-JRI. It is scheduled to touch down at New York's JFK at 7:40 AM EDT. This introduction of the A350 to the New York route follows the recent deployment of

the same aircraft model on the Delhi-London route, as part of Air India's comprehensive transformation strategy.

The A350 introduces a suite of upgrades aimed at enriching the in-flight experience for passengers travelling to New York. The aircraft features redesigned interiors and includes private suites in Business Class, a dedicated Premium Economy cabin, an advanced Inflight Entertainment (IFE) system, improved catering, and newly designed serviceware. In Business Class, travellers can enjoy 28 private suites in a 1-2-1 configuration, each equipped with a lie-flat bed, direct aisle access, a sliding privacy door, and a personal wardrobe.

Air India's A350 Premium Economy cabin, which debuts on the Delhi-New York route, offers 24 extra-leg-room seats in a 2-4-2 layout, marking the airline's first introduction of Premium Economy on U.S.-bound flights. This new seating



option provides passengers with an intermediate choice between Economy and Business Class, with enhanced comfort for long-haul travel.

The airline is also preparing to roll out onboard Wi-Fi connectivity for international A350 flights, allowing passengers to stay connected during the journey. This feature is expected to become available in the coming weeks, enhancing convenience for travellers seeking internet access.

With the A350, Air India has revamped the overall onboard experience, from

upgraded bedding and amenity kits to refreshed serviceware and expanded menu options. Passengers in Business Class will receive exclusive Ferragamo amenity kits, while Premium Economy travellers will be offered kits from TUMI, enhancing the luxury experience in both cabins.

Additionally, each seat across all cabins is equipped with the state-of-the-art Panasonic eX3 Inflight Entertainment system, providing passengers with high-definition screens and access to over 3,000 hours of entertainment, including

a wide range of options in 13 international languages and 8 Indian regional languages.

Reflecting on Air India's transformational journey, CEO Campbell Wilson emphasised the A350's symbolic role in representing the "new Air India" as part of the Vihaan.AI transformation program. Wilson stated, "The A350 symbolises the 'new Air India' emerging from our 5-year Vihaan.AI transformation program post-privatisation."

Wilson highlighted the positive feedback the A350 has received since its launch on the Delhi-London route in September. He expressed his enthusiasm for expanding this premium experience to New York and noted that Air India's full interior refit of its existing fleet, set to begin in 2025, alongside new aircraft orders, reflects the airline's commitment to reaching "new heights."

Air India's U.S. operations continue to grow, with the airline already operating a substantial network of

flights to key American cities. The current schedule includes:

Delhi to Washington Dulles (IAD): Five flights per week

Delhi to New York JFK: Seven flights per week

Mumbai to New York JFK: Seven flights per week

Delhi to Chicago O'Hare (ORD): Seven flights per week

In addition to these routes, Air India operates flights to San Francisco (SFO) from three Indian cities:

Delhi to San Francisco: One daily flight

Mumbai to San Francisco: Four flights per week

Bangalore to San Francisco: Four flights per week

Furthermore, Air India also provides three weekly flights to Newark Liberty International Airport from Delhi and Mumbai.

Toxic foam in Yamuna raises pollution concerns ahead of Chhath Puja



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Capital's Kalindi Kunj area saw toxic foam floating on the Yamuna River on Friday, raising concerns among residents and political leaders over pollution just ahead of Chhath Puja.

The foam, a sign of high pollution levels, has prompted authorities to spray chemical defoamers to dissolve it.

BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla criticised the Delhi government, blaming Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for pollution in the Yamuna. "On the next day of Diwali when we are here at Yamuna ghat, we can see a thick layer of foam on the river. The reason behind this foam (on the river) here is the corruption done by Arvind Kejriwal and Aam

Aadmi Party. Now before Chhath Puja, they are sprinkling chemical defoamer," Poonawalla said.

"Arvind Kejriwal is responsible for making Delhi a gas chamber; we have to wear masks. They blame UP but forget about stubble burning in Punjab...They did not work on the reasons for pollution in Delhi", he added.

According to sources, a team from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has been involved in cleaning operations and spraying chemicals into the Yamuna River since last week to manage the foam that appears on the water's surface.

Resident Hareram expressed similar concerns about pollution's impact on the upcoming Chhath Puja. He said, "You can see, there is so much pollution here. For Chhath Puja, we'll now have to think about

whether it can even be done here or not." He further added, "Whichever government it is, they focus on their vote bank, but the public suffers. This is an important festival of the year, so how will people celebrate? They might be forced to do it at home."

Meanwhile, a thick layer of smog blanketed parts of Delhi on Friday, the day after Diwali, pushing the city's air quality into the 'very poor' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Most areas in the capital recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) over 350, raising health concerns among residents.

At around 7:00 a.m., Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 395, Aya Nagar was at 352, Jahangirpuri at 390, and Dwarka reached 376. All these areas reported 'very poor' air quality levels, posing significant health risks.

Delhi HC pushes CBFC for accessible films: Hearing set for Jan

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has sought the Central Board of Film Certification's (CBFC) official response to a petition urging the inclusion of accessibility features in films to aid individuals with hearing and visual disabilities.

This move comes after the petitioner, Suman Bhokray, a visually disabled individual, raised concerns regarding the lack of compliance by recent films with access-

ibility guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Justice Sanjeev Narula issued a notice to the CBFC and has directed the board to file its response within four weeks, with the next hearing scheduled for January 21.

The petition underscores a significant gap in film accessibility, citing that movies released after September 14, including titles like Vetaiyan and Martin, did not include essential features such as closed captions and

audio descriptions, despite existing guidelines. The "Guidelines for Accessibility Standards in the Public Exhibition of Feature Films in Cinema Theatres for Persons with Hearing and Visual Impairment," issued by the Ministry in March, mandates that films certified in multiple languages should include at least one form of accessibility aid—closed captions for those with hearing impairments or audio descriptions for visually impaired individuals.

Bhokray's plea brings attention to the importance of accessible cinema, suggesting that films should be screened on universally accessible platforms or applications. The petitioner emphasises that these platforms should support features mandated by the Ministry's guidelines to enhance the inclusivity of film experiences. The plea further highlights a prior high court order that mandates these accessibility features, indicating a lack of adher-

ence by filmmakers and cinema theatres.

The CBFC's legal representative pointed out that while the guidelines do indeed require such features, cinemas have been given two years to implement these provisions fully. The court's decision to monitor compliance closely highlights a growing focus on upholding the rights of individuals with disabilities to enjoy public entertainment on equal terms with others.

Delhi court acquits three in 2017 attempt-to-murder case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Karkardooma District Court on Friday acquitted three individuals, Faem Kureshi, Naem Kureshi, and Hanif Khan, in a 2017 attempt-to-murder case, after raising doubts about key evidence presented by the prosecution. The case revolved around an alleged assault on Aslam, the complainant, on October 18, 2017, during which Faem reportedly shot at Aslam.

However, discrepancies in witness statements and forensic evidence led the court to question the validity of the prosecution's case. Additional Sessions Judge Atul Ahlawat scrutinized the motive and reliability of the evidence, observing that the motive, based on Aslam's testimony, could be "a double-edged sword" that could also serve to falsely implicate the accused. Aslam's statement described how his brother Shakil arrived at



the scene after hearing gunshots. Shakil claimed to have witnessed Faem shooting Aslam, but the court noted inconsistencies in his account.

A significant point of contention was the absence of bullet holes on Aslam's trousers, a detail the prosecution failed to clarify through

forensic analysis. Judge Ahlawat pointed out that neither the alleged weapon nor bullets were found at the scene. Additionally, the blood samples collected from the site had not been tested, leading the judge to question whether the blood even came from a human, stating, "It could not be established whether

the blood recovered pertained to a human being or an animal."

The court's scepticism extended to medical evidence, with the doctor treating Aslam unable to rule out the possibility of self-inflicted injuries. Moreover, Judge Ahlawat highlighted lapses in the investigation, such as the police not recording testimony from the person who dialled the police helpline. Other discrepancies included inconsistencies in police witness statements and handwriting mismatches in documents, which further undermined confidence in the prosecution's evidence.

Given these numerous investigative flaws, the judge concluded that the evidence did not sufficiently inspire confidence, leaving open the possibility that the accused were falsely implicated. The ruling emphasized that motive alone cannot justify a conviction, particularly when circumstantial evidence does not substantiate the allegations.

FOREX RESERVES DROP \$20 BN IN FOUR WEEKS

India's forex reserves declined for the fourth straight week, dropping by \$3.463 billion to \$684.805 billion as of October 25.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's foreign exchange reserves fell for the fourth consecutive week after reaching an all-time high last month. In the week ending October 25, the forex reserves declined by USD 3.463 billion to USD 684.805 billion, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

In the three preceding weeks, reserves dropped by USD 3.7 billion, USD 10.7 billion, and USD 2.16 billion, respectively, the data showed. Reserves had reached a record high of USD 704.885 billion before this recent decline, likely due to RBI intervention aimed at preventing a sharp depreciation of the Rupee.

A substantial buffer of foreign exchange reserves



helps shield domestic economic activity from global shocks.

The latest RBI data shows that India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of forex reserves, stand at USD 593.751 billion.

Gold reserves currently amount to USD 68.527 billion, according to Friday's data. Estimates suggest that India's foreign exchange reserves are now sufficient to cover approximately one year of projected imports.

In 2023, India added around USD 58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves. This contrasts with a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022.

Foreign exchange reserves, or FX reserves, are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority.

These reserves are generally held in reserve currencies, mainly the US Dollar, and to a lesser extent, the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling.

INDIA HAS FOURTH LARGEST FOREX RESERVES IN THE WORLD

With its growing economic strength, India has achieved the significant feat of joining the ranks of the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, securing the 4th position globally after China, Japan, and Switzerland. India's economy is making new records every day. While there was a time when India's economy was considered a part of the 'Fragile Five'. But India's rise from the 'Fragile Five' to the fastest-growing major economy is an example for other developing countries. Today, India has not only become the fifth-largest economy in the world but has also set a new record in terms of foreign exchange reserves. For the first time in history, India's foreign exchange reserves have reached above USD 700 billion. According to the Reserve Bank of India, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 12.588 billion in a week to reach an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in the week ending September 27.

The RBI monitors the foreign exchange markets closely, intervening only to maintain orderly market conditions and to curb excessive volatility in the Rupee exchange rate, without adhering to any fixed target level or range.

The RBI often intervenes by managing liquidity, including selling dollars, to prevent steep rupee depreciation. A decade ago, the Indian Rupee was among the most volatile currencies in Asia.

Overall coal production in Oct touches 84.5 million tonne

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's coal production in October reached 84.45 million tonnes, exceeding the 78.57 million tonnes recorded in the same month last year, marking a 7.48 per cent increase.

According to the Ministry of Coal, production from captive and other entities also saw substantial growth, rising to 16.59 million tonnes in October, up from 11.70 million tonnes in the same period last year, reflecting a significant growth rate of 41.75 per cent.

Cumulative coal production for the fiscal year up to October 2024 stood at 537.45 million tonnes, an increase from 506.56 million tonnes during the same period in 2023-24, representing a growth of 6.10 per cent.

Additionally, coal shipments in October 2024 experienced a notable rise, reaching 82.89 million tonnes - an increase of 4.60



Coal dispatch from captive and other entities also grew to 16.18 million tonnes in October 2024, compared to 11.83 million tonnes in October 2023, representing a growth of 36.83 per cent.

per cent over the 79.25 million tonnes recorded in October 2023.

Coal dispatch from captive and other entities also grew to 16.18 million tonnes in October 2024, compared to 11.83 million tonnes in October 2023, representing a growth of 36.83 per cent.

Cumulative coal dispatches up to October 2024 rose to 571.39 million tonnes in

2024-25, compared to 541.51 million tonnes during the same period in 2023-24, reflecting a growth rate of 5.52 per cent. The Ministry of Coal stated that it remains committed to ensuring a reliable coal supply to meet India's energy demands, with a focus on boosting production, streamlining logistics, and supporting the nation's energy objectives.

Sensex rises to 79,688, Nifty hits 24,300 in Samvat 2081 start

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

It's a bright start to the Hindu calendar year of Samvat 2081 for Indian stocks.

Sensex closed 0.4 per cent higher at 79,688 points, while Nifty closed 0.4 per cent to end at 24,300 points, rebounding from two days of losses. All sectoral indices opened in green and continued upward during the Muhurat Trading hour, with only Nifty IT closing marginally lower by 0.02 per cent.

Here are the Top 5 gainers and losers during the Muhurat hour:

The benchmark indices soared, marking a positive start for investors during the one-hour Muhurat trading session on Diwali evening.

The exchange platforms -- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) -- were open for trading from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, marking the beginning of Samvat 2081. The pre-market session began at 5.45 pm.

The Muhurat trading ses-



sion typically consists of all the market segments, including equity, commodity derivatives, currency derivatives, equity futures and options (F&O), and securities lending and borrowing (SLB), within this single, auspicious hour.

The tradition of Muhurat trading, however, goes back a long time with the belief that investments made during this auspicious time will usher in good returns.

Also, the purchase of precious metals such as gold and silver, real estate, electronic items, and automobiles, among others, is specially timed by many on this auspicious day.

Usually, trading volumes at exchanges are high be-

cause lots of orders are placed all across. Last year, the benchmark stock index soared substantially to brighten the investors' fortunes during the stipulated one-hour period.

Data showed the number of investors over the past years has also been rising during this one-hour special trade, and also in general. "Our data analysis over the past 10 years shows that markets have closed in the red only 3 times during the Muhurat trading session. This indicates some likely festive cheer in coming trading sessions," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, had said in the run-up to Diwali.

Maruti Suzuki India reports highest-ever monthly sales

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India reported its highest-ever monthly sales volume at 206,434 units. Total sales in the month include domestic sales of 163,130 units, sales to other original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) of 10,136 units and the highest-ever monthly exports of 33,168 units.

Festival season and on top of that the deep discounts offered by various automakers have invariably helped dealers sell more cars this October.



Here is a table listing out the Maruti Suzuki India car-wise sales figures in October:

In October, total sales, domestic plus exports combined, were 3.6 per cent higher year-on-year.

So far in 2024-25 - April to October, the total sales were 1.64 per cent higher

year-on-year.

Coming to exports, the shipments in October and April-October were 51 per cent and 17 per cent, higher year-on-year, respectively.

In the fiscal year 2023-24, the company exported over 2.8 lakh units to more than 100 countries, holding a commanding 42 per cent

share in the country's passenger vehicle exports.

In other news, Maruti Suzuki India recently reached a significant milestone, with its Manesar facility crossing the 1 crore cumulative production mark.

The Manesar plant achieved this feat in just 18 years, making it the fastest among Suzuki's global automobile manufacturing facilities to reach the 1 crore production milestone.

The facility, which commenced operations in October 2006, is spread over 600 acres and manufactures a range of models,

including Brezza, Ertiga, XL6, Ciaz, Dzire, Wagon R, S-Presso, and Celerio. These vehicles serve both domestic and international markets, with exports reaching regions such as Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and neighbouring Asian countries.

Since its inception, Maruti Suzuki has produced over 3.1 crore vehicles, reinforcing its leadership in the Indian automotive industry.

Maruti Suzuki India Limited also started the export of its acclaimed 'Made-in-India' SUV, the Fronx.

18 states' capital outlay to hit Rs 7.2 lakh cr, up 7-9%: Crisil

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The total capital outlay of India's top 18 states is projected to grow by 7-9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 7.2 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25, building on a high base from the previous year, according to Crisil Ratings.

In 2023-24, this outlay increased by 27 per cent, reaching Rs 6.7 lakh crore.

The rating agency stated that key segments driving this growth include

Last year, 80 per cent of the allocated funds were transferred to state governments, and the rating agency expects a similar proportion this fiscal year.

transport, water supply, and sanitation (including housing and urban development), while irrigation is expected to see modest growth.

These 18 states represent nearly 94 per cent of the overall capital outlays of

state governments in India.

Their capital outlay as a percentage of gross state domestic product (GSDP) is projected at 2.4 per cent, consistent with last year's level of 2023-24, but higher than the 2.0-2.3 per cent range observed between

fiscals 2018 and 2023.

Crisil Ratings anticipates that these states will have the fiscal space required to support these capital outlays, backed by higher Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, states' shares in central taxes, and interest-free loans for capital expenditure (capex) from Delhi. The Centre has raised the allocation for interest-free capex loans to all states to Rs 1.5 lakh crore this fiscal year, up from Rs 1.3 lakh crore last year.

Last year, 80 per cent of the allocated funds were transferred to state governments, and the rating agency expects a similar proportion this fiscal year.

Anuj Sethi, Senior Director, CRISIL Ratings, said, "We expect a 7-9% growth in capital outlay, translating to states achieving approximately 90% of the budgeted target this fiscal. Although similar to last fiscal, this will be higher than the 82-84% levels achieved between fiscals 2018 and 2023."

Commercial LPG cylinder prices hiked by Rs 62

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a significant price revision soon after the festival of Diwali, oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Friday revised the cost of commercial LPG gas cylinders across the country.

The rate of the widely used 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder has been increased by Rs 62, bringing the price in Delhi to Rs 1,802. Earlier, the cost of a commercial cylinder in the national capital was Rs 1,740.

The revision also affects smaller cylinders, with a Rs 15 hike in the price of the 5 kg Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinders. However, in a relief to households, the prices of the commonly used 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders remain unchanged.

The rate revision will come into effect immediately. This price adjustment is expected to impact commercial establishments and small businesses that rely heavily on LPG for their operations.

The revision comes as part of a broader trend in fuel price adjustments in



The revision also affects smaller cylinders, with a Rs 15 hike in the price of the 5 kg Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinders.

response to changing global market conditions, seen in recent days due to volatile international order.

On October 1, the OMCs hiked the prices of 19 kg commercial LPG gas cylinders by Rs 48.50, marking a significant rise for businesses and establishments that rely on these cylinders.

Along with the 19 kg variant, the prices of 5 kg Free Trade LPG cylinders also saw an increase of Rs 12.

This price revision will directly impact restaurants, hotels, and other commercial establishments that

utilise these cylinders for daily operations. Despite the increase in commercial LPG prices, there has been no change in domestic LPG cylinder rates, offering some relief to households.

The revised prices are now in effect across the country, influencing the cost structure for many businesses that rely on LPG for their cooking and operational needs. This increase may result in a higher operating cost for the affected sectors, potentially leading to a rise in prices for end consumers in various industries.

ADDA to invest Rs 15 cr for growth in housing society market

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

ADDA, a leading provider of software solutions for housing society management, has announced plans to invest Rs 15 crore over the next year to expand its operations in India. Co-founder and CEO San Banerjee stated that this investment aims to enhance ADDA's presence in seven major cities and to onboard developers focused on resident experience and post-sales automation, particularly in the current era of artificial intelligence (AI).

Established in 2009, ADDA has grown to serve clients in over 10 countries, including the United States, the Middle East, and Singapore. In India, the company operates in approximately 80 cities, catering to more than 3,500 communities. Its platform offers a comprehensive suite of features essential for managing

STARTUP CORNER



housing societies, such as visitor management, billing and collection of society dues, facility booking, and asset and inventory management. Advanced functionalities include violation tracking and an AI-powered community helpdesk.

Banerjee highlighted that ADDA's commitment to a



no-advertisement policy ensures zero risk to user privacy, thereby enhancing secure living and data protection in an age of increasing cyber threats. This focus on privacy and security has contributed to the company's profitability, with revenue generated entirely from software subscriptions. Banerjee noted that ADDA aims to achieve a 20-25% increase in revenue from its Indian operations as a result of

this expansion.

ADDA's platform is utilised by properties developed by major real estate companies such as DLF, Rustomjee, Prestige, Sobha, Oberoi, Seawoods Estates, and Brigade. Developers like Embassy Group and ASBL in India, as well as Knight Frank in Singapore, have created branded experiences powered by the ADDA app for their properties. In India, the primary users of

ADDA are Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) or Owners Association Management Committee members. In contrast, in regions like Dubai and the broader Middle East, Owners Association Management Companies (OAMs) managing multiple communities subscribe to ADDA for use across all their properties. Similarly, in the United States, self-managed Homeowners Associations (HOAs) have adopted ADDA's platform.

The planned Rs 15 crore investment underscores ADDA's commitment to enhancing its services and expanding its footprint in India's housing society management sector. By leveraging advanced technologies and maintaining a strong focus on user privacy, ADDA aims to provide comprehensive and secure solutions to meet the evolving needs of housing societies and their residents.

POLITICAL POSITIONING OF DALITS WILL PLAY KEY ROLE IN MAHA POLLS

In Maharashtra, Marathas is the largest community containing 28 per cent of the state population. The OBCs as categories contains castes like-Kunbis (seven per cent), Malis (seven per cent), Vanjaris (six per cent) with Muslim OBCs comprising 38 per cent of the total population of the state.

OPINION

BADRI NARAYAN



The Maharashtra assembly election is crucial for Maha Yuti (MY) and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in many senses. If Maha Yuti wins this election in Maharashtra, it will give the following message - firstly, legacy of Hindutva mobilisation is now solidly moves towards Mahayuti and Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).

Secondly, PM Narendra Modi has still a charisma which may produce victories for National Democratic Alliance and political parties aligned with it.

Thirdly, various policies for poor launched by BJP government at the Centre and Mahayuti in the state still work to retain beneficiaries in their favour.

This Maharashtra state assembly election 2024 will be also a litmus test for Maha vikas aghadi (MVA), especially for Shiv sena (UBT) that whether they still has a hold for Hindutva sentiment which was cultivated by Bala Saheb Thackeray for longer time in Maharashtra politics. This election is also going to test whether after Haryana, Congress strategy of Dalit mobilisation which is based on the discourse on danger of Con-

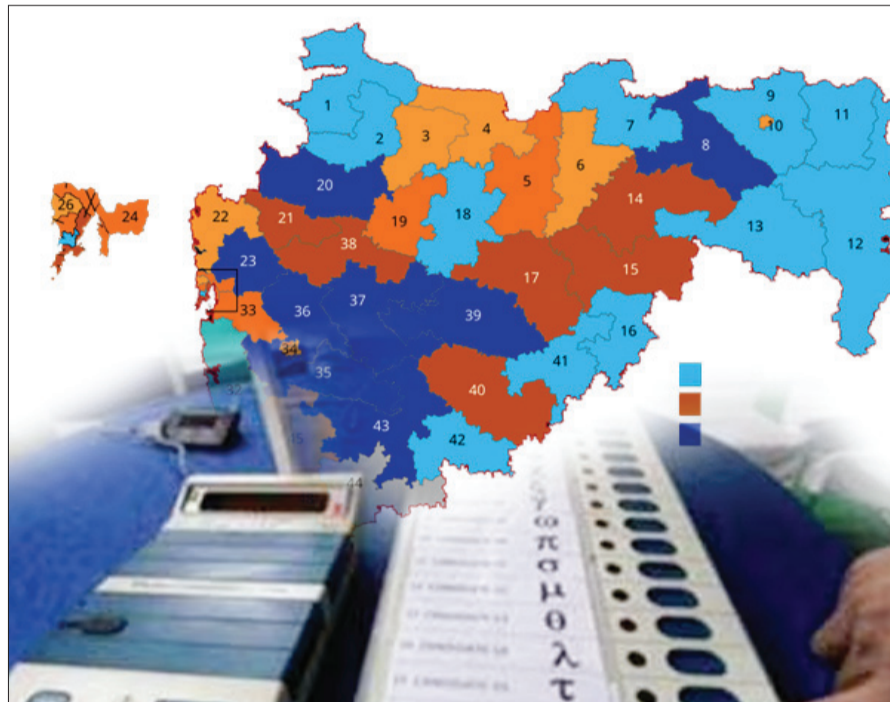
stitution and reservation still contains potential for Dalit and backward mobilisation in its favour.

Like other elections in the country, in Maharashtra election too, caste matters. Various contesting political parties are trying to woo various castes and communities by giving them representation in the distribution of tickets and making promises for their share in politics and development of the state.

In Maharashtra, Marathas is the largest community containing 28 per cent of the state population. The OBCs as categories contains castes like-Kunbis (seven per cent), Malis (seven per cent), Vanjaris (six per cent) with Muslim OBCs comprises 38 per cent of the total population of the state. The Dalit communities listed in schedule caste are total 12 per cent and Adivasies (tribal) communities are 9 per cent of the total population. The Buddhist comprises 6 per cent of the state population and are included in Schedule Castes.

However, Dalit population in Maharashtra is not so higher like the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

But Dalit political positioning in the state matters a lot for the politics of Dalit mobilisation in India. It is because, firstly, Maharashtra is known as pioneer of the rise of dissenting Dalit consciousness in the country. Secondly, it was land of Dalit consciousness leaders like jyoti Rao Phule and Baba Saheb Ambedkar who facilitated Dalit dis-



The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is trying to mobilise Dalits in their favour through two pronged strategies- firstly, by raising the issue of poverty, backwardness and employment which matters for survival and sustenance of Dalits and marginal communities in India. Secondly, by their campaign strategies, they are trying to disseminate the discourse of possible dangers on constitution and reservation for Dalit and Backwards in BJP lead political regimes.

senting consciousness and Dalit movement of India. The Dalit movement like Ambedkarite Dalit movement and Dalit Panther Movement which inspired Dalit movement in different parts of India. However, the Dalit political positioning of Maharashtra and other parts of India such as Central and Northern part of India some time appear different and contrary too.

It is popularly believed that Ambedkarites in the state especially Maharashtra which is the largest Dalit caste in the state remained attracted towards Congress politics in few decades of the 20th century. But in 2014 election, it is observed largest number of Dalits in the state voted for BJP.

The saffron party continued its influence among Dalits even in 2019 [parliamentary election with minor dilution. But in 2024 parliamentary election, BJP and other NDA allies could not retain their influence among Dalits as it was earlier. The Congress generated a fear psychosis based mobilisation strategy of Dalits by aggressively producing discourse of danger on Indian constitution and reservation.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is trying to mobilise Dalits in their favour through two pronged strategies- firstly, by raising the issue of poverty, backwardness and employment which matters for survival and sustenance of Dalits and

marginal communities in India. Secondly, by their campaign strategies, they are trying to disseminate the discourse of possible dangers on Constitution and reservation for Dalit and Backwards in BJP lead political regimes. As we know Dalit perceives Constitution as their emancipatory text which become sacred for them because of Baba Saheb Ambedkar association with its making.

The BJP and Mahayuti see the Non Maharashtra Dalit communities such as Matang, Mang etc as their base vote. On these base vote they are trying to add other Dalit communities such as asection of Mahar voters who are beneficiaries of various governmental schemes launched by BJP and Ma-

hayuti government. In fact the beneficiaries emerged as community itself which work beyond the caste and religion may provide space for BJP and Maha Yuti among various castes and communities of Schedule caste, Schedule tribe and backward social communities. The pro poor social support schemes such pension, health , PM annojana, majhi ladaki bahin yojana may mobilise poor and dalits towards Maha yuti in impressive number. Secondly, PM Modi has acquired huge trust capital among Dalit, tribals and poor section of our society. His trust value like other elections, in this election too may attract Dalits and Marginals towards BJP and its allies of Maha Yuti.

Thirdly, quota within quota debate which Maha Yuti is trying to disseminate at the grass root may also evolve silent mobilisation of most marginal communities for BJP and its allies. The Maha yuti is trying to work on micro mobilisation strategy for mobilising various Dalit caste in its favour. To impress Buddhist and neo-Buddhist, they are propagating inclusion of Pali by the central government recently which is language of Buddhist texts and also organising Abhidhama programmes. I see in this election BJP and Mahayuti may improve their performance among Dalit voters in this election.

Various Dalit Party like RPI (Prakash Ambedkar) etc are also trying to mobilise Dalits in their favour. These political groups may harm Congress and Maha vikas Aghadi (MVA), not to BJP and Mahayuti.

It is not easy to predict which direction the largest groups of Dalit will move, but it is easy to tell that their political positioning may play crucial role in giving victory to contesting political groups in this election.

J&K can become a sacred pilgrimage site for world religions

The Kalki Gyan Sagar Gurukul will be established in Jammu & Kashmir.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

BHUPENDRA SHARMA

Since the creation of the universe, India has been a spiritual land, a 'Karmabhumi' (land of action). Jammu & Kashmir, situated on India's sacred land, is considered the land of the gods because it is the holy abode of the divine creators of this beautiful world—the supreme parents, the omnipresent Supreme Brahman. This divine land is home to the holy shrines of the epoch-changing goddesses, Mata Vaishno Devi and Mata Sita. Both these goddesses are associated with Lord Vishnu, and therefore, the final incarnation of Vishnu, Lord Kalki, is also connected to Jammu & Kashmir.

Kalki disciple Kailash Mohan (from Banswara) states that the transformation from the current age of Kali Yuga to Satya Yuga, and the creation of a Satya Yuga world on this 'Karmabhumi,' will begin from Jammu & Kashmir. The connection of Kalki's incarnation to this sacred land is evident in religious texts, which describe Jammu & Kashmir as the sacred abode of the Saguna Brahman, the creator and sustainer of all living beings. The Supreme Brahman is known to humanity by various names, including Baba Amarnath, Shiva-Shakti, Adam and Eve, and Adam and Havva.

The holy shrines of Mata Sita and Mata Vaishno Devi also reside in this sacred land of Jammu & Kashmir. Mata Sita and Mata Vaishno Devi are manifestations of Shakti (divine feminine power), while Brahma, Mahesh, and Vishnu represent the forms of Shiva. The supreme parents, the Supreme Brahman, or Ardhanarishvara, exist here in Jammu & Kashmir alongside these divine powers. Vaishno Devi, the manifestation of the three goddesses, is known as Tri-kuta and Shakti Roopa Rama.

The complete transformation of this epoch will occur through the Kalki Gyan Sagar from Jammu & Kashmir. In the future, Jammu & Kashmir will be renowned as the sacred global pilgrimage center of Satya Yuga's World Ahimsa Paramodharma (supreme non-violence) for all of humanity. In addition to spiritual knowledge, Jammu & Kashmir, a tourist destination, will offer peace and tranquility to humanity. In this transitional period, known as the 'Sangamyuga' (confluence age), where Kali Yuga is turning into Satya Yuga, people must change their religious mindset according to the times. They should abandon casteism, sectarianism, and outdated traditions, embrace virtuous actions and service as human religion, and participate in divine works. The true worship of God lies in the virtuous deeds of humanity.

Kalki disciple Kailash Mohan, who travels across the country to promote religion, asserts that the event of Mata Sita merging with the earth in the Treta Yuga is connected to the Ram avatar of Lord Vishnu. Therefore, the future Kalki incarnation of Vishnu in this 'Karmabhumi' is also linked to Lakshmi, who is none other than Mata Sita. In the 21st century, the Kalki Gyan Sagar from Jammu & Kashmir will awaken divinity and godliness in the hearts of humanity, freeing them from the concepts of God and avatars. Humanity, in its vast soul form, is the Nirguna Brahman (formless ultimate reality), and in its living soul form, is the Saguna Brahman (manifested ultimate reality). Kalki Gyan Sagar will impart the knowledge of action, enabling humans to attain heavenly pleasures through virtuous deeds and free karma yogis from the cycle of birth and death. Heaven, hell, and salvation all exist in this 'Karmabhumi.'

To attain self-liberation, humans must renounce their individual soul form and become detached karma yogis in their vast soul form. Thus, to liberate mankind from this illusory world and the influence of Maya (illusion), divine knowledge is imparted through the heart of a selfless karma yogi, and through them, God re-establishes and promotes religion on this 'Karmabhumi.' According to Kalki disciple Kailash Mohan, on April 23, 2018, the flag of Kalki Gyan Sagar's Satya Yuga World Ahimsa Paramodharma was raised at the holy site of Mata Van Khadi Dham in Jammu & Kashmir, in the presence of prominent citizens of all faiths, to restore peace to the world. Subsequently, on March 9, 2023, the foundation stone of the Kalki Gyan Sagar Gurukul was laid in the presence of Mahant Bhagwandas, with all-religion devotees participating.

The 21st century is the time of epoch transformation, also known as the 'Sangamyuga.' The same divine power that is formless, attribute-less, and in its soul form, manifests in its living soul form. This formless power is symbolized by the Shrivlinga. The formless soul of God and the living soul of avatars both exist within the human body and cannot be seen through material eyes.

Kalki disciple Kailash Mohan says that God manifests through the heart of a selfless karma yogi and accomplishes his divine works in mysterious ways on this 'Karmabhumi.' Through Kalki Gyan Sagar, the Kalki avatar will spread the mysterious knowledge of creation to humanity, awakening divinity and godliness within their hearts. Today's era is an era of development, and to create a Satya Yuga world on this 'Karmabhumi,' the promotion of human religion is essential. Humanity must become detached karma yogis in their vast soul form, free from material attachments.

When No Means Yes

FROWNING PROHIBITED

JAS KOHLI



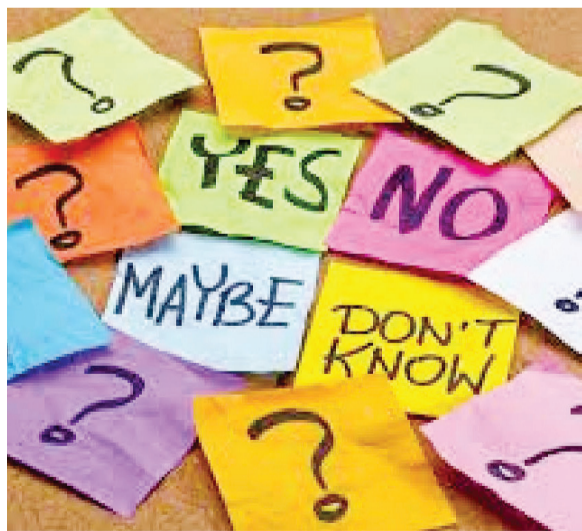
When I was seven years old, an aunt handed over a crisp ten rupee note (a princely sum in those days) to me before leaving our home- probably to reward

my non-mischievous conduct. I was aware that the cash was synonymous with 'aish'- I could buy lots of yummy candies from the corner shop. But as soon as I showed the banknote to my parents, I was labeled as a small-time crook. 'You have been greedy. Shouldn't have accepted the money so easily from her,' I was told by my dad. 'Baap re baap!' I said to myself. In retrospect, I feel that my parents were just trying to make me a 'sanskari' child. They had implied that I should have accepted the money but only after making her

chase me in the way I got my mother to pursue me when she tried to hand over a glass of milk to me.

A guest may seem to be having 'tu tu main main' with the host at a marriage celebration. But it is likely to be a nautanki over the fancy envelope containing the shagun amount. It is customary not to accept it without saying, 'There was no need for this.' I am sure many of those who are reading this column have enacted a similar scene. If the host offers physical resistance, one has to use force to hand over the shagun envelope or to put it into a pocket or purse. Two or more people acting as a team could easily overpower the resister.

So, in this scenario, no doesn't mean no- It means yes. During the pre-internet era, romantic scenes in movies brainwashed men into believing in the dictum that if a lady said no to a



proposal, it could be a yes in actuality.

I know of an instance when an impish guest reacted to the theatrics of the host by saying, 'Okay, if you don't want the shagun, I would keep it with myself!' Some 'kaminey' guests go the extent of giving empty envelopes.

Later on, while counting the cash, a mental or physi-

cal note is made by the hosts about the amount received from each guest because everyone has to be paid back in a similar fashion at their event. The shagun amount depends upon proximity, paying capacity and generosity. Some guests are overly calculative- the amount is proportional to the number of guests from the family who attend the event. If the

giver is trying to curry favour or expressing gratitude to the host for a favour, the amount or rather the bribe, can be substantial.

Proper etiquette is also desirable while accepting gifts. Jhootha mootha refusal is one option. But more often, the receivers say, 'Thank you so much. But there was no need for such an expensive gift (as if a cheaper gift would have satisfied them).' Any Indian who denies recycling of Diwali gifts will surely fail the lie detector test. But what would one do with three rice cookers received as gifts. So, everyone should develop expertise in gift wrapping at home because shops may be closed at odd hours. To deter recycling, some smart senders get their names engraved or printed on the gift.

Gifts are the original 'influencers!' They have changed the course of history quite often!

CM NAIDU LAUNCHES DEEPAM 2.0 SCHEME, DISTRIBUTES FREE GAS CYLINDERS TO WOMEN

TDG NETWORK
SRİKAKULAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu visited Edupuram in Srikakulam district on Friday to launch the Deepam 2.0 scheme, distributing free gas cylinders to women.

During his visit, Naidu personally handed over a free gas cylinder to a woman and lit her stove, even preparing tea at the residence of beneficiary Santhamma.

Naidu was accompanied by Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and state ministers Nandendra Manohar and Achchennayudu.

This initiative aims to empower women by providing access to clean cooking energy. The Deepam scheme is part of Naidu's efforts to improve living conditions in Andhra Pradesh.

"We are delighted to launch the scheme offering three free cooking gas cylinders per year in Idupuram, Srikakulam district, fulfilling one of our 'Super 6' election promises. The joy on the faces of women receiv-



ing these free gas cylinders was deeply satisfying. It was particularly heartening to see that Shanthamma, who received a free gas cylinder today, had also benefited from the Deepam 1 scheme I introduced previously," Naidu wrote in a post on X.

"My best wishes to all beneficiaries of the free cooking gas scheme. My aim is to bring a meaningful change to the lives of women by eliminating smoke from kitchens and reducing fi-

nancial burdens. Helping women and girls has always been a priority... their happiness and blessings mean everything to me," Naidu wrote on X.

In a commitment to the Andhra Pradesh electorate, Naidu had promised to provide Rs 1,500 per month to every woman, three free gas cylinders annually, and free bus travel for women on state-run RTC buses.

"We will provide Rs 15,000 annually to each

school-going student through 'Thalliki Vandhanam'. Every woman will receive Rs 1,500 monthly through 'Aadabidda Nidhi'. Under the 'Deepam Scheme', three free gas cylinders per year will be given, along with free RTC bus travel for women," Naidu said at a public meeting in Kurmool, Andhra Pradesh.

On his dedicated efforts for women's empowerment in the state, the Telugu Desam chief stated, "My

This initiative aims to empower women by providing access to clean cooking energy. The Deepam scheme is part of Naidu's efforts to improve living conditions in Andhra Pradesh.

commitment extends not only to the state's progress but also to ensuring the security and future of its women." The Deepam 2.0 scheme in Andhra Pradesh aims to assist women in acquiring and managing gas connections. It promotes clean cooking fuel, enhancing health and safety in households by reducing reliance on traditional cooking methods. Through this scheme, eligible women receive subsidies to cover the costs of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections and equipment.

Shivakumar mulls making Kannada 'language of life' at Rajyotsava celebration

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday stated that the goal is to make Kannada the "language of life" while speaking at the 69th Kannada Rajyotsava celebration at Kanteerava Stadium.

Shivakumar said, "Our aim is to make Kannada a language of life. All of us need to show our respect to our motherland by hoisting the flag of the land high."

He then noted that it has been 50 years since the state was named Karnataka, emphasizing, "We believe that our land is heaven, our language is divine, and the waters of Tunge, Bhadra, Cauvery, and Krishna are sacred." He extended his greetings for Kannada Rajyotsava to everyone in the state, both personally and on behalf of the state government.

"Kuvempu's message of Vishwamanava is showing us the way even today. Kannada is our pride, it is our duty to offer our respect and prayers to our Karmabhoomi. Kannada is in every breath we take. We have ordered all schools, colleges, and private firms to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava in their premises,"



CM Siddaramiah also urged the people to have pride in the Kannada language which has a proud history.

he added. Shivakumar stated, "Many states don't have a Naada Geethe (state song) or a flag, but Karnataka does. Our land is a place of diversity and peace, attracting people from all over the world. Kannada has a history of over 2,000 years, and many Kannadigas from various countries are making efforts to spread the joy of Kannada globally. The whole world is looking at us. All of us have a responsibility to protect the language and

the culture of the land."

CM Siddaramiah also urged the people to have pride in the Kannada language which has a proud history.

"2023 after I became CM I announced in the budget that Karnataka day must be celebrated mandatory. We should teach Kannada to people. Kannada language has 2000 years of history. We at any cost not sacrifice our language. Never give up the pride of Kannada," the CM said.

Earlier in his post on X the CM said, "Kannada Rajyotsava is a day when we should dedicate ourselves to the task of saving and growing Kannada, including our people, language, culture, land and water. Let the love and concern for Kannada not be limited to today, but let it be a daily celebration of all our lives."

ECI accepts Jharkhand govt's proposal to appoint Alka Tiwari as Chief Secretary of state

TDG NETWORK
RANCHI

The Election Commission of India has approved the Jharkhand government's proposal to appoint Alka Tiwari as the Chief Secretary of the state.

Tiwari, a 1988 batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre, is currently the senior-most IAS officer in the state. Earlier, the Commission had also consented to a five-month extension of the tenure of former Chief Secretary Lalbiaktluanga Kiangte.

Elections for the 81 seats in the Jharkhand Assembly will be held in two phases on November 13 and November 20, with the counting of votes scheduled for November 23.

On October 19, the Election Commission of India (ECI) directed the Jharkhand State Government to remove Anurag Gupta from his position as the Acting Director General of Police (DGP) with immediate effect.

The ECI issued an order

stating that the acting DGP should hand over charge to the senior-most DGP-level officer available in the cadre.

This decision took into account a history of complaints and actions taken by the Commission against Gupta during previous elections. Notably, during the 2019 General Elections to the Lok Sabha, Gupta was relieved of his duties as ADG (Special Branch), Jharkhand, following allegations of biased conduct by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM). On October 29, the ECI held a review meeting with the Chief Secretary, DGP, and other senior officials from Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and their neighbouring states to assess the law-and-order situation for the upcoming assembly elections in both states.

During the meeting, the Chief Election Commissioner expressed concern that politically motivated crimes could undermine the electoral environment and compromise a level playing field.

'We are implementing whatever we promised in Karnataka': Venugopal

TDG NETWORK
RANCHI

Congress general secretary KC Venugopal on Friday dismissed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegations saying that the Congress Party has failed to deliver on their promises in Karnataka, and said that they are implementing whatever they promised and challenged that anybody can examine it.

"We are implementing everything in Karnataka in a greater way. Anybody can check. We are implementing our promises, which is a clear model of Congress' promises. We are implementing in Karnataka whatever we promised. Anybody can examine it," Venugopal said.

The Congress leader further said that it's actually the central government that's failing to deliver on its promises and instead blaming the Congress party for non-delivery.

"What PM said is wrong... Basically, the Govt of India is not delivering what they promised... They are blaming us for non-delivery. But on our part, we are delivering



on our promises," he said.

This comes after PM Modi on Friday criticized the Congress Party for failing to deliver on their promises in Karnataka and urged the people to be vigilant and not fall prey to the Party's false promises.

PM Modi emphasized the Congress Party's history of making empty promises, citing their unfulfilled loan waiver commitments in several states, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, and Rajasthan.

"The Congress Party is realising the hard way that making unreal promises is easy but implementing them properly is tough or impossible. Campaign after campaign they promise things to

the people, which they also know they will never be able to deliver. Now, they stand badly exposed in front of the people," PM Modi posted on X.

Citing the example of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, the Prime Minister said that the Congress Party's promises to these states remained unfulfilled, which is a terrible deceit upon the people of these states.

"Check any state where the Congress has Governments today - Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana - the developmental trajectory and fiscal health is turning from bad to worse. Their so-called Guarantees lie unfulfilled, which is a terrible deceit upon the people of these

states. The victims of such politics are the poor, youngsters, farmers and women, who are not only denied the benefits of these promises but also see their existing schemes diluted," he said.

PM Modi alleged that the Congress is busy in intra-party politics in Karnataka, adding that the salaries of Government workers are not paid on time in Himachal Pradesh and farmers are waiting for the waiver they promised in Telangana.

"In Karnataka, Congress is busier in intra-party politics and loot instead of even bothering to deliver on development. Not only that, they are also going to roll back existing schemes. In Himachal Pradesh, the salaries of Government workers are not paid on time. In Telangana, farmers are waiting for the waiver they promised. Previously, in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, they promised certain allowances which were never implanted for five years. There are numerous such examples of how the Congress works," he said.

PM Narendra Modi urged the citizens to be vigilant against the Congress party's culture of making false promises, emphasizing that the people of Haryana have already rejected Congress' lies and opted for a stable, progressive, and action-driven government.

"The people of the country will have to be vigilant against the Congress-sponsored culture of fake promises! We saw recently how the people of Haryana rejected their lies and preferred a Government that is stable, progress-oriented and action-driven. There is a growing realisation across India that a vote for Congress is a vote for non-governance, poor economics and unparalleled loot. The people of India want development and progress, not the same old #FakePromisesOfCongress!" he posted on X.

Earlier, Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge meted out advice to the Congress units headed for polls cautioning them to announce guarantees on the basis of their budget.

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Winter session of Odisha Assembly to commence on November 26

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Mukesh Mahaling, announced on Friday that the winter session of the 17th State Assembly will begin on November 26.

Speaking to ANI, Mahaling stated that the session will continue until December 31.

"The winter session of the 17th Odisha Legislative



Assembly will commence on November 26 and run until December 31. The first

supplementary expenditure statement for 2024-25 will be presented on the opening day, November 26," he said.

According to the provisional schedule, 20 days have been allocated for official business, while five days are reserved for private members' business.

Meanwhile, following Odisha's success in reporting no casualties during the severe cyclonic storm 'Dana,' Chief Minister Mohan Charan

Majhi expressed gratitude to those who played a vital role in this achievement.

"Odisha survived Cyclone Dana by the grace of Lord Jagannath. I extend my thanks to all ministers, MLAs, MPs, and government officials for their teamwork, which was crucial in achieving zero casualties. Everyone worked tirelessly to protect the people and provide essential services," said CM Majhi.

and I expect that many rebel leaders will withdraw their forms by that date."

On the upcoming by-elections for seven seats in the Rajasthan Assembly, Gehlot mentioned, "These elections are local. Voting is done properly and elections are held based on local issues.

'Anti-govt sentiment in Maharashtra,' says Congress observer Ashok Gehlot

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Ashok Gehlot, the former Chief Minister of Rajasthan and current senior Congress observer for the Maharashtra Assembly elections, is confident of a good showing by the Aghasi alliance.

Regarding the situation

with dissatisfied rebel Congress leaders in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, Gehlot said, "There is already a favourable atmosphere for Congress. I was in Maharashtra recently, and there is an anti-government sentiment among the common people, which will benefit us. I hope

that according to the current atmosphere, Congress and the alliance will win the elections. Regarding convincing the rebels, the process has been ongoing since the day the forms were filled. We are in constant contact with them. The last date for form withdrawals is November 4,

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT SEEKS DETAILS OF UP GOVT'S POLICY TO SEND CHILDREN OF JAIL INMATES TO REGULAR SCHOOLS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case *Rekha vs. State of U.P.* observed and has directed the State Government for submitting a detailed affidavit concerning its policy for enrolling children of jail inmates (who live with their parents in prison) in regular schools across the state.

The bench headed by Justice Ajay Bhanot passed the said order wherein the court was dealing with a bail petition filed by one Rekha.

The court in the case noted that the applicant has a five-year-old child in jail.

When the Court in the case inquired about the child's education status, the bench

was apprised that the child is attending the creche school in the jail premises, which is meant only for the children of inmates.

It has been informed by the Director General (Prisons) and Principal Secretary (Women and Child Development) the single judge that a number of inmates' children reside in prisons with them throughout the State of U.P.

It has been submitted by the State Government before the court that it is committed to the welfare of the children residing in jail with their inmate parents.

The bench in the case was also apprised that the state government is willing to formulate a scheme for admitting the said category of



children to regular schools and providing other support systems for children in various CCLs. The court observed that

the education and holistic development of children of inmates who reside in jails cannot be restricted by the confining environment of

jails. The court in the case stated that the legislature and the law are cognizant of the rights of all children spe-

The bench while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has directed the competent verticals or departments of the State, including the Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of U.P., Principal Secretary (Prisons), Government of U.P., and Director General (Prisons), Government of U.P. Lucknow, to formulate a final policy in this regard and apprise the bench about the same.

cially those who are in need of care and protection.

The court in the case remarked that the provisions

of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, and Right of Children to Free and Compulsory

Education Act as well as the fundamental rights vested in children by holdings of Constitutional Courts have to be implemented regardless of the environment in which the children are situated.

The bench while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has directed the competent verticals or departments of the State, including the Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of U.P., Principal Secretary (Prisons), Government of U.P., and Director General (Prisons), Government of U.P. Lucknow, to formulate a final policy in this regard and apprise the bench about the same.

Allahabad High Court: Allegations of adultery against wife to be decided before application for maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case *Dr. Virender Kumar v. State of U.P. and Another* observed and has held that allegations of adultery against wife must be decided before the application for maintenance under Section 125 of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC.

In the present case, the Revisionist-husband approached the High Court against the order of the Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Firozabad awarding interim maintenance for an amount of Rs. 7000/- to the respondent-wife under Section 125 of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC.

It was also argued before the court that the wife being adulterous was not en-



itled to any relief by virtue of Section 125(4) of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC. The Section 125(4) of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC provides that if the wife chooses to live separately from the husband with mutual consent or refuses to live with him, then she will not be entitled to interim or final maintenance. The bench headed by Justice Manjive Shukla

in the case observed and has held that, 'From a bare perusal of Section 125(4) Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC it is patently manifest that once there is categorical allegation of adultery against the wife, then the court concerned dealing with the matter as stated under section 125 of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC has to decide the issue of adultery and

The court in the case observed that the Trial Court had no observations with regards to the allegations of adultery on part of the wife. The court in the case granted interim stay on the order of the Trial Court. The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has directed the parties to exchange affidavits.

even interim maintenance can be awarded only after recording a finding on that issue. The court in the case observed that the Trial Court had no observations with regards to the allegations of adultery on part of the wife.

The court in the case granted interim stay on the order of the Trial Court. The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has directed the parties to exchange affidavits.

Centre notifies appointment of five Additional Judges to Kerala High Court

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Central Government cleared the appointment of five judicial officers as Additional judges of Kerala High Court. The name of judicial of-

ficer who have been appointed as Additional judges of Kerala High Court are: KV Jayakumar; Muralee Krishna S; Jobin Sebastian; PV Balakrishnan; PP Krishna Kumar.

The Supreme Court in its resolution dated October 15, 2024 recommended the appointment of five judicial officers as Additional judges of Kerala High Court. On October 15, 2024, the

Supreme Court resolution recommended four of the five and the name of PP Krishna Kumar had been recommended in October, last year. As the same was yet to be cleared by the Central Government, the Su-

preme Court Collegium reiterated his name via the October 15 resolution passed this year. As on October 15, the Kerala High Court is functioning with 40 judges as against a sanctioned strength of 47.

Centre to Kerala High Court: Decision on categorisation of Wayanad landslide disaster will be done in two weeks

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Kerala High Court in the case *In re: Prevention and Management of Natural Disasters in Kerala* observed wherein the Additional Solicitor General Adv. A. R. L. Sundaresan informed the court that the High-Level Committee will take a decision on the categorization of the Wayanad landslide.

It has been submitted by the Amicus curiae Adv. Ranjith Thampan submitted before the Court that if the disaster is categorized as a Level 3 Disaster, various avenues of relief and rehabilitation will be open to the State.

He also urged the court that the Disaster should be categorized as an L3 disaster i.e., the Level 3 disaster. As per the disaster management plan of the National Disaster Management Authority, L3 disaster is a nearly catastrophic situation or a very large-scale disaster that overwhelms



The court in the case asked the State for considering such an insurance scheme in collaboration with the Union of India and private insurance companies to tide over the financial constraints perceived by the State in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters.

the State and District authorities.

It has also been suggested by the Amicus Curiae that

the Centre and State to consider implementing a para-

metric insurance scheme. Further, the Amicus Curiae submitted before the court that it enables the government to pre-assess potential damages from catastrophic events.

It has also been pointed out by him that such insurance can give quick payouts and the affected communities can quickly engage in rehabilitation and restoration efforts. He submitted that the funds from National and State Disaster Response Funds are not always immediately available.

The court in the case asked the State for considering such an insurance scheme in collaboration with the Union of India and private insurance companies to tide over the financial constraints perceived by the State in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters. Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on November 15, 2024.

Kerala High Court grants interim bail to actor Balachandra Menon in sexual assault case: No plausible explanation for inordinate delay to lodge FIR

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Kerala High Court in the case *Balachandra Menon v State of Kerala* observed and has granted interim bail till November 21, 2024, to Malayalam actor Balachandra Menon in a sexual assault case which is being filed against him after the publication of the Justice Hema Committee Report. The bench headed by Justice C S Dias in the case observed that the de facto complainant has not given a plausible explanation for the inordinate delay in lodging the First Information Report, FIR in 2024, when the alleged crime took place between January 12 to January 21, 2001.

The court stated that, 'I am satisfied that the petitioner has made out a prima facie case for an interim order. Hence, the court direct that, in the event of the Investigating Officer arresting the petitioner in connection with Crime No. 1009/2024 of the Cantonment Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram, he shall be enlarged

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on November 21.

The petition has been filed by Senior Advocate M Ramesh Chander, Advocates M/S. Bejoy Joseph P.J., Govind G. Nair, Balu Tom & Bonny Benny.

on bail on him executing a bond for Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) with two solvent sureties to the satisfaction of the Investigating Officer. It has been alleged in the de facto complainant that the actor Balachandra Menon sexually assaulted her during the shooting of a movie in 2007.

In the present case, the crime was lodged against the actor at Cantonment Police Station in Thiruvananthapuram on September 30, 2024.

It has also been submitted by the Actor Balachandra

Chaturvedi approached the High Court. On September 03, 2024, the court directed the Centre to provide him with the records related to his empanelment. The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case noted that the respondent authority had failed to comply by the Court's order despite reminder by Chaturvedi, the said court was inclined to issue the contempt of Court notice to the erring official to defied the order of court.



Uttarakhand High Court issues contempt notice to DoPT Jt Secy over non-compliance with orders to supply IFS Sanjeev Chaturvedi's empanelment records

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand High Court in the case *Sanjiv Chaturvedi vs. Vivek Joshi* observed and has issued a contempt notice to the Joint Secretary of Centre's Department of Personnel and Training, DoPT for failing to comply with the order of courts to supply records which relates to the process and decision-making of IFS Sanjeev Chaturvedi's empanelment to the position of Joint Secretary at the Centre.

The bench comprising of Justice Alok Kumar Verma was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case was hearing the contempt petition filed by Indian Forest Service Officer, IFS Sanjeev Chaturvedi who appeared in person.

The court in its order recorded that, 'Mr. Sanjeev Chaturvedi has contended that he had intimated the respondent about the said Order dated September 03, 2024 vide letter dates September 11, 2024, which is being followed by the reminder.

The respondent in the case has willfully defied the order of the Court, passed in WPSB No.295 of 2024, de-

The court in its order recorded that, 'Mr. Sanjeev Chaturvedi has contended that he had intimated the respondent about the said Order dated September 03, 2024 vide letter dates September 11, 2024, which is being followed by the reminder.

spite being intimated about the same in writing by him. Mr. Sanjeev Chaturvedi had sought records under the RTI Act about the decision of Centre to not approve the appointment of him for the post of Joint Secretary or equivalent position at the Centre despite fulfilling the mandatory criteria for the position. Mr. Sanjeev Chaturvedi approached the Central Administrative Tribunal for seeking the record but the same was denied to him. Following the same,

SEVEN KILLED IN ISRAEL AFTER HEZBOLLAH TARGETS METULA, HAIFA

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Hezbollah's rocket attacks on northern Israel have resulted in the loss of seven lives in agricultural fields near Metula and Haifa, marking one of the deadliest days for Israeli civilians in months, according to a report by Times of Israel.

According to the authorities, tragedy struck near the border town of Metula on Thursday morning when a rocket fired from Lebanon slammed into an apple orchard, claiming the lives of five people.

Hours later, two more people were killed while in an olive grove outside the Haifa suburb of Kiryat Ata, as Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets at the area, Times of Israel reported.



The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) also confirmed the attack by Hezbollah in a statement. Sharing a post on X, the IDF wrote, "Hezbollah rockets killed 7 innocent civilians inside Israel today. We will not let Hezbollah's deadly attacks go unanswered."

All the victims were agricultural labourers who had been working in the orchard at the time of the strike.

While one of them was an Israeli citizen, the others were foreign nationals.

Meanwhile, Israel on Thursday targeted weapons storage facilities and command centres used by Hezbollah's Radwan Forces and its munitions unit in Syria.

Sharing a post on X, the IDF wrote, "A short while ago, following IDF intelligence, the IAF (Israeli Air Force) struck weapons stor-

age facilities and command centers used by Hezbollah's Radwan Forces and its Munitions Unit in the area of Al-Qusayr, Syria."

It added, "Hezbollah's Munitions Unit is responsible for storing weapons inside Lebanon and has recently expanded its activities into the town of Al-Qusayr, near the Syrian-Lebanese border. With this, Hezbollah is establishing logistical infrastructure to facilitate the transfer of weapons from Syria into Lebanon via border crossings."

The IDF further said that the strike on the weapons storage facilities is part of a larger effort targeting the infrastructure of Unit 4400, the Hezbollah unit responsible for smuggling weapons from Iran, through Syria, and into Lebanon.

Two dead, 500 injured as typhoon Kong-rey strikes Taiwan

AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Typhoon Kong-rey, one of the most powerful storms to hit Taiwan in decades, made landfall yesterday, resulting in significant destruction, widespread evacuations, and the tragic death of a woman.

As of Friday morning, strong winds and heavy rain from the storm had caused two deaths, injured 515 people and left four others unaccounted for, reported Central News agency Taiwan quoting the Central Emergency Operation Center (CEOC).

A 56-year-old female foreign national died from her injuries after the small truck she was in was struck by a falling tree on Provincial Highway 14A, close to Nantou's Ren'ai Township early



Thursday.

The second death was reported at 8 p.m. in Taipei on Thursday after a 48-year-old man was killed by a utility pole. The man was reportedly hit by the pole, which was brought down by a falling tree, while he walked around the capital's Neihu District.

Contact with four Indig-

enous hunters who went hunting by a stream in Nantou County has not yet been established, CNA reported.

The CEOC said it attempted to deploy a helicopter early Friday, but the weather prevented takeoff. Two search and rescue firefighters and a Forestry and Nature Conservation Agency official were in-

stead dispatched to locate the hunters.

By Friday morning, 11,588 people had been evacuated and 134 emergency shelters had been set up in 13 municipalities, with 2,620 people taking shelter, the CEOC said. The Ministry of National Defence said that it had mobilized to support regional recovery from Typhoon Kong-rey, working closely with local authorities to remove fallen trees, clear debris, and swiftly restore normalcy for affected residents. The CEOC said that around 21,000 households are still without water and service would be fully restored before noon on Saturday. In addition, more than 843,000 households experienced power outages with more than 119,000 still waiting for power to be restored.

Sheikh Hasina's coalition party office set on fire in Bangladesh

AGENCIES
DHAKA

Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's coalition, Jatiya Party, central office in Dhaka, has been set on fire after clashes on Thursday night. The office was partly damaged, the witnesses said.

The Jatiya Party, founded by late President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, was a part of the Bangladesh Awami League-led Grand Alliance, and participated previous three general elections despite major party BNP boycotted.

Protesters against Sheikh Hasina were angered when Jatiya Party announced that it would hold a rally in Dhaka on Saturday. Clashes erupted when pro-



testers carrying the Chhatra Sramik Janata banner marched with a torch procession in front of the Jatiya Party's central office in Kakrail area, the heart of the capital Dhaka.

The fire service went to the spot and extinguished the fire. When a large number of protesters went in front of the Jatiya Party left the office. Protesters vandalized Jatiya Party offices, pulled down signboard and smeared ink on party

founder Ershad's picture on the wall, the witnesses said.

Police and Army were deployed in front of the Jatiya Party office. "We were passing in front of the Jatiya Party office with a torch procession. At that time, terrorists of Jatiya Party threw bricks at our procession from the roof of Jatiya Party office", said Shakiluzzaman, a leader of Gono Audhikar Parishad, a political party that actively participated the movement against Sheikh Hasina.

"Jatiya Party terrorists themselves set fire to their office and escaped. Jatiya Party acted as a proxy of the fascist Awami League in the 2014, 2018 and 2024 elections", Shakiluzzaman said.

"We the students, workers and citizens have declared that we will not allow Jatiya Party to hold any rally", he further said. No comment was immediately found from the Jatiya Party but they are likely to express their reaction officially later on Friday. Two months ago, a student-led movement ousted Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, after weeks of protests and clashes that killed over 600. Hasina, 76, fled to India on August 5 and an interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus was formed.

Pakistan Airlines gets just one bidder, quotes PKR 10 billion for 60% share

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

The government's initial attempt to privatise Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) faced a significant setback on Thursday, as the only bidder, Blue World City, proposed a mere PKR 10 billion for a 60 per cent stake in the loss-making airline—far below the government's minimum sale price of PKR 85.03 billion, the Express Tribune reported.

During a publicly televised bidding event, Blue World City, a real estate developer, presented its offer, which accounted for only 12 per cent of the government's stipulated price. In dollar terms, the bid



equated to approximately USD 36 million, starkly contrasting with the minimum sale price of USD 305 million set by the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation.

Prior to the bid opening, the Privatisation Commission board and the Cabinet Committee convened separately, yet no government ministers attended the ceremony, which was

only attended by two federal secretaries.

The Cabinet Committee had approved the minimum sale price following recommendations from the Privatisation Commission board, and despite being invited to match the government's offer, Blue World City declined to raise its bid.

"We have considered the government price and

decided to stand with our best price of PKR 10 billion," stated Saad Nazir, the owner of Blue World City. The firm was the only one to submit a bid after five other pre-qualified parties withdrew, citing the government's strict conditions regarding tax liabilities, guaranteed investments, and employee retention, reported the Express Tribune.

Japan protests UN call for reviewing male-only imperial succession practice

AGENCIES
TOKYO

Japan has lodged a protest with a UN human rights watchdog that called for reviewing a domestic law that limits imperial succession to

male heirs on the emperor's father side, the top government spokesman said on Wednesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said the imperial succession system is linked to the foundations

of Japan as a country, and that the government had told the UN panel, which aims at eliminating discrimination against women, before the release of the review that it would be "inappropriate" for it to take up

the issue, according to Japan Today.

"It is extremely regrettable that the final report included a reference to the Imperial House Law," Hayashi said at a press conference.

While the panel acknowledged in its report released Tuesday that the 1947 Imperial House Law is "not within the purview" of its competence, it said it considers the succession rule "contrary to the object and

purpose" of the UN convention to eliminate discrimination against women.

"We have lodged a strong protest with the committee and called again for the removal of the reference," he added.

North Korea test-launches ballistic missile toward sea, says South Korea

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

North Korea test-launched a ballistic missile toward the North's eastern waters on Thursday morning, said South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The reported launch happened a day after South Korea's military intelligence agency told lawmakers that North Korea has likely completed preparations for its seventh nuclear test and was close to test-firing a long-range missile capa-

The launch also comes amid concerns about North Korea's reported troop dispatch to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Wednesday that North Korean troops wearing Russian uniforms and carrying Russian equipment are moving toward Ukraine, in what he called a dangerous and destabilising development. Austin spoke at a press conference in Washington with South Korean Defense Minister

Korea, US space agencies to send co-developed solar coronagraph to ISS

AGENCIES
SEOUL

The Republic of Korea's national space agency said Friday it plans to send a solar coronagraph jointly developed with the United States to the International Space Station (ISS) to study the sun's outer atmosphere, or corona, and solar wind, reported Yonhap News Agency.

The Coronal Diagnostic Experiment (CODEX), a collaboration between the



Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) and the

US National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Solar wind is a constant stream of particles and magnetic fields released from the sun's outermost atmospheric layer that affects weather in space.

(NASA), will be delivered to the ISS onboard Space X's Falcon 9 rocket Monday (US time) from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, according to KASA.

Part of a bilateral solar research project, the coronagraph will be docked with the express logistics carrier on the ISS to observe the corona for up to 55 minutes

per 90-minute Earth orbit.

CODEX is the world's first coronagraph designed to observe the temperature and velocity of the solar wind in addition to the density, KASA said, noting it will help researchers better understand solar wind and predict space weather.

Solar wind is a constant stream of particles and magnetic fields released from the sun's outermost atmospheric layer that affects weather in space.

Sindh High Court issues notices in pleas against 26th Constitutional Amendment

AGENCIES
KARACHI

The Sindh High Court (SHC) issued notices to the Cabinet Division and the Ministry of Law and Justice on Thursday regarding two Constitutional petitions challenging the validity of the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

The petitions, filed by three lawyers, seek to declare the amendment ultra vires to the Constitution, raising significant concerns about the independence of the judiciary in Pakistan, Dawn reported.

The two-judge bench, comprising Chief Justice Mohammad Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Jawad Akbar



Sarwana, has also notified the attorney general and the advocate general of Sindh, scheduling a date for further proceedings in approximately two weeks. The petitions have cited various federal and provincial authorities as respondents.

During the hearing, the bench acknowledged that the petitions were intended to challenge the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which has reinstated certain articles. "We are cognisant of the fact that in terms of the amend-

ment such questions are to be brought before the constitutional benches," the bench stated.

It added that the application of Article 202A, which facilitates the establishment of constitutional benches for provinces, could only proceed once the relevant provincial resolutions are passed, reported Dawn.

In the absence of such resolutions, the bench confirmed that the SHC was exercising its jurisdiction according to the roster assigned to different benches. The petitions claim that the amendment has compromised the structure of justice, particularly concerning the articles related to judicial dispensation.

Representing the petitioners, advocates Ali Tahir and Ebrahim Saifuddin argued that the amendment allows parties such as the federation or province to "pick and choose benches for their own cause and for their own litigation." This approach, they contend, undermines the universal principle that justice should not only be done but should also be seen to be done.

The advocates further asserted that the amendment demonstrates how parliamentarians have overstepped their bounds by exerting influence over the judiciary, particularly through the formation of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, Dawn reported.

They expressed concern that the executive's introduction of the amendment has effectively "stamped down the court" and permitted litigants to evaluate judges' performance, potentially coercing future benches and compromising judicial independence.

The bench recognised the importance of the issues raised, stating, "Points raised require consideration. Since some of the articles through a recent amendment via the 26th Amendment of the Constitution have been challenged, therefore, it requires a notice to the attorney general for Pakistan as well in terms of Order XXVII-A CPC."

ble of reaching the United States. Since 2022, North Korea has sharply increased the pace of its weapons tests to expand its arsenal of nuclear-capable missiles targeting South Korea and the United States.

Kim Yong-hyun. South Korea said Wednesday that North Korea has sent more than 11,000 troops to Russia and that more than 3,000 of them have been moved close to battlefields in Western Russia.



DIWALI AT 10 DOWNING STREET



Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Keir Starmer celebrates the Diwali festival, in London on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

US's Austin, Israel's Gallant discuss 'regional de-escalation'

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin recently spoke with Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant to explore opportunities for de-escalation amidst rising Middle East tensions.

Their conversation highlighted the US' support for Israel's security, particularly in the face of threats from Iran and Iranian proxies.

Sharing a post on X, Austin wrote, "I spoke with Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant today to discuss opportunities for regional de-escalation. I reaffirmed that the United States remains fully prepared to defend US personnel, Israel, and partners across the region against threats from Iran and Iran-backed proxies."

Austin further reiterated US' commitment to achieving a peaceful resolution in Lebanon, ensuring the safe return of both Lebanese and Israeli civilians to their homes. "I reiterated US commitment to a diplomat-

ic arrangement in Lebanon that allows both Lebanese and Israeli civilians to return safely to their homes on both sides of the border. I also reviewed steps Israel is taking and should continue to advance to improve the dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza, and prospects for a hostage release and ceasefire deal," the post further said. Notably, Hezbollah's rocket attacks in northern Israel have resulted in the loss of seven lives in agricultural fields near Metula and Haifa, marking one of the deadliest days for Israeli civilians in months, Times of Israel reported.

According to the authorities, tragedy struck near the border town of Metula on Thursday morning when a rocket fired from Lebanon slammed into an apple orchard, claiming the lives of five people. Hours later, two more people were killed while in an olive grove outside the Haifa suburb of Kiryat Ata, as Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets at the area, Times of Israel reported.



US polls: Harris and Trump in tight contest in Georgia, North Carolina

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

With just a few days to go for the United States elections, a staggering 61.0 million Americans have already made their voices heard by casting their ballots in the November election.

Notably, voters have cast their ballots either by mail or through early in-person voting for the presidential elections between Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat and former President Donald Trump, a Republican.

Meanwhile, according to new CNN polls conducted by SSRS, the presidential race is heating up in Georgia and North Carolina, with the latest polls show-



ing a neck-and-neck contest between Harris and Trump.

Likely voters in Georgia divide 48 per cent for Trump to 47 per cent for Harris, and in North Carolina, Harris stands at 48 per cent to Trump's 47 per cent, CNN

reported. These narrow margins are within the poll's margin of error, indicating no clear frontrunner in either state.

It is interesting to note that North Carolina, which supported former President

Over 150 die as Spain grapples with flood after storm

AGENCIES
MADRID

A devastating storm that hit Spain on Tuesday has resulted in a mounting death toll of more than 150.

Spain's deadly storm has claimed 155 lives, with Valencia experiencing its heaviest rainfall in 28 years. Residents were trapped in basements and lower floors.

The country's eastern and southern regions often see autumn rain, but this year's downpour was unprecedented. Most of the deaths occurred in Valencia, which



is located along the Mediterranean coast and is home to more than five million people, CNN reported.

Train services between Madrid and Valencia have



been suspended, along with other public services in affected regions. Schools, museums, and public libraries in Valencia were closed on Thursday.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez pledged that his government would do all it could to help flood victims, and urged people to remain vigilant.

Sharing a post on X, he said, "The DANA continues. Please heed the recommendations of the emergency services. Right now, the most important thing is to safeguard everyone's lives."

He added, "The Government of Spain is with the victims and their families. This will be the case for as long as necessary. With all possible resources and means, for reconstruction and the return to normality. The sooner the better." The Spanish government

has also declared three days of official mourning for the victims, starting Thursday.

Notably, the torrential rain was likely caused by what Spanish meteorologists call a "gota fria," or cold drop or DANA, which refers to a pool of cooler air high in the atmosphere that can separate from the jet stream, causing it to move slowly and often lead to high-impact rainfall. This phenomenon is most common in autumn, according to CNN.

HARRIS SLAMS TRUMP'S REMARKS ON WOMEN

AGENCIES
ARIZONA

Vice President Kamala Harris strongly criticised former President Donald Trump for his remarks on women, stating that Trump doesn't believe women should have the autonomy to make decisions about their own bodies. Harris further emphasised that Trump disregards women's freedom and intelligence to make decisions in their best interest.

Notably, Trump had said during a campaign in Wisconsin that he would "protect" women. "I want to protect the people. I want to protect the women of our country. I want to protect women... I'm going to do it



whether the women like it or not." The remarks by Harris came while addressing a rally in Phoenix, Arizona.

Sharing a post on X, Harris wrote, "Did you hear what Donald Trump said yesterday? That he will do what he wants, whether the women like it or not."

Addressing the rally, Harris spoke about Roe v. Wade and said, "And remember

how we got here. Donald Trump hand selected three members of the US Supreme Court with the intention that they would undo the protections of Roe v. Wade and they did as he intended. Now in America, one in three women lives in a state with the Trump abortion ban... And Donald Trump is not done. Did everyone hear what he said

yesterday? That he will do what he wants whether the women like it or not."

She added, "He does not believe that women should have agency and authority to make decisions about their own bodies. This is the same man who said that women should be punished for their choices. He simply does not respect the freedom of women or the intelligence of women to know what's in their own best interest and make decisions accordingly but we trust women." The Vice President sounded alarm on Trump's potential policies if he's elected, stating that he would ban abortion, restrict access to birth control, put IVF treatments at risk, and even force states to monitor women's pregnancies.

China's silence is striking: Zelenskyy on North Korea troops deployment in Russia

AGENCIES
KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy issued a warning regarding North Korea's involvement in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and said that North Korean troops have not yet engaged in combat and emphasised that "this is a matter of days, not months," before they are drawn into battle.

Zelenskyy also questioned China's silence on the issue, highlighting that as a regional security guarantor, China's "silence is striking."

Sharing a post on X, Zelenskyy wrote, "I gave an interview to South Korea's KBS, stressing North Korea's of-



ficial role in this war. It's not just weapons or workers in Russian factories--North Korean soldiers are in Kursk, our occupied territories, preparing to fight Ukraine. This is a war of two countries against one." Zelenskyy strongly condemned Russia's decision to involve North Korean troops in the ongoing war against Ukraine. He emphasised that Russia has openly partnered with North Korea, acquiring approximately 3.5 million artillery shells.

INDIA-CHINA DISENGAGEMENT; NORTH KOREAN SOLDIERS IN RUSSIA

After days of regional and international summits, the world politics returns to its usual this week. This week remained steady in terms of developments and events. This week, India and China adhered to the previously established timeline, successfully completing the disengagement process in the Depsang and Demchok areas of Eastern Ladakh, with patrolling set to commence shortly. According to sources from the Indian Army, the verification process is currently underway, and the specifics of the patrolling operations will be determined by the ground commanders. In a statement made in Kolkata shortly thereafter, Chinese Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, informed that the two nations have achieved "many important understandings." On the other hand, the US administra-

tion reported this week that approximately 8,000 North Korean soldiers are currently stationed in Russia near the border with Ukraine, preparing to assist the Kremlin in its military operations against Ukrainian forces in the imminent future.

The significant meeting that took place between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the recent BRICS summit in Russia, resulted in positive developments between the two nations. Last week, India declared that an agreement had been established regarding patrolling in the disputed regions of Depsang and Demchok, with troops set to revert to their pre-2020 stand-off positions. This disengagement process encompasses the removal of existing structures and the restoration of the land to its original state

prior to the conflict.

position. This signifies the

WORLD RECAP

ANSHU JOSHI



A significant military buildup occurred on both sides, prompting discussions at the military level aimed at resolving the ongoing standoff. In September 2022, troops from India and China withdrew from the disputed Gogra-Hot Springs region in Ladakh, reverting to their positions prior to April 2020. Following the announcement of a new patrolling agreement by Indian government on October 21, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed the details regarding the agreement between the two nations. He stated, "We have reached an agreement on patrolling, and we have returned to the 2020

completion of disengagement with China... There were areas where, for various reasons post-2020, we had blocked each other. We have now established an understanding that will facilitate patrolling as it was conducted until 2020." Subsequently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on October 23 during the BRICS summit in Russia, marking their first bilateral discussion since 2019, where both leaders expressed their support for the agreement. PM Modi emphasized the importance of prioritizing peace and stability along the border. Hope China

further understands the significance of peace and stability in the region.

On the other hand, the US administration reported this week that approximately 8,000 North Korean soldiers are currently stationed in Russia near the border with Ukraine, preparing to assist the Kremlin in its military operations against Ukrainian forces in the imminent future. This figure represents a significant increase from the previous day, when Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin indicated that only a portion of these troops had been observed moving toward the border in the Kursk region, an area where Russian forces have faced challenges in countering Ukrainian advances. This development suggests that the majority of North Korean troops, which US and al-

lied intelligence estimates at around 10,000, are now positioned at the Ukrainian border. However, South Korean and allied assessments have raised this number to approximately 11,000.

According to the US officials, Russia has been engaged in training North Korean military personnel in various areas, including artillery, drone operations, and fundamental infantry tactics such as trench clearing. This suggests a clear intention to deploy these troops in frontline engagements. The strengthening of ties between North Korea and Russia has sparked global apprehension regarding the potential escalation of the conflict in Ukraine and the nature of military assistance that Russia might provide in return. This issue has emerged as a significant point of discussion during the recent meetings between

US and South Korean leaders in Washington, raising alarms that the involvement of North Korean soldiers could further destabilize the Asia-Pacific region and extend Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine.

Alarmed by this news, South Korean government has also expressed its strong condemnation of the troop deployment, urging for an immediate withdrawal. South Korean foreign minister had emphasized this week that North Korea's aggressive behaviour poses a threat not only to the European continent but also to the Korean Peninsula, asserting that Seoul is prepared to implement necessary measures in response. Meanwhile, the US officials have indicated that discussions are ongoing with South Korea and European allies regarding future actions, highlighting that an

announcement regarding additional military support for Ukraine is forthcoming.

Despite various multilateral platforms and efforts to engage the nations for collaborations and cooperations, nations keep fighting to gain more power. Sometimes they fight alone, sometimes they club, at times they bandwagon all depending on the situation and their priorities. All they need to remember is that this maze of global politics is very complex, and does not spare anyone. They should focus on development, power would follow. Also, Destruction could threaten an enemy for some time, but it cannot earn you glory at the end of the day. True victory, or for that matter power, lies in peace, and we can only hope the leaders realise this soon.

The author is Professor, School of International Studies, JNU

REVIEW: BHOOL BHULAIYAA 3 *****

BHOOL BHULAIYAA 3



PRAVEEN NAGDA

Comedy and horror can go hand in hand in Indian cinema has been proven once again by the super engaging and entertaining sequel of Bhool Bhulaiyaa, in its 3rd edition. A true entertainer and a fun to watch with the family, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 keeps you hooked to the seat throughout the film. The film doesn't drag for a moment at any point in time and keeps presenting many surprise elements as it progresses.

Anees Bazmee directed Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 brings back Vidya Balan from its first prequel who makes her strong presence felt through the film as Manjulika. Kartik Aaryan as Rooh Baba and her lady love Tripti Dimri as Meera, a royal lineage, both enjoy an excellent screen chemistry.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, this time will give you a taste of Bengal from the attire

to dance, and dialogues to diction. Ami Je Tomar... a powerful classical performance of Vidya Balan with Madhuri Dixit in the film will make you hold your breath stronger, and as good as Hukkush Phukkush by Kartik, Tripti and the rest of the gang.

Rooh Baba (Kartik Aaryan) is back to his conning tricks but he himself is now tricked and trapped into the mysterious world of Manjulika when Meera (Tripti Dimri) convinces her to pose as an incarnation of a prince dating back to 200 years. Descendents of the erstwhile King are living in abject poverty as their palace is haunted with the ghost of Manjulika, who is locked into one of the rooms in the palace.

Praveen Nagda is Festival Director of KidzCINEMA and CultureCinema Film Festivals

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ANGELINA JOLIE TO RECEIVE PERFORMER TRIBUTE AT 2024 GOTHAM AWARDS FOR 'MARIA'

TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON

Actor Angelina Jolie is all set to be honoured with the Performer Tribute at the 2024 Gotham Awards on December 2 in New York City for her role as Maria Callas in Pablo Larrain's upcoming film 'Maria', according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The Gotham Film and Media Institute shared that the Oscar winner will be honoured for performance as the legendary opera singer Maria Callas.

"Like the legendary figure she portrays, Angelina Jolie transcends mere performance to craft something extraordinary. Her interpretation captures both Maria Callas' complexity as an artist and the cultural resonance that defines an icon," The Gotham executive director Jeffrey Sharp said in a statement, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Directed by Pablo Larrain, known for films like 'Jackie' and 'Spencer', 'Maria' portrays Callas' retreat to Paris following a glamorous yet tumultuous life in the public eye.



The film also features a talented cast, including Kodi Smit-McPhee, Alba Rohrwacher, Pierfrancesco Favino, and Valeria Golino.

Maria Callas, who passed away in Paris in 1977 at the age of 53, remains an enduring figure in the world of opera, and her story resonates deeply with audiences.

The film received a standing ovation during its premiere at the New York Film Festival in September, further heightening anticipation for its release.

At the festival, Jolie expressed her gratitude, stating, "I'm so happy to be here tonight. And I'm so happy to share this stage with these extremely talented, wonderful people and my dear friends."3

PICTURE PERFECT

Bollywood actress Dia Mirza poses for a picture during the Diwali celebrations, in Mumbai on Wednesday. (ANI)



VETERAN FASHION DESIGNER ROHIT BAL PASSES AWAY

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Legendary fashion designer Rohit Bal is no more. He breathed his last on November 1.

The news of his demise was shared on the official Instagram handle of Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI).

"We mourn the passing of Legendary designer Rohit Bal. He was a founding member of the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI). Known for his unique blend of traditional patterns with modern sensibilities, Bal's work redefined Indian fashion, and inspired generations. His legacy of artistry, and innovation along with forward thinking will live on in the fashion world. Rest in peace GUDDA," the post read.

In October 2024, Bal returned to runway almost a year after health scare. He showcased his collection



"Kaaynaat: A Bloom in the Universe" at the grand finale of Lakme Fashion Week.

Bal had not been keeping well for a long time now. In 2023, he was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Delhi due to heart ailments.

Weeks after he was admitted to the hospital, Bal penned a post thanking everyone for their get-well-soon wishes.

"Dear friends, family and supporters, I am deeply touched by your outpouring of love and prayers during my illness. Your support has been a beacon of hope and strength, helping me on my journey to recovery. As I heal, I am reminded of the resilience of our bond and our shared dreams.. and I assure

you, the show must go on. Your faith in our vision is the driving force behind its continued success. Thank you for being my light in these challenging times. Let's keep moving forward with hope and courage," the Srinagar-born designer posted. Bal was 63. His demise has definitely left a void in the Indian fashion industry.

Kajol wishes Aishwarya Rai on her birthday, calls her 'EVER-STUNNING'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is celebrating her birthday today, and the love from fans and fellow celebs has been pouring in since the morning.

Kajol took to her Instagram Stories on Friday to wish Aish calling her the "ever-stunning" beauty. Kajol shared a stunning picture of Aishwarya, along with a sweet message that read, "Happy Birthday to the ever-stunning @aishwaryaribachchan_arb Wishing you joy and love today and always!"

Joining the list of celebrities sending birthday love to Aishwarya, Rakul Preet Singh also shared her best wishes. She posted a beautiful picture of the 'Devdas' actress on her Instagram Stories, along with an adorable



b'day message: "Happy birthday, Aishwarya ma'am! Wishing you a wonderful day filled with joy and love. May this year bring you even more success and happiness!"

Aishwarya, who has ruled hearts since winning the Miss World title in 1994, has had a remarkable journey in the film industry. With hits like 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam', 'Dev-

das', and 'Jodhaa Akbar', the actress has become one of Bollywood's most admired actresses. Her beauty, both on and off-screen, has earned her a global fanbase.

Meanwhile, Aishwarya won the Best Actress in a Leading Role (Critics) award at the South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) 2024 in Dubai which took place in September.

The actress received the award for her outstanding performance in Mani Ratnam's film, Ponniyin Selvan 2.

Ponniyin Selvan 2, directed by Mani Ratnam, is the sequel to the 2022 film. Actor Kamal Haasan lent his voice to the film's narration. Oscar-winning music composer AR Rahman has composed the music for the film.

BRAIN PICKING



I feel Victoria may have a Secret, but you don't have to know it!



-KARAN JOHAR
(Indian film director)

ARJUN KAPOOR VISITS SIDDHIVINAYAK TEMPLE AS 'SINGHAM AGAIN' HITS THEATRES



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

As Rohit Shetty's most-awaited action thriller 'Singham Again' hits the theatres today, Arjun Kapoor visited the Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai to seek Lord Ganesha's blessings.

Donning a kurta pyjama, Arjun walked barefoot to the Siddhivinayak temple to seek divine blessings.

'Singham Again' is the third instalment of the super-hit franchise. 'Singham' was released in 2011, starring Kajal Aggarwal and Prakash Raj in lead roles, followed by 'Singham Returns' in 2014. Both projects were seen as Box Office hits.

The trailer of the film starring Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Deepika Padukone, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Ranveer Singh was released. The nearly five-minute-long star-studded trailer is packed with action scenes and iconic dialogues.

The intriguing trailer gives a glimpse of the ensemble

cast of 'Singham Again'. It somewhere also makes reference to Ramayana and the characters are presented as modern interpretations for the audience.

In the trailer, Ajay Devgn is shown reprising his role as Bajirao Singham, facing off against Arjun Kapoor. He represents the modern Ram. The film intertwines themes of 'Good versus Evil'.

In the film, Kareena Kapoor plays Ajay's wife, Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar reprise their roles as Simmba and Sooryavanshi. A new addition to the Cop Universe is Deepika Padukone, who is introduced as 'Lady Singham'. Tiger Shroff also makes his entry into the team as ACP Satya Pattnaik.

'Singham Again' faces a box-office clash with Kartik Aaryan's 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'.

On the release of his film, Kartik also visited Siddhivinayak Temple to seek the blessings of Lord Ganesha.

SUSHMITA SEN PENS DOWN SWEET BIRTHDAY WISH FOR NIECE ZIANA



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Sushmita Sen penned down an adorable birthday wish for her niece Ziana and called her "God's choicest blessings" Taking to her Instagram handle, she shared a cute video with her in which the 'Aarya' actor can be seen playing with the kid and enjoying some sweet moments. She wrote in the caption, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY @ziana_asopa..An avalanche of kisses & God's choicest blessings always!! I love you uakijaan.... #buakijaan.... #duggadugga"

Ziana is the daughter of Sushmita's brother Rajeev Sen and TV actress

Charu Asopa. Meanwhile, Sushmita recently stole the spotlight at the Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI 2024, gracing the runway as the showstopper for designer Rashi Kapoor.

The former Miss Universe showcased her confidence and elegance in a breathtaking white ivory saree adorned with sequins and paired with a striking strapless blouse, embodying the essence of modern Indian fashion. On the professional front, Sushmita was last seen in the acclaimed series "Aarya," which received critical acclaim and an International Emmy nomination. The first part of the third season premiered in 2023, and the second half aired in February 2024.

STARLETS RING IN DIWALI



Sara Ali Khan and Ibrahim Ali Khan



Shradha Kapoor



Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani



Janhvi Kapoor

WHAT IS MINE – IS ME

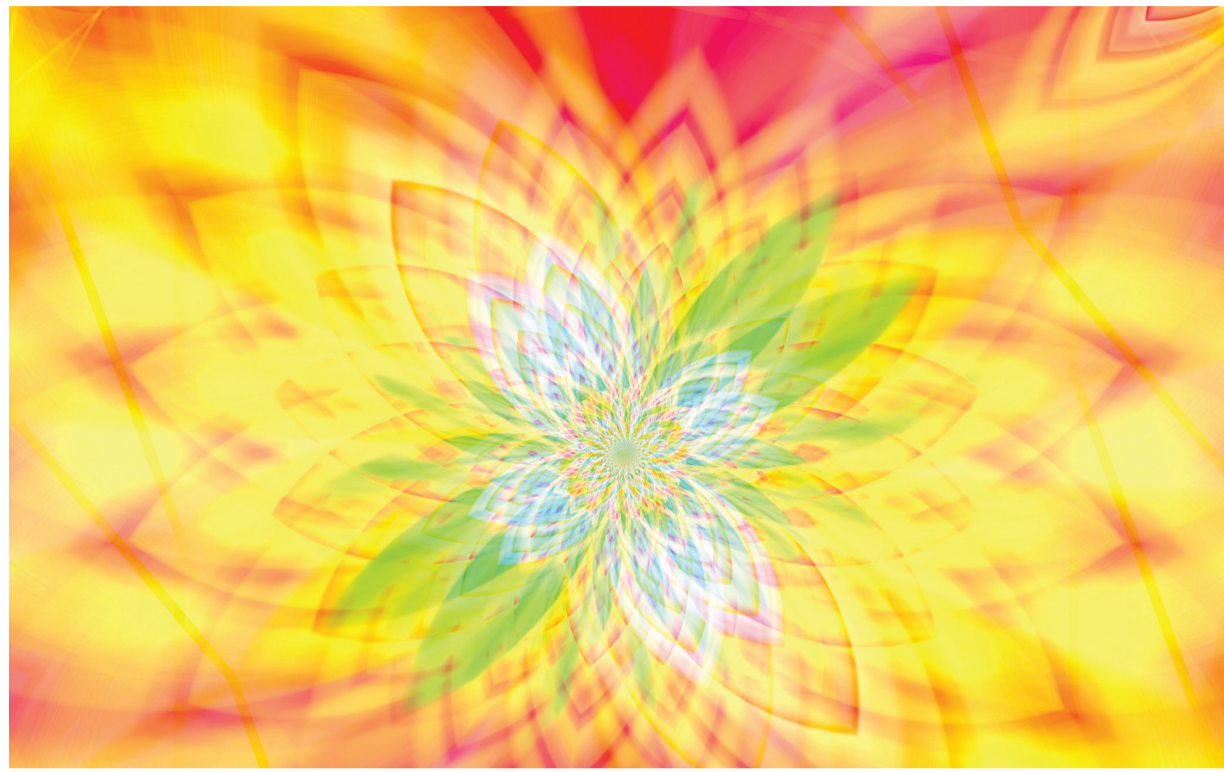


ARUNA LADVA

find where they 'belong'. Russel Belk argues that we develop a very intimate relationship with the things we buy, because what we buy extends the 'self', and almost becomes a part of us, to such an extent that whatever I own becomes 'me'. People who strongly identify with their car, for example, feel a sense of personal injury if the car is damaged or defaced.

How we see ourselves is a complex picture that we acquire as we go through life's experiences. We assume our social identity from membership in a specific social group, and that could be the culture we are born into, or something we sign up for, like a sports team. (*Henri Tajfel and John Turner*). We gain our sense of self from the profession we have and the clubs we belong to. In modern day parlance, we hear people say that they are looking for 'their tribe', to

How many times a day do we say something equivalent to '...that's mine!' – a particular chair, a parking space, a fountain pen, the car? We need to spend a little time to contemplate this, because it does not seem right to base a sense of self on anything that is temporal and temporary, because we are eternal. The possessions we have, the money we earn, the children in our care, are all given to us in trust; to either care for and nurture, or to put to greater use in the service of human-



My virtues are truly mine – they cannot be taken away from me, and they do not diminish with use.

ity. So, what is truly mine? The virtues are truly mine. Inside we all have access to peace, love, kindness, mercy, honesty, courage, wisdom, generosity, and these cannot be taken away from us. Each one of us comes with a special particular virtue along with the others. Each of us will excel in one bright light.

It is up to us to understand what that one special shining virtue is, and to use it for the benefit of others.

Virtue does not diminish. Love, for example, is not something that finishes the more you use it. The more you use it the more it multiplies. We need to add virtue to every action. A task fulfilled with dullness and a stodgy sense of duty only calls attention to ourselves and pity from others. The same task done with lightness and happiness will also be noticed by others, but on seeing that happiness they will feel inspired to emulate that. We can apply courage, enhance our wisdom, build inner strength, create willpower, aspire to greater learning, and all of this is everlasting – once learnt, these things cannot be unlearnt – it is there in the soul.

The basis of all of this is thought. I am my thoughts; they are what is truly mine.

Everything depends on how I think. Meditation is based on elevated thoughts. Meditation and elevated thought are the foundation of my attitude. Attitude governs feelings – so, as is my attitude so will be my feelings towards the self and towards others. A 'clean' attitude comes from having positive feelings and loving good wishes for everyone who comes my way. Our actions are based on thoughts and attitude, and our actions create our destiny. It is all in our hands.

If I can truly take responsibility for my thoughts, nothing and no one will ever be a problem again. Managing and creating the most elevated thoughts will all come back to me – then I will really see who I am and what is truly mine.

Aruna Ladva is an author and Rajyoga meditation teacher based at the Global Retreat Centre, Oxford, UK.

Balancing values and interests



B.K. ATAM PRAKASH

Does the end justify the means? This idea suggests that if the outcome of an action is good, then the methods used to achieve it are acceptable.

The primary goal of any action is often to achieve a beneficial outcome. If the result significantly improves well-being or reduces suffering, the means used to achieve it may be considered justified. Moreover, situations can be complex, and rigid moral rules may not

always lead to the best outcomes. Justifying the means allows for adaptability in ethical decision-making based on context. Historical instances suggest that actions deemed improper at the time led to positive changes or advancements in society. For example, civil disobedience in the face of unjust laws can be seen as justified when it leads to greater justice.

In many fields, such as politics or emergency response, tough decisions often need to be made quickly, and focusing on the end goal can lead to necessary actions that might otherwise be viewed as unacceptable. At the same time, a flexible approach to ethics can encourage people to compromise their principles, leading to justifications for harmful or unjust actions. When harmful actions are routinely justified by posi-



Are our choices guided by values or narrow self-interest?

itive outcomes, it can normalise manipulation, deceit, or violence as acceptable in various contexts, from personal relationships to politics. This mindset can create a slippery slope where increasingly dubious actions

are rationalised because of the perceived eventual good, leading to a gradual erosion of ethical standards. Moreover, those harmed by the improper means may be overlooked or marginalized, as the focus shifts solely to the ends, disregarding

the impact on individuals or groups. When people come to believe that others will do anything to achieve their goals, it erodes trust in relationships, institutions, and society as a whole. The prioritising of immediate results over long-term con-

sequences may not only make us short-sighted, but also undermine the ends we seek to achieve.

The legitimacy of any action is decided by the intention behind it. Are we being pragmatic or opportunistic? Sensible or selfish? We may be doing something in our best interests, but have we considered the wider ramifications? Will my action benefit me alone or everyone else as well? Am I seeking to gain an advantage at the expense of others?

Ultimately, we have to check if our choices are guided by values or narrow self-interest. Once we are clear about this, we can pragmatically balance ends and means with ethical considerations to achieve just outcomes.

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

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The greatest gift I can give another person is simply to include them. Although I have preferences for who I spend time with, I can include others in simple ways throughout the day. I can ask someone about their well-being, offer to bring something back from the coffee shop or simply share a nod or a smile. Inclusion has the power to awaken a sense of belonging and well-being in others. Today let me give the gift of inclusion.

Kindness - the key to social unity and personal well-being



JIM RYAN

The disruption to social unity and the whittling away of a personal sense of well-being can be greatly resolved if we adopt an attitude of kindness. Kindness is like the missing digit of a secret code of a magic formula that, when discovered, will resolve breakdowns, break-ups and disintegration in all attempts at cooperative working.

Kindness is a virtue, that when divinised with spirituality, protects us from the machine gun fire of personal criticism and rejection. We now see with eyes of cooperative softness and with a willingness to align and accept, enabling us to appreciate another's attitude and perspective, so embracing their positive intention, ideas, and contribution.

The attribute of kindness, especially when we are not

in agreement or are seeing and thinking differently from another, shields us from the arrogance of our own opinions and enables us to stay positively connected. Spirituality helps us to adopt such positive, kind expressions as: 'I like what you said', 'I can see your point of view', 'I appreciate.

is a crucial factor in our personal spiritual involvement. We bring this quality and awareness to the forefront through meditation. Kindness is an innate part of spiritual benevolence, an intrinsic element of one of the soul's major qualities – love. Kindness is an expression of love, and is expressed

of love - and this is the driving force of the universe. Our spiritual growth is perceived and experienced to the extent that we allow love and kindness to manifest and be part of our natural nature and are able to respond to all people and all situations in a state of love and kindness.



The attribute of kindness shields us from the arrogance of our own opinions.

I agree. I accept.' Hearing such appreciative music of kindness makes us feel valued and accepted. This enhancement of self-worth

in our thinking, language, and activity, which creates a commonality of spirituality. Human beings, at their height of realisation, are full

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Making our contribution to world peace



DEBORAH CANIVET

At this time, across the whole world, souls are thirsty for one drop of peace and happiness. The world needs peace, love, and unity more than ever before. Everyone is asking for peace. They say there should be peace, but no one knows how to make that happen. No matter how much they have tried, they have been unable to establish universal peace. Who is it who can establish peace? The first question to ask the self is 'who made me peaceless?'

Those who are peaceless, experience sorrow or loss. The reason for peacelessness is negativity, ego-driven actions, and thoughts of jealousy, hatred, anger and so on. Those who are peaceless cause distress to others. The greatest virtue of all is peace. By receiving one drop of peace and happiness, a soul can become renewed. If we want peace across the world, we must become free from

negativity. Look with love on others, refrain from criticism and being judgmental, give comfort to others with our own peace of mind, and become one who helps to establish peace.

To remain peaceful, we can establish a connection with the Supreme Being, God, a Sentient Being full of peace. Some souls are able to remain peaceful and they are then able to teach others how to stay peaceful. Others spread peacelessness, and remain peaceless. They make others peaceless because they do not understand the meaning or true value of peace.

Anger creates negative, peaceless energy for both the sender and receiver. Whenever there are feelings of anger or I have to face an angry person, I can stop and remember who I am. I am an eternal being of light, full of peace, and my presence and purpose is to spread peace to others. It is possible with this one thought to become peaceful in a second, because it is one of the original qualities of I, the soul.

Souls who have the power of spirituality constantly give others feelings of peace through their eyes. Spirituality is revealed through the eyes. A spiritual smile gives others the experience of happiness.

Spiritual words enable you and others to experience



It is only when we remain peaceful that others can attain peace.

happiness and peace. One spiritual word becomes the basis for many souls to move forward in their lives. One who speaks spiritual words gives blessings.

We can learn to concentrate our mind whenever we want, however we want, for as long we want. We can give and receive good wishes with our thoughts, words, deeds, relationships, and connections. We can give powerful vibrations of peace and support. With the thoughts of our mind and with our awareness of being the embodiment of peace, we can spread rays of peace everywhere, and give souls a drop of peace and power.

It is only when we remain peaceful that others can attain peace. We can become a 'peace magnet'. When we

fill ourselves with thoughts of peace and good wishes for all, even the most peaceless souls from far away will be attracted.

Human beings make a lot of effort to find peace and they even receive prizes. In fact, there is no question of running around to find peace. We simply have to stabilise ourselves in the awareness of being a peaceful soul. When we stabilize ourselves in thoughts of peace and good wishes for all, there will be peace.

When we keep the fragrant incense of peace constantly ignited, then the atmosphere of peacelessness will finish. *Deborah Canivet has retired from a career in government and is a student of Rajyoga at the Halifax Centre in Nova Scotia, Canada.*

AWAKEN THE LIGHT WITHIN, THIS DIWALI

WOMEN WISE



NAMRATA KOHLI

Happy Diwali. This festival of lights I will not say light the world. Or burn like a candle and keep spreading goodness etc etc. Instead, I will just say awaken the light within. You cannot pour from an empty cup. Nourish and nurture yourself.

Self-care is not selfish; it's essential. By ensuring your own cup is full, you can better navigate responsibilities and offer your best to others. Societal expectations often place a high value on nurturing others. But I feel women must attend to their own well-being first, to effectively support their families, careers and communities.

Take charge to recharge yourselves--- emotionally, mentally, and physically. I have seen so many housewives relegating and sulking in the shadows of self-doubt, low self-esteem, self-deprivation; often guilty to ask for either time or money for their own needs and desires, be it shopping, beauty care, or even meeting their kith and kin. We cannot hopelessly romanticize burnout and self-sacrifice,

because that simply comes at the expense of one's own well-being.

"There is no point if you love her but don't respect her...or you respect her but don't empower her," loved this line from the feisty feminist I interviewed recently Javed Akhtar. And he added this beautiful line - "Love, Respect, Empowerment - all are needed if you really care about a woman... patriarchy makes her Superhuman .. just treat her as human."

This reference of being human-superhuman needs to be squarely addressed and amplified. We all hype the transformative powers of the divine feminine. Or women as the one who burn like a candle and glorify the sacrifice part of a woman's life. But that is the power of every human- why just women. Calling her devi is a trap of patriarchy.

Take a look at how we culturally place our women - either as devil or divine with rarely anything in between. But life is not black and white and surely there are no flat characters but round and complex ones, always much like life itself.

It's the festive season and the feminine force is worshipped. Diwali starts with invoking blessings of Goddess Lakshmi. Before that, Durga and Kali in Dussehra and Diwali. Often, we hear people say- women are *avatars of Devis*. However, I will say something else- treating someone as divine takes away the right and the liberty to make mistakes. We are humans after all. Just



treat us like that. Yes, we have a side that is nurturing and protective but equally we need to be nurtured and need to be protected. Yes, we have the ability to make you feel like the world's most wanted and loved person, but equally we have a need to be cherished. Yes, we are called the one who binds the family but first we need to be bound to our inner self. Only when the hearts are happy can we spread happiness.

The burn like a candle metaphor is often presented as a symbol of selflessness and dedication, but it also perpetuates the idea that women are expected to deplete themselves for their families, careers, or communities. Studies show

that women disproportionately bear the mental load of caregiving and often delay personal health needs due to family or work demands. Over time, this approach can lead to chronic stress, health problems. Rather than idealizing sacrifice, women need to prioritize balance, fulfillment, and self-preservation.

So, what is self-care- it means making time for rest. Making time for hobbies and cultivating passions. If you love painting, indulge in an hour of splashing colours. Make time for fitness. Spend time with girlfriends. Ensure you meet your parents and siblings as much as you can. All this will certainly replenish your energy, resulting in greater resilience and productivity.

It's okay—and necessary—to say No to additional responsibilities when overwhelmed. So this Diwali, don't burn like a candle. Instead, awaken the light within. Ignite your passions. Fire your spirits. Look inwards and shine. Live it up, women like there is no tomorrow.

ROLE OF GUT IN FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



DR. SHAILLY SHARMA

The gut microbiome is a complex community of microorganisms residing in our digestive tract and it plays a crucial role in regulating hormones within the body. It is composed of trillions of microorganisms that reside inside the gastrointestinal tract and not only help in metabolizing hormones but also influence their production, thereby affecting overall health and well-being.

The gut plays a key role in digestion, metabolism and immune function.

The intricate connection between gut health and hormonal balance plays a pivotal role in women's reproductive systems. The gut microbiome influences the body's hormonal milieu, including the regulation of estrogen, a key reproductive hormone. Estrogen is crucial for regulating the menstrual cycle and maintaining pregnancy. Gut bacteria produce enzymes called beta-glucuronidase which helps in modulating estrogen levels; affecting fertility and menstrual regularity. Additionally, the gut is a major site of thyroid hormone activation, converting T4 to T3, and compromised gut health can lead to hypothyroidism. The immune system, which

houses a significant portion of its cells in the gut, can be a source of inflammation that leads to issues like hypothalamic pituitary adrenal dysfunction or HPA-D, low progesterone, blood sugar dysregulation, and other hormone-related problems. Another hormone produced by gut is the serotonin which is commonly called as feel good hormones. This plays a vital role in regulating mood,

balances can also lead to stress.

Nutrition also plays a crucial role in maintaining gut health and, consequently, hormonal balance. Key nutrients such as folic acid, vitamin B12, Zinc and iron are essential for reproductive health, and a healthy gut microbiome is necessary for optimal nutrient absorption and utilization. Diets rich in fiber like fruits, vegetables, etc. Support the

menstrual symptoms.

Stress management is essential for good menstrual and reproductive health relaxation techniques like yoga meditation and deep breathing can be helpful. Regular physical activity also reduces stress and menstrual symptoms. Social support peer groups and family friends and other support groups can also help in stress management.



appetite and sleep. Imbalance in serotonin levels can lead to mood disorder, anxiety and depression.

Moreover, the gut microbiome interacts with the endocrine system to modulate the stress response. Chronic Stress produces hormones like cortisol which can disrupt the menstrual cycle and impair reproductive health.

A healthy gut can mitigate these effects by supporting a balanced hormonal response to stress. Additionally, gut health impacts the immune system, which, when dysregulated, can lead to conditions like endometriosis, a common cause of infertility. Conversely menstrual distur-

growth of beneficial gut bacteria like lactobacillus, which aid in the proper metabolism of hormones. Foods such as curd, yogurt and other fermented foods are good source of probiotics which helps in maintaining balanced gut flora. Conversely, diets high in processed foods can disrupt the gut flora and lead to hormonal imbalances.

The gut flora also have implications for menstrual health, as imbalances in gut bacteria can contribute to menstrual irregularities and conditions such as dysmenorrhea (painful periods). Supporting a healthy gut microbiome through diet and lifestyle choices may help alleviate

In conclusion, maintaining gut health is essential for hormonal equilibrium and optimal reproductive function in women. It involves a multifaceted approach that includes a balanced diet, stress management, and possibly probiotics to support a healthy gut. As research continues to unravel the complexities of the gut-hormone-reproduction axis, it becomes increasingly clear that the gut's role is an important but often overlooked in women's reproductive health.

Dr. Shailly Sharma is a Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician at Cloudnine Hospital.

Pneumonia during pregnancy: Causes, treatment approaches, and crucial precautions for maternal well-being



DR. ARCHANA DHAWAN BAJAJ

Pneumonia during pregnancy is the common cause of serious non-obstetrical infections. While it can occur at any time, having pneumonia in the third trimester is linked to poorer outcomes.

Although pregnant women are not more likely to get pneumonia than nonpregnant women, it can cause increased morbidity and death due to pregnancy-related physiologic changes. These include changes in immunity

to infections and a reduction in lung capacity.

Pneumonia symptoms can range from minor to life-threatening and may include coughing with mucus, fever, sweating, and chills.

In addition, patients may also have shortness of breath, chest discomfort, exhaustion, lack of appetite, nausea, and headaches. Pregnant women may visit their healthcare provider right away if they have any of these symptoms. Early diagnosis and treatment is key to reducing the risk of the disease in expecting women.

According to Dr. Archana Dhawan Bajaj, Gynecologist, Obstetrician and IVF Expert, Nurture IVF Clinic, New Delhi, "Pneumonia is a serious condition that, if not addressed in a timely manner, it can lead to catastrophic consequences for both the

mother and the infant.

Maternal pneumonia can lower the body's oxygen levels because the lungs are unable to capture and deliver enough oxygen to the rest of the body. This implies that less oxygen can get into the uterus to nourish the fetus.

The initial infection can spread from the lungs to other regions of the body, including the bloodstream.

In extreme circumstances, pneumonia during pregnancy can lead to early birth, low birth weight, miscarriage, and respiratory failure.

RISK FACTORS

Pregnant women who spend extended amounts of time in hospitals may be at a higher risk for pneumonia

Being pregnant increases a woman's chance of having pneumonia because the body devotes a lot of energy



to nourishing the baby in the womb, weakening her immune system. The expanding baby and uterus also lower a woman's lung capacity, putting additional strain on lung function.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

The treatment of pneumonia depends on its type and cause of the condition.

The majority of instances of bacterial pneumonia are treatable with oral antibiotics. Even if you start to feel better, complete your antibiotic course. Failure to do so may prevent the infection from clearing up, making subsequent treatment more difficult.

Antibiotics do not treat viruses. In certain circumstances, your doctor may prescribe an antiviral medication. Many instances of

viral pneumonia, however, resolve themselves with at-home treatment.

Antifungal drugs are used to treat fungal pneumonia. You may need to take this medicine for many weeks to eliminate the infection.

Prevention for pneumonia remains same for pregnant women as that for the general population. However, pregnancy is a delicate time and therefore expecting mothers need to be more careful through the nine months.

They must make sure to follow good personal hygiene. It is important to maintain clean hands by washing them regularly with soap and water.

Stay healthy by consuming a well-balanced diet, engaging in regular exercise and getting enough sleep to boost your immune system."

Expressing identity through style: How women use fashion to define themselves

TDG NETWORK

For women, style is far more than a collection of clothing and accessories; it is a powerful form of self-expression that reflects individuality, values, and even moods. From cultural heritage to personal philosophies, the way a woman dresses can convey nuanced aspects of her identity. In an age where women navigate various social, professional, and personal realms, fashion serves as a versatile language that speaks to the world about who they are and what they represent.

One way women express identity through style is by embracing traditional or cultural elements in modern attire. Sarees paired with contemporary blouses, ethnic jewelry with western outfits, and handwoven fabrics allow women to honor their heritage while creating unique statements. This fusion approach showcases pride in cultural roots and reflects the adaptability of modern identity, especially in diverse societies where personal heritage plays a significant role in self-conception.

Professional attire, too, has become a realm of self-expression for women. Moving away from uniform, conventional business suits, women are introducing



bold colors, prints, and tailored designs to the workplace. This shift not only challenges outdated norms but also symbolizes empowerment and confidence in personal identity. A well-chosen blazer or a power dress can signify ambition and competence while still reflecting personal style. In corporate settings, where women once felt pressured to conform to a limited dress code, the freedom to experiment with workwear signifies a step towards individuality and equality.

Casual fashion has also become a canvas for self-expression, with women blending comfort, practicality, and style

in ways that reflect their lifestyles and values. The popularity of athleisure, eco-friendly brands, and minimalist trends reveals how fashion choices align with personal beliefs, like sustainability or simplicity. For instance, women who prioritize environmental awareness might choose ethically produced clothing, making a statement about their commitment to conscious living.

The impact of social media and evolving beauty standards has further expanded the possibilities of self-expression through style. With diverse body types, age, and cultural representations gaining visibility, women

feel encouraged to embrace their unique appearances. Fashion is now a space for inclusivity, where each individual has the freedom to experiment, regardless of age or size, reinforcing the idea that style should be accessible and personal.

In essence, fashion has become a medium through which women communicate their identities—celebrating individuality, diversity, and empowerment. In each outfit, accessory, or choice of color, there is a story that reflects a woman's journey, values, and aspirations. Through fashion, women claim their narrative and express to the world the many facets of who they are.

3RD TEST: INDIA BATTERS COLLAPSE AS NZ TAKE CONTROL ON DAY 1

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Indian batters collapsed on the first day of the third and final Test match at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday after brilliant performance from spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar.

At Stumps on Day 1, India are 86/4 with Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant unbeaten on the crease. The hosts still trail by 149 runs.

The third and final session of Day 1 of Mumbai Test resumed New Zealand's innings from 192/6, with Daryl Mitchell and Ish Sodhi unbeaten with scores of 53(96) and 1(7), respectively. Sodhi was the first one to fall in this session when the team score was 210. His wicket was taken by left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

Following Sodhi's departure, Matt Henry came out to bat in the middle along with Mitchell.

At the score of 210, the visitors lost another wicket as Henry was sent back to the pavilion without opening his account as he was cleaned up by Jadeja.

The Tom Latham-led side lost their ninth wicket at the score of 228 as Mitchell was sent back to the dressing room after playing a magnificent knock of 82 runs



which was laced with three fours and sixes each in his innings.

The Kiwis were bundled out at 235 in the 66th over of the day as Washington Sundar took the last wicket of Ajaz Patel who went back after scoring just seven runs for his side.

The pick of the bowlers for the Rohit Sharma-led side was Jadeja who snapped five wickets in his spell of 22 overs where he conceded 65 runs. This was his 14th five-wicket haul in the longest format of the game.

Four wickets were bagged by Sundar in his 18.4 overs where he gave away 81 runs in his spell.

One wicket was taken by right-arm seamer Akash Deep in the five overs he bowled in the innings.

In reply of Blackcaps 235, Openers Rohit Sharma and

Yashasvi Jaiswal came out to bat for the hosts. Both batters together put on a partnership of 25 runs before the skipper was dismissed by Henry after scoring 18 runs with the help of three fours.

The right-hand batter, Shubman Gill came to bat along with Jaiswal. Team India completed the 50-run mark on the first ball of the 14th over as Gill slammed a boundary on the bowling of Ajaz Patel.

In the 17th over, Jaiswal and Gill completed their 50-run partnership as Gill took a single on the bowling of right-arm off spinner Glenn Phillips.

In the next over, Jaiswal was sent back after playing an inning of 30 runs which included four boundaries in his innings on the bowling of Ajaz Patel.

The left-arm spinner took two wickets in two balls as he dismissed the night-watchman Mohammed Siraj

In the second session of the third and final Test, Will Young and Mitchell continued to trouble India with a barrage of sweep and reverse sweep shots. The session continued to pass on, with the hosts once again looking out for their wits and New Zealand looking to take a shot at the 300-run mark.

Going down on one knee, sweeping or using the reverse variation of the shot to find the boundary rope was a constant theme throughout the second session.

With hopes slowly fading away at Wankhede, Jadeja came in to change the course of the opening day by dwell-

ing on his experience.

The 45th over turned out to be the one where India got their reward for the patience that they had exhibited throughout the gruelling 87-run partnership.

On the second ball of the over, New Zealand's resistance finally gave away when Jadeja spun the ball away from Young to force out a healthy edge. India skipper Rohit Sharma made no mistake at the slip, which brought an end to Young's solid 71(138).

The puff of dust that arose whenever the ball landed on the pitch was an indicator of things beginning to change. Two balls later, Tom Blundell was left clueless in front of a ripper from Jadeja.

A flat trajectory and a puff of dust, when the ball landed, was enough to leave Blundell bamboozled and hit the off-stump with a remarkable turn.

Mitchell continued to lead the charge from the other end and went on to raise his bat for 50. Jadeja continued to haunt New Zealand by toying with their expectations of dealing with the spinning deliveries.

Glenn Phillips leaned forward to defend the delivery, but the ball kept skidding rapidly. Despite Phillips going forward to negate the threat, the ball found enough space to slip past and crash into the stumps.

Hong Kong Sixes: India lose to Pakistan by 6 wickets

TDG NETWORK
HONG KONG

India lost by six wickets to arch-rivals Pakistan in their opening match of the Hong Kong Sixes 2024 at the Tin Kwong Road Cricket Ground here on Friday. India scored 119 for two in their allotted six overs riding on Bharat Chipli's 53 off 16, who retired hurt. Captain Robin Uthappa also notched up 31 off eight deliveries.

But it was a total dominance from the Pakistan batters as they chased down the target with one over to spare. Asif Ali played a key role as his brisk knock of 55 off 14 balls laid the foundation for a comprehensive win.

Asif Ali retired after scoring a fifty and rest of the job was done by Muhammad Akhlaq (40 not out off 12) and Faheem Ashraf (22 not out off 5). PTI SSC

The opening match between hosts Hong Kong and South Africa proved highly entertaining, with both teams displaying aggressive batting. Hong Kong batted first, posting a formidable 92/0 in 6 overs, with Zeeshan Ali remaining unbeaten on 38 off 18 balls, while skipper Nizakat Khan smashed 45* off 18. South Africa responded in style, chasing down the target with 3 wickets in hand in just 4.4 overs.

Jacques Snyman scored 27 off 10 balls, and captain JJ Smuts contributed 21 off 9. Modiri Litheko added 12

off 4, while Evan Jones (20* off 5) and Aubrey Swanepoel (10* off 2) completed the chase. Benny Paras took two wickets for Hong Kong, with Ehsan Khan picking up one.

Captain JJ Smuts, named Player of the Match, expressed his satisfaction with the win, saying, "It's a perfect start for us, and we couldn't have asked for more. I hope we continue to play like this," as quoted in the Hong Kong Cricket press release.

Nepal stunned England in the day's second match, clinching a 6-wicket victory after chasing down a target of 98 in just 4.2 overs. Captain and wicketkeeper-batter Sundeep Jora led the charge with a blistering 50 off 12 balls before retiring. Opener Lokesh Bam (20* off 11) and Rashid Khan (21* off 5) saw Nepal home comfortably.

Earlier, England struggled as Alex Davies fell for a first-ball duck, but veterans Ravi Bopara and Samit Patel countered with a 60-run partnership. Bopara scored 49 off 12 balls, while Patel added 39 off 17, taking England to 97/6 in 5.5 overs. Pratih GC claimed three wickets for Nepal, with Narayan Joshi, Lokesh Bam, and Bibek Yadav each taking one.

In another high-scoring encounter, Pakistan edged past UAE with a 13-run win. Led by Faheem Ashraf, Pakistan posted 128/0 in 6 overs, with openers

Muhammad Akhlaq (52 off 15) and Asif Ali (50 off 14) both retiring after half-centuries. UAE's Muhammad Zuhair responded with a quickfire 53 off 14 balls, but Asif Ali's final over, yielding only 6 runs and taking two wickets, shifted the game in Pakistan's favour. Aamer Yamin also contributed two wickets.

Sri Lanka secured a comfortable 4-wicket win over Oman in the fourth match of the day. Oman posted 80/2 in 6 overs, with captain Vinayak Shukla retiring after scoring 50 off 18 balls. Dhananjaya Lakshan and Lahiru Madushanka each took a wicket for Sri Lanka, who chased down the target in 4.1 overs, led by Sandun Weerakkody's 28 off 7 balls.

Hong Kong redeemed themselves in the fifth match of the day, defeating New Zealand. The hosts scored a massive 127/4 in 6 overs, thanks to captain Nizakat Khan's 62 off 16 balls and Sahal Malvernkar's 51* off 20. Hong Kong's bowlers then restricted New Zealand to 100/4, sealing a 27-run victory.

Skipper Nizakat Khan praised his team for their composure and execution, saying, "I'm very thankful to the almighty for this victory. Very proud of the boys for holding their nerves. We executed our plans well and delivered in our second game," as quoted by the Hong Kong Cricket press release.

Dates, venues for Australia's Test tour to Sri Lanka in early 2025 unveiled

TDG NETWORK
MELBOURNE

Dates and venues for Sri Lanka's two-match Test series and a sole ODI against Australia have been revealed on Friday.

Sri Lanka will host Australia for two Tests, a part of the ongoing cycle of the World Test Championship, and a single ODI, which will help both teams bolster their preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

The first Test will begin on January 29 in Galle, and the second Test will kick off on February 6 at the same venue. Both teams will square off in the sole ODI on February 13, but the venue remains to be decided.

The two Tests could influence the fate of teams standing in contention to feature in the WTC final next year in London. Australia hold a strong position en route to the WTC final. The Baggy Greens currently sit in the second position with a point percentage of 62.5 per cent.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka continue to breathe down Sri Lanka's neck in the third spot with a point percentage of 55.56 per cent. The result of the series could shape the WTC final depending on how the other results unfold before the beginning of the series.

The last time Australia toured Sri Lanka, the Test series ended at 1-1, while Sri Lanka won the ODI contest 3-2 and Australia took the

T20I series 2-1.

Before Australia embark on a journey of the subcontinent, they will host the Asian Giants India for an engaging Border Gavaskar Trophy (BGT). The five-Test affair will begin on November 22 in Perth and will conclude in Sydney, with the fifth Test beginning on January 3.

Australia have failed to win the coveted series since 2014-15, and since then, India have exuded dominance over their bitter rival.

Coached by Gautam Gambhir, India have already announced their squad for the BGT series, while Australia are yet to reveal their cards with less than three weeks left before the first ball is bowled in Perth.

Ruben Amorim named as new Manchester United manager

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

Ruben Amorim was Friday named as the new manager of Manchester United, replacing the sacked Erik ten Hag.

The 39-year-old Portuguese coach, who won two Primeira Liga titles with Sporting Lisbon, has signed a deal until 2027 and will join the club on November 11.

"Manchester United is delighted to announce the appointment of Ruben Amorim as head coach of the men's first team, subject to work visa requirements," the club said on its website.

"He will join until June 2027 with a club option of an additional year, once he has fulfilled his obligations to his current club."



United described Amorim as "one of the most exciting and highly rated young coaches in European football".

"Highly decorated as both a player and coach, his titles include winning the Primeira Liga twice in Portugal with Sporting CP -- the first of which was the club's first title in 19 years," the club statement said.

Ruud van Nistelrooy will continue to take charge of the team until Amorim arrives at Old Trafford during the November international

break.

His first game in charge will be away at struggling Ipswich on November 24.

United sacked Ten Hag on Monday after a 2-1 defeat by West Ham left them languishing 14th in the Premier League, with just three wins from nine matches.

Amorim quickly emerged as the club's top target and Sporting issued a statement to the Lisbon stock exchange earlier this week confirming United were willing to meet his release clause of 10 million euros (\$11 million).

Amorim was peppered with questions about his prospective switch at his press conference ahead of Sporting's home league game against Estrela on Friday but he remained tight-lipped.

Agartala may become KKR's 2nd home ground next year

TDG NETWORK
AGARTALA

The under-construction international cricket stadium at Narsingarh in Tripura could become Kolkata Knight Riders' second home ground for the 2025 IPL season since the iconic Eden Garden in Kolkata is set for a massive makeover next year, a Tripura Cricket Association (TCA) official said on Friday. The construction at the international stadium at Narsingarh began way back in 2017 with an estimated cost of Rs. 185 crore but the stadium is not yet ready.

"IPL chairman Arun Kumar Dharmal recently visited the proposed international stadium at Narsingarh on the outskirts of the state capital. He said if

the stadium's is ready before February next year, it could be made second home ground of KKR or some other state will get the benefit," TCA secretary Subarta Dey told PTI.

"Since it is a golden chance to host IPL matches at the proposed stadium, we have summoned a reputed construction agency to expedite work and get it completed by February 2025.

"The TCA will review the construction work and if the agency fails to meet the deadline, we will terminate it and engage a new firm to complete the remaining work," he said.

The agency has so far completed 80 percent in the past seven years even as the deadline of the project was only 22 months.

India to compete in 16-team ITTF Mixed Team World Cup

TDG NETWORK
LAUSANNE

India will compete in the second edition of the ITTF Mixed Team World Cup for the Guoliang-Sorling Trophy along with 15 other teams. The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) on Friday unveiled the elite 16-team line-up for the tournament scheduled to be held in Chengdu, China from December 1-8. The hosts China are the defending champions.

The other 14 teams to compete are -- Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Sweden and the United States of America (USA).

The tournament will have a three-stage format, with Stage 1 consisting of 16 teams divided into four groups of four.

The highest-ranked sides

have been placed in different groups, whereas the remaining teams have been drawn two at a time in seeding order after a snake system. Every group will be competing in a complete round-robin format.

As for Stage 2, the top two sides from every Stage 1 group will advance and form a single eight-team group, competing in another round-robin format.

However, there will be a strategic variation, as the sides that have already faced each other in Stage 1 won't clash in this round, while their previous results will get carried forward.

In Stage 3, the top four teams after Stage 2's standings will make it to the knockout phase featuring the semi-finals along with the placement matches.

The semi-finals will be decided via ranking, with the first-placed team facing the fourth-placed side, while the second goes against the third.

Each team's journey terminates with either the final or the bronze medal contest.

"This comprehensive format, totalling 52 matches across all stages (24 in Stage 1, 24 in Stage 2, and 4 in Stage 3), guarantees that the eventual champions must demonstrate both consistency through the round-robin phases and excellence in the knockout stage," said ITTF in a release.

For the order of play, it will be -- Mixed doubles, Women's singles (player not playing mixed doubles), Men's singles (player not playing mixed doubles), Women's doubles vs Women's doubles or Men's doubles vs Men's doubles and Men's doubles vs Men's doubles or Women's doubles vs Women's doubles.

All individual fixtures will be played in the best-of-three games format, while the team matches end when a side emerges victorious in eight clashes.

India cancel intra-squad match net practice ahead of Border-Gavaskar Trophy

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India have decided to cancel a planned three-day intra-squad match with the 'A' side during the upcoming Test tour of Australia as the team management wants to focus on additional net practice to prepare for the marquee five-match showdown starting November 22 in Perth. India were scheduled to begin their tour of

Australia with a closed-door warm-up match against the Rituraj Gaikwad-led India A at the WACA in Perth from November 15 to 17. India A are currently in Australia for an unofficial Test series.

However, head coach Gautam Gambhir and some senior players want more time in the nets instead.

Rohit Sharma and his men will head to Australia after a shocking home series loss

to New Zealand. Vying for a third straight Test series victory in Australia, the tourists will face added pressure, as a place in the World Test Championship final is also at stake. It is understood that since the bounce of the WACA centre strip resembles that of the Perth Stadium track, all top order batters would prefer more time in the middle.

An intra squad match might not work in that sce-

nario as if a batter gets out cheaply, then he might not immediately get a chance to bat again on the centre strip.

This marks a change from India's last two tours of Australia when the side played practice games ahead of the main series.

In the lead-up to the 2018-19 series, the 'Men in Blue' played a four-day match against Cricket Australia XI. For the 2020-21 tour, they started the red-ball leg with

a three-day game against Australia A.

India A and the senior team played an intra-squad match in Johannesburg prior to the first Test against South Africa in Centurion on Boxing Day last year.

Despite the match, the Indian batting came short in the Test. It's not known whether the outcome of this experiment influenced their decision-making for the Australia series.

West Indies beat England by 8 wickets in rain-hit 1st ODI

TDG NETWORK
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Evin Lewis hit four times as many sixes as the entire England team in a commanding innings of 94 which led the West Indies to an eight-wicket win in the rain-affected first one-day international.

First-time captain Liam Livingstone hit two sixes in a top score of 48 in his team's under-par total of 209. That was England's best performance as it was bowled out in 45.1 overs on a tricky pitch

on which only Lewis flourished.

The left-handed Lewis hit eight sixes in his innings of only 69 balls but was out 13 runs before the West Indies reached their Duckworth-Lewis System revised total of 157 to lead the three-match ODI series.

No overs were lost when rain extended the interval between innings but the West Indies innings was reduced by 15 overs after a lengthy rain break after the 15th over.

They already were in command, thanks to Lewis. He had reached his half century from 46 balls before the rain came and the West Indies were 81-0, 48 runs ahead of the

Duckworth Lewis calculation though they had to face 20 overs for the result to count.

Lewis returned to the West Indies ODI lineup for the first time in almost



three years during their recent tour to Sri Lanka, scoring an unbeaten 102 in the third one-day international in Pallekele. That was his last innings before Thursday and he narrowly missed back-to-back centuries.

Lewis was the only batter to command tricky conditions at the Sir Viv Richards Stadium. During the England innings, deliveries from both the seamers and spinners tended to grip and hold up, making expansive stroke play difficult.