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## Cabinet okays scheme for easy student loans

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved a new scheme, PM Vidyalaxmi, targeting middle-class students who wish to get admission into higher educational institutions but face financial constraints.

Any student who secures an admission to higher education Institutions and wishes to avail education loans to pursue higher education in these institutions will be eligible to get the loan through the PM Vidyalaxmi scheme

"Such loans will be collateral-free and guarantor-free," Information Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

A maximum of one lakh students each year will be covered under the scheme.

"A big boost to making education more accessible.

### PM VIDYALAXMI SCHEME

- A maximum of one lakh students each year will be covered under the scheme.
- A student having annual family income up to Rs 8 lakh shall be eligible to get three per cent interest subsidy for education loans up to Rs 10 lakh.
- This is in addition to full interest subvention offered to students with up to Rs. 4.5 lakh annual family income
- Loan applications shall be processed for approval, monitoring and disbursement through the PM-Vidyalaxmi portal.
- The scheme will be applicable to quality higher education institutions

The Cabinet has approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to support youngsters with quality education. It is a significant step towards empowering the Yuva Shakti and building a brighter future for our nation," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X.

An outlay of Rs 3,600

crore has been approved for the scheme under which education loans will be facilitated to students securing admissions in top 860 QHEIs of the country based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). This will cover more than 22 lakh students every year.

## TRUMP SCRIPTS A HISTORIC COMEBACK, KAMALA HUMBLLED

Electoral votes — 277 to Trump and 224 to Harris

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump was Wednesday elected the US president for a second term in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history, four years after an election loss in 2020 that sparked a violent insurrection at the US Capitol.

The 78-year-old Republican leader, convicted of felony charges and awaiting sentencing in a hush-money case in New York, defeated his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in a bitterly fought election.

According to races called by the Associated Press up to 7 pm (IST), 277 electoral votes had gone to Trump and 224 to Harris.

Trump won the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

Trump, the oldest person in US history to be elected president, crossed the halfway 270 votes-mark in electoral college votes with victory in the battleground state of Wisconsin.

Addressing his supporters at West Palm Beach in Florida, Trump declared his victory in the presidential election, calling the mandate "unprecedented and powerful".

"Many people have told me that God spared my life for a reason," Trump said, referring to the two assassination attempts on his life during the election campaign this year.

Amid cheers of his jubilant supporters and his family by his side, Trump declared that this will be the "golden age" of America.

"This is a magnificent victory for the American people. This was a movement like nobody's ever seen before, and frankly, this was, I believe, the greatest political movement of all time. There's never been anything like this in this country, and maybe beyond," Trump said.

■ P4



'America First' was one of Donald Trump's major promises, while ending Russia's war against Ukraine and bringing peace to the Middle East were two of his other priorities.

## Cong dissolves PCC unit in Himachal

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday dissolved the entire Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) unit in Himachal Pradesh along with the district and block units with immediate effect.



The move is seen as part of the Congress' plan to restructure the Himachal unit of the party. There has been no change in the PCC ever since the Congress formed its government in the hill state.

Outgoing president of Himachal Pradesh Congress Pratibha Singh has already become a member of the Congress Working

■ P4

## SC raps UP govt for 2019 bulldozer action, orders Rs 25L compensation

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the Uttar Pradesh government for an "illegal" demolition in 2019 while issuing directions to all states and Union territories (UT) on the procedure to be followed during road widening and removal of encroachments.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also directed the UP government to pay Rs 25 lakh compensation to the man whose house was razed in 2019 for a road widening project.

"You can't come with bulldozers and demolish the constructions overnight. You don't give the family time to vacate. What about the household articles inside the house?" the bench asked the counsel representing the UP government.

Further, the apex court directed the UP chief secretary to conduct an



"You can't come with bulldozers and demolish the constructions overnight."

inquiry into the matter pertaining to a house in Maharajganj district and take suitable action.

The bench elaborated on the steps that a state or its instrumentality must undertake before taking action in pursuance to a road-widening project.

The top court accordingly asked the states to ascertain the existing

■ P4

## Cong's Haryana rejig: Rahul's close aide gets key post

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

In the aftermath of disappointing outcome in Haryana assembly elections, the Congress leadership has effected major changes at the organisational level by appointing senior leader Jitendra Baghel, known for his close association with Rahul Gandhi, as Deputy In-charge for Haryana.

This restructuring comes after Deepak Babaria, Congress's state in-charge, offered to resign, citing personal accountability for the defeat.

Baghel's appointment, however, remained under wraps for nearly 10 days before his participation in a Congress review meeting in Delhi. On Tuesday, Baghel joined an eight-member committee meeting in Delhi, which had been set up by Haryana Pradesh Congress President Chaudhary Udai Bhan to analyse the election loss.

■ DETAILS P2



## Govt to officials: Spurt in voice phishing, don't trust ID info

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A cyber security advisory has cautioned government officials against trusting the caller ID information that pops up while receiving a phone call, following a spurt in "vishing" attacks aimed at compromising confidential personal information and gaining unauthorised access to official systems.

"Attackers may impersonate trusted entities, such as senior government officials, law enforcement agencies, or technical support per-

■ P4

## J&K Assembly passes resolution seeking special status

AJAY JANDYAL  
JAMMU

In a dramatic session, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution urging the Union government to initiate talks with elected representatives to restore the special status of the erstwhile state. The resolution, introduced by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, emphasized the need to re-establish constitutional safeguards that were removed on August 5, 2019, in a move that altered J&K's status.

## Chaos in Assembly as BJP protests; NC claims victory

The resolution highlighted the Assembly's stance on safeguarding the region's unique identity, culture, and the rights of its people. "This legislative assembly reaffirms the importance of special status and constitutional guarantees, which protected the distinct identity and rights of Jammu and Kashmir," Choudhary stated, stressing the need for

■ P4

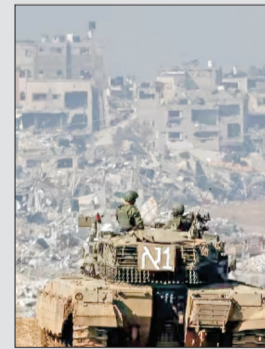
## Why Kamala lost?

She failed to address inflation and immigration - twin issues that opinion polls showed favoured Trump. Her loss underscores a profound shift in American politics.



## Middle-East conundrum

If his first term in the White House is any indication, President-elect Donald Trump is likely to keep the Middle East high on his agenda.



## Trump speaks with PM Modi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to US President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday to congratulate him on his "spectacular" victory, and said he looked forward to working together with him again to further strengthen India-US relations across technology, defence, ener-

'Whole world loves Modi', Prez-elect tells PM

gy, space and other sectors. Official sources said Modi also congratulated Trump on the performance of his Republican Party in the Congressional elections, as both leaders affirmed to working together for

■ P4



## MVA promises Rs 3,000 in a month, free travel to women

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance on Wednesday promised women in the state Rs 3,000 per month and free travel in state transport buses. Under the Krishi Samruddhi Yojana, farmers will get loan waiver up to Rs 3 lakh and Rs 50,000 as an incentive for regular repayment of crop loans, the Shiv Sena (UBT)-NCP(SP)-Congress alliance announced ahead of the November 20 state assembly elections. Allowance of Rs 4,000 per month for unemployed

### PROMISES GALORE

- Loan waiver up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers
- Rs 50,000 as an incentive for regular repayment of crop loans
- Allowance of Rs 4,000 per month for unemployed youth
- Health insurance up to Rs 25 lakh and free medicines

youth, health insurance up to Rs 25 lakh and free medicines were the other guarantees announced at a gathering addressed by top MVA leaders at the BKC ground here. Notably, the BJP-Shiv Sena-

NCP government in Maharashtra currently pays Rs 1,500 per month to eligible women under its flagship 'Ladki Bahin' scheme and has promised to increase the amount to Rs 2,100 if it retained power.

The MVA also promised to conduct a caste census in the state if elected to power, and remove the 50 percent cap on reservations if elected to power at the Centre.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on this occasion that the present politics in the country is a fight between the ideologies of the RSS/BJP and Opposition's INDIA grouping.

# INDIA, US HOLD 21ST MILITARY COOPERATION GROUP MEETING TO BOOST DEFENCE TIES

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The 21st edition of India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting commenced in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The meeting was Co-chaired from the Indian side by Lt Gen JP Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) and Lt Gen Joshua M Rudd, Deputy Commander (USINDOPACOM).

The discussions in the meeting focused on new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanisms, a social media post from HQ IDS said.

"Opportunities for strengthening the ongoing India-US defence engagements and continued



*The discussions in the meeting focused on new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanisms, a social media post from HQ IDS said.*

interoperability to address mutual security concerns towards maintaining peace & stability in the Indo-Pacific were key deliberations..," the post further

reads.

As per a government release, the India-US MCG is a forum established to progress defence cooperation between the countries

through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels between Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff and the US Indo-Pacific Command.

Earlier on Monday, The 15th edition of Exercise Vajra Prahar kicks off at the Orchid Combat Training Centre in Idaho, US.

This exercise focuses on enhancing interoperability and sharing best practices between the Special Forces of both nations, marking a significant milestone in military cooperation between the Indian and US armies.

Taking to social media platform X, the ADG PI said that during the ceremony, military contingents introduced themselves and shared cultural insights, fostering friendship and mutual respect.

The atmosphere was further enriched by the celebration of Deepawali, with the Indian contingent exchanging sweets with their US counterparts.

"The opening ceremony of the 15th edition of Exercise Vajra Prahar 2024 was held at the Orchid Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA. Contingents introduced themselves, shared cultural insights and were briefed about the conduct of the exercise. In the spirit of Deepawali, the Indian contingent exchanged sweets with the US contingent to celebrate the festival together. Vajra Prahar aims to enhance military cooperation, and interoperability and share the best practices between the Special Forces of the Indian Army and the US Army," the ADG PI said on X.



Devotees take part in a 'Kalash Yatra' procession ahead of the Ramarcha Mahayaga in Mandi on Wednesday. ANI

## Strategic shift: Rahul Gandhi's close aide tasked with investigating poll setback

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

In the wake of a disappointing outcome in the recent Haryana Assembly elections, the Congress leadership has initiated significant changes at the organizational level by appointing senior leader Jitendra Baghel, known for his close association with Rahul Gandhi, likely to take over as the new Deputy In-charge for Haryana.

This restructuring comes after Deepak Babaria, Congress's state in-charge, offered to resign, citing personal accountability for the defeat.

Baghel's appointment, however, remained under wraps for nearly ten days before his participation in a Congress review meeting in Delhi. On Tuesday, Baghel joined an eight-member



committee meeting in Delhi, which had been set up by Haryana Pradesh Congress President Chaudhary Uday Bhan to analyze the election loss. Following his attendance, it became evident that Baghel had taken on the critical role of Deputy In-charge for Haryana.

The committee has scheduled another meeting on November 9, also in Delhi, where it has summoned all 53 candidates who faced defeat in the polls. Baghel will engage with these leaders to

discuss the reasons for their setbacks and gather crucial feedback to aid Congress's comeback strategy.

Notably, Deepak Babaria was absent from the Tuesday meeting. Since the election results were declared on October 8, Babaria has distanced himself from party activities, leading to speculation about an impending leadership transition. With Baghel's involvement in Tuesday's proceedings, his role is increasingly seen as pivotal to Congress's efforts to recover from its recent electoral losses.

Baghel chaired the meeting alongside Uday Bhan and committee chairman Karan Singh Dalal. The session, which lasted for about an hour and a half, emphasized the need for a comprehensive assessment of factors behind Congress's defeat.

Baghel suggested summoning the defeated candidates for a detailed interaction in the upcoming session. In line with this, the committee has directed all candidates to gather and present evidence on four specific areas that allegedly influenced the election's outcome.

Baghel's longstanding affiliation with Congress dates back to his college years. He hails from Timarpur in Delhi and completed his undergraduate studies at Hindu College, where he entered the political arena through NSUI, Congress's student wing. He later pursued law at Chaudhary Charan Singh University in Uttar Pradesh. Active in the party since 1996, Baghel currently serves as Congress's national secretary and heads the Public Auto Taxi Welfare Association in Delhi.

## Haryana CM visits his constituency

'State government duty-bound to carry out development activities very swiftly', says Saini

TDG NETWORK  
KURUKSHETRA

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini visited the villages in the Ladwa Assembly constituency on Wednesday after he achieved victory from this seat in the Assembly polls. He said that he would carry out development activities at a swift pace.

Speaking to reporters, Saini said, "I came here today to thank various villages of Ladwa Assembly constituency. People of Ladwa made Lotus bloom. I am meeting people and thanking them. We will fulfil the requests made by people while voting. We will find solutions for the issues of people."

He further said that the way the people of Haryana have given a huge mandate



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini pays obeisance on the occasion of Jyoti Diwas at Ladwa's Dabkheda village, in Kurukshetra on Wednesday. ANI

to the BJP for the third time in a row the state government will carry out development activities very swiftly.

"I have given approval for tenders of various development work regarding water, health department, sewerage, and renewal projects yesterday. The people of Haryana will get the benefit of it. We will take Haryana to-

wards progress in swift manner under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi," he added. The Congress in Haryana could not capitalise on the 10 years of anti-incumbency of the BJP government. The BJP won 48 out of 90 seats in the Haryana assembly, while Congress managed to win 37 seats. Independents won 3 seats, and Indian National

Lok Dal (INLD) secured 2 seats. Following the Haryana Assembly election results, Congress leaders KC Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and other senior party members met with Election Commission officials.

They presented a list of 20 complaints, including seven written complaints from specific constituencies. The Congress raised concerns over discrepancies in EVM battery levels, stating that some machines showed a 99 per cent battery level while others ranged from 60-70 per cent on the day of counting. The party demanded that these machines be sealed and secured until an investigation could be completed.

## Jharkhand Assembly polls: 'I.N.D.I.A bloc failed to fulfil their past promises', says Chouhan

TDG NETWORK  
BHOHAL

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan on Wednesday criticised the I.N.D.I.A bloc ahead of the upcoming assembly polls in Jharkhand, accusing the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and the Congress party of failing to fulfil past promises and introducing new ones without delivering results.

Speaking to reporters in Bhopal, Union Minister Chauhan claimed that the INDI bloc's promises are a bunch of lies. He further stated that people don't trust them and BJP always fulfils its promises.

"The INDI bloc's guarantees are a bunch of lies because JMM and Congress also gave guarantees last



time. They said they would give 5 lakh government jobs but they didn't. Old promises are not fulfilled yet they have come up with new ones. People don't have trust in them. BJP always fulfils their promises," he said

On Tuesday, ahead of the Jharkhand assembly polls, the INDIA bloc released its joint manifesto, pledging seven guarantees, including an LPG cylinder at Rs 450 and 10 lakh jobs. The

manifesto, unveiled by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and other leaders, also promised benefits such as a 7 kg ration per person, the implementation of the Sarna Religion Code, a Rs 2,500 honorarium for women, and increased reservations for ST, SC, and OBC communities.

INDIA bloc members, Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and CPI-M,

released the manifesto in the presence of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Jharkhand in-charge Ghulam Ahmed Mir, Chief Minister Hemant Soren and others.

The seven guarantees included an LPG cylinder for Rs 450 per family and a 7 kg ration for every person; Bringing policy based on the Khatiyani of 1932 along with the implementation of the Sarna Religion Code and an honorarium of Rs 2,500 to women; 28 per cent reservation for ST, 12 pc for SC and 27 pc for OBC; 10 lakh jobs and health insurance up to Rs 15 lakh.

The 81-member Jharkhand Assembly will go to polls in two phases on November 13 and 20, with vote counting scheduled for November 23.

TDG NETWORK  
PUNE

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) released its election manifesto for the Maharashtra assembly elections on Wednesday in Baramati. The party also unveiled constituency-specific manifestos for all the assembly seats it is contesting.

The manifestos were released simultaneously in different cities. NCP National President and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar led the release in his home constituency Baramati, while State President Sunil Tatkar released the manifesto in Mumbai, and Working President Praful Patel released it in Gondiya. NCP candidates



and local leaders released the poll manifestos in their respective constituencies across all the assembly constituencies.

Pawar unveiled both the party's state-level manifesto and constituency manifesto for Baramati and said "We will present the New Maharashtra Vision within 100 days of

government formation." In its manifesto, the party has promised to increase the amount under Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana from the existing Rs1,500 per month to Rs2,100 per month. This initiative will be the largest monthly Direct Benefit Transfer in Maharashtra's history providing benefits of Rs25,000 per year to

over 2.3 crore women. Also, the manifesto consists of 11 new promises, increasing the old age pension from Rs1500 to Rs2100 per month. For farmers, the party has promised to raise the Shetkari Sanman Nidhi from Rs12,000 to Rs15,000 per year, combining support from both the central and state governments.

Pawar has also promised to waive the farmer's loan and give a 20 per cent additional subsidy for all crops sold under MSP. Besides this, NCP has also given assurance of Rs25000 per hectare bonus for paddy farmers.

"We have resolved to build more than 45000 'panand' roads in rural parts of Maharashtra.

## UP: 2 arrested in journalist murder case in Fatehpur

TDG NETWORK  
FATEHPUR

Two persons were arrested in Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the murder case of journalist Dilip Saini, the police said on Wednesday.

The accused identified as Anurag Tiwari and Alok Tiwari were arrested on Tuesday.

As per police, the main accused Anurag Tiwari was shot in the leg in

police retaliatory firing, while the second accused Alok Tiwari surrendered. The encounter took place near the Thana Malwa area. Vijay Shankar Mishra, Fatehpur district's Additional, Superintendent of Police (ASP) said, "During checking, two persons were seen coming from the front in a car. When the police team tried to stop them and signalled them, they tried to turn back."

When the police team surrounded and stopped them, the driver opened fire on the police team on the signal of the person sitting in the car, in self-defence and retaliatory firing, one person got shot in the leg, the police said.

Further police said that during interrogation, his name was revealed to be Anurag Tiwari. During interrogation, it was said that he is the wanted accused in the murder of the journalist.

## UP govt to deploy 'Bhishma Cube' to deal with medical emergencies during Mahakumbh

TDG NETWORK  
PRAYAGRAJ

Uttar Pradesh government has implemented comprehensive emergency response measures for Mahakumbh 2025, introducing the groundbreaking 'Bhishma Cube' mobile hospital.

For the first time in Mahakumbh, this state-of-the-art medical unit, which was previously deployed during the Ram Mandir Prana Pratishtha ceremony in

Ayodhya earlier this year, would be on-site to enhance emergency preparedness.

According to Dr V.K. Mishra, Joint Director of Medical Health in Prayagraj, each Bhishma Cube (Battlefield Health Information System for Medical Services) can treat up to 200 individuals simultaneously, offering a range of facilities including surgical capabilities, diagnostic tools, and comprehensive patient care. "Built to be robust, waterproof, and light-

weight, these units provide immediate treatment capabilities and leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics for real-time coordination, monitoring, and efficient medical management," Dr Mishra said. "Bhishma Cube can be transported by hand, bicycle, or drone and can even be airdropped from aircraft in critical situations. Remarkably, the unit can be fully operational within 12 minutes of deployment. Jointly developed and rigorously tested by

the Indian Air Force, Indian healthcare institutions, and defence technology experts, the Bhishma Cube exemplifies cutting-edge innovation in mobile healthcare," Joint Director of Medical Health added.

Notably, during his visit to Ukraine in August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented Bhishma Cube units to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, underscoring its value in global emergency response. Uttar Pradesh government

is also making significant efforts to enhance the tourism sector in the state, with the upcoming Mahakumbh in Prayagraj poised to play a crucial role in this initiative.

Notably, to boost tourism, a series of training programs are being conducted across Prayagraj. These initiatives aim to enhance the skills of vendors and service providers, ensuring they are well-prepared to cater to the influx of visitors during the Mahakumbh.

## 'LOKAYUKTA INDEPENDENT, LIKE CBI'

Karnataka CM appears before Lokayukta Police in Mysuru for inquiry over MUDA scam

TDG NETWORK  
MYSURU

Amid growing opposition demand for a CBI probe into the MUDA scam, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said the Lokayukta is an independent agency like the CBI and he has answered all the questions posed by the Lokayukta.

Earlier on Wednesday, Siddaramaiah appeared before Lokayukta Police in Mysuru for an inquiry over the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam.

Speaking to reporters after his questioning, Siddaramaiah said, "Lokayukta is an independent agency, like CBI. I have answered all the questions asked by the Lokayukta, and my responses have been recorded. They



will proceed with further investigation. My wife has returned those sites saying that there are accusations against me."

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday defended Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, questioning why the CM should resign when the state BJP president faces an ED case and has not resigned.

Speaking to ANI, Priyank

that he is going to come out of this."

The Mysuru Lokayukta officially has initiated an inquiry into the MUDA scam case following a September 27 court order to file an FIR. The Lokayukta was directed to investigate allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites worth Rs 56 crore to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi.

It is alleged that MUDA illegally allotted these sites to the Chief Minister's wife in a prime location in Mysuru city.

The ED has also filed a money laundering case against Siddaramaiah and others. This case was prompted by a First Information Report (FIR) from the state Lokayukta concerning the MUDA, placing the Karnataka Chief Minister in a difficult situation.

Kharge said, "Why should the CM resign? State BJP president has an ED case against him. ECR has been registered. Has he resigned? It is a very serious offence... This is politically motivated, everybody knows it... CM has said clearly that this is politically motivated, he is a law-abiding citizen and he will do whatever the Constitutional institutions have asked him to do. He is sure

## People of Kamala Harris' ancestral village express disappointment

TDG NETWORK  
THULASENDRAPURAM (TN)

As the projections for the US Presidential elections indicate a win for Republican candidate Donald Trump, the people of Kamala Harris' ancestral Thulasendrapuram village in Tamil Nadu expressed their disappointment since they had planned to celebrate the Democrat's victory by bursting crackers and organising a special victory prayer at the local temple.

Trump is set to become the 47th US President. Harris' supporter, Joy, who came to stay in the Thulasendrapuram village from Chicago earlier expressed confidence about the Democrat candidate winning the US elections.

"If Donald Trump wins, I hope he is given the wisdom to lead us with unity. My hope is

that he changes his ways and becomes the one who unites and not a divider. My expectations are different though. I think our country will be in chaos for the next four years," Joy from Chicago said.

"Just now I watched the result of the US elections. It is a little disappointing for us. Anyway, I hope that Donald Trump will change (his ways) and will not govern like he did earlier. Last time when Kamala won as the Vice Presidential candidate, we celebrated. This time we had planned to celebrate more. But we have to accept the mandate," a resident of the village said.

Meanwhile, Trump early on Wednesday morning hailed his countrymen as results of the high stakes presidential elections projected his victory which set poised to return him to the White House after

securing an electoral college victory.

Speaking at an address to supporters in West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump affirmed that his win will help the country "heal."

Addressing the crowd accompanied by his running mate, JD Vance, and family members Trump called his projected win the "greatest political movement of all time" which will help in making "America great again."

"This is a movement like nobody has seen before. This was the greatest political movement of all time. There's nothing like this ever in this country...we are gonna help our country heal. We have a country that needs help and needs help very badly. We are gonna fix our borders, we are gonna fix everything about our country," Trump said.

Meanwhile, Democratic Campaign co-chair Cedric Richmond said that the Vice President will not address supporters tonight, but is expected to speak tomorrow.

While addressing a gathering, Richmond said that the votes are yet to be counted and there were states that have not been called. "We still have votes to count. We still have states that have not been called yet," Cedric Richmond said.

Earlier in the day, special prayers were offered for the success of US Vice Presidential candidate JD Vance in Andhra Pradesh's Godavari district.

The Vice Presidential candidate is the husband of Usha Vance who originally belonged to Vadluru village in the Nidadavolu assembly constituency.

## Mumbai: Eye-witness in Baba Siddique murder case threatened

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

One of the key eye-witnesses in the Baba Siddique murder case was threatened by an unknown caller who demanded Rs 5 crore from the person, Mumbai Police said on Wednesday.

According to police, the eye-witness received death threats if the Rs 5 crore is not paid. A complaint has been registered against an unknown person at Khar police station in Mumbai.

Further investigation into the matter is currently underway. Baba Siddique, a former Maharashtra minister and NCP leader, was shot dead on October 12 by three assailants near the office of his son, MLA Zeeshan Siddique, in the Nirmal Nagar area of Mumbai.

He sustained gunshot wounds to the chest after being shot at outside his office in Nirmal Nagar, Mumbai. He was taken to the city's Lilavati Hospital for emergency treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries on October 12.

The gang led by jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi has claimed responsibility for the killing. So far, Mumbai Police has made 15 arrests in connection with the case.

Earlier on November 2 in an exclusive interview with ANI, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that the state government will take strict action against the accused involved in the matter. Calling the killing of Siddique "unfortunate," the CM said, "It is the government's responsibility to maintain the law and order... The incident was

very unfortunate... Many of the accused in the incident have been arrested. The government and Home Department will reach the roots of it. Those who are involved will be spared. Strict action will be taken," CM Shinde said. Moreover, on October 26, Mumbai Police in a joint operation with Punjab Police apprehended Sujeet Sushil Singh, a resident of Mumbai, wanted in the high profile murder.

"Sujeet was involved in the murder conspiracy and was informed about the plan to kill Baba Siddique three days in advance by Nitin Gautam Sapre-another accused. He also provided logistical assistance," DGP Punjab police Gaurav Yadav said on Saturday in a post on X. He was then handed over to Mumbai Police for further investigation.

## BR Naidu takes oath as 54th Chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam

TDG NETWORK  
TIRUPATI

BR Naidu took oath as the 54th Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Wednesday morning at the Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Temple.

TTD Executive Officer Shyamala Rao administered the oath to the Chairman.

He first had a darshan of Varaha Swamy and then proceeded to enter the temple from Vaikuntham Queue Complex 1. After the darshan of Lord Venkateswara, the priests offered their blessings with Vedic chants at the Ranganayakula Mandapam.

Earlier he was appointed the new Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Chairman and expressed his intention to work in a selfless manner.

## 'Only CBI inquiry can give correct information regarding MUDA case': Karnataka LoP R Ashoka

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Karnataka Assembly Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka on Wednesday expressed his dissatisfaction with the Lokayukta inquiry into the MUDA scam and said that only the CBI inquiry can give the correct information regarding what happened in the MUDA case.

Speaking to ANI, Karnataka Assembly LoP Ashoka said, "The High Court has given the verdict. CM Siddaramaiah is involved in the case. Lokayukta Police has also called for the inquiry...I am not satisfied with the Lokayukta inquiry...Only the CBI inquiry can give the correct information regarding what happened in the MUDA case. That's why we demand CBI inquiry."

BJP leader Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy demanded that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah resign



on moral grounds.

"The Siddaramaiah's government has lost its grip on the administration. Rightly, said by the LoP (R Ashoka), he (CM Siddaramaiah) should resign on the moral grounds," BJP leader Reddy said.

Karnataka minister HK Patil said, "CM Siddaramaiah is a law-abiding citizen...I am sure that CM will respect the law & will not be second to anybody as far as respecting the law is concerned."

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday arrived at Lokayukta Police office in Mysuru for

an inquiry over the alleged irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam.

The Mysuru Lokayukta officially has initiated an inquiry into the MUDA scam case following a September 27 court order to file an FIR. The Lokayukta was directed to investigate allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites worth Rs 56 crore to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi. It is alleged that MUDA illegally allotted these sites to the Chief Minister's wife in a prime location in Mysuru city.

The ED has also filed a money laundering case against Siddaramaiah and others. This case was prompted by a First Information Report (FIR) from the state Lokayukta concerning the MUDA, placing the Karnataka Chief Minister in a difficult situation.

The FIR names Siddaramaiah, his wife BM Par-

vathi, his brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, and Devaraju, from whom Swamy bought land that was later gifted to Parvathi. The ED has applied provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in its case, allowing the agency to summon individuals for questioning and possibly seize assets during the investigation.

Siddaramaiah has consistently denied the allegations, claiming that he is facing political persecution. He has stated that he will not resign, despite ongoing demands from the BJP for him to leave his position as head of government.

As the allegations surfaced, the BJP has accused the Congress of supporting "corrupt" leaders and has demanded Siddaramaiah's resignation. However, Siddaramaiah has quashed all demands for his resignation.

## Kerala: Midnight raid on female Cong leaders' rooms triggers protests

TDG NETWORK  
PALAKKAD

Congress party is observing a protest in Palakkad on Wednesday after police officers allegedly entered the rooms of women leaders on Monday night for a search.

According to congress leader Bindu Krishna, police knocked at her room at around Tuesday's midnight and asked to examine the room. Her husband and Congress leader Krishnakumar was with her and they were permitted to search the room.

Police also knocked the room of congress leader and former MLA Shanimol Usman and she asked the presence of a women police officer to search her room.

According to police, the search was conducted after



they received some information related to black money being used in elections. 12 rooms were searched but the search did not yield any results.

Congress alleged that this incident implied a relationship between CPIM and BJP, claiming that the workers of CPIM and BJP reached the hotel immediately after police came to the spot. In response, CPIM alleged that the Congress brought in money to be used for election.

Bindu Krishna also alleged that BJP women leaders were also there in the hotel but their rooms were not searched by the Police teams.

Leader of opposition in

Kerala assembly and Congress leader V D Satheesan said "Yesterday's police search in the rooms of congress women leaders was part of a conspiracy between CPIM and BJP. Police insulted women leaders." He demanded the resignation of Minister MB Rajesh, alleging his involvement in the conspiracy.

"Minister MB Rajesh should resign. Minister MB Rajesh and his brother-in-law were behind the conspiracy," V D Satheesan said.

"Before police reached the hotel DYFI workers and CPIM party channel representatives reached the hotel," he added.

Party workers of CPIM, Congress and BJP reached the hotel and there was an altercation between them.

## NIA takes over case linked to attack on BJP leader's car in West Bengal

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the case linked to the attack on the car of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Priyangu Pandey when he was travelling in the vehicle towards the residence of former MP Arjun Singh on the night of August 28 in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district.

A group of more than 50 persons armed with deadly weapons including crude bombs attacked the car of Pandey, complainant, at around 8.30 pm on August 28, resulting gunshot injury upon the driver Ravi Verma and his colleague Rabi Singh.

Pandey then alleged that Trinamool Congress workers opened fire at him and hurled bombs when he was traveling in a car in Bhatpara area in

West Bengal. Arjun Singh had also accused Trinamool leaders Tarun Sau and MLA Somnath Shyam of being behind the attack, alleging that the miscreants were brought in from Kakinara.

Sharing a video clip which purportedly showed the moment when the bullet was fired, BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari had also alleged on X, "TMC goon opening fire on eminent BJP Leader Priyangu Pandey's vehicle at Bhatpara. The driver of the vehicle is shot."

The NIA took over the case from West Bengal Police and re-registered a First Information Report (FIR) on October 1 under sections 189(2), 61(2), 126(2), 115(2), 118(1), 117(2), 118(2), 109, 324(4) and 351(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023; Arms Act 1959; and Explosive Substances Act 1908.

## Odisha: Rs 10 lakh silver ornaments looted from Tara Tarini temple

TDG NETWORK  
BERHAMPUR

Silver ornaments worth Rs 10 lakh were looted from Tara Tarini temple, a famous Shakti shrine, in Odisha's Ganjam district, police said on Wednesday.

The jewellery looted from the hilltop temple in Purushottampur includes the crowns of the deities, ceremonial umbrella and masks of the deities.

Though the miscreants attempted to loot the main 'hundi' (donation box), they could not succeed, a police officer said.

They, however, looted money by breaking open two other hundis. The exact amount of the money looted is yet to be ascertained, the officer said.

The miscreants entered the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, located around 780 feet above the sea

level, by breaking at least three locks, including that on the main entrance.

A watchman, deployed by the temple management committee, was allegedly sleeping when the incident took place.

The incident came to light early on Wednesday when two priests first noticed that some locks were broken and some ornaments were missing. They informed some senior ser-



vitors and the police, said Babuji Rana, one of the

servitors.

He said the Tara Tarini

Sevayati Sangh has lodged an FIR with Purushottampur police station over the incident.

Ganjam Superintendent of Police Suwendu Kumar Patra visited the spot.

"We have pressed into service a scientific team and dog squad for investigation. A manhunt has been launched to nab the accused," he said.

The over 500-year-old temple was renovated in

2022 at a cost of around Rs 117 crore. However, no CCTV camera was installed on the premises.

A member of the police investigation team admitted they would face difficulty in identifying the miscreants due to the lack of CCTV surveillance.

In 1994, unidentified persons had looted from the temple idols of the deities made of 'ashtadhatu' (eight metals).

A fact-finding team of the BJD led by former Berhampur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu visited the temple under direction of party president Naveen Patnaik.

Other members of the team included former MLAs R Ch Choupatnaik, Bikram Panda and Suryamani Baidya.

"We will submit a report to the party president soon," Sahu said.

## CASTE CENSUS MEANS JUSTICE, SAYS RAHUL

TDG NETWORK  
NAGPUR

Advocating once again for a caste census, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the exercise will happen in the country and it will show the injustice meted out to Dalits, OBCs and Adivasis. The true meaning of a caste census is justice, he said, adding that his party will also "break the wall of 50 per cent" reservation limit.

Addressing the Samvidhan Samman Sammelan in Nagpur ahead of the November 20 Maharashtra assembly elections, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha hit out at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing them of attacking the Constitution and thereby attacking the "voice of the country".

"Caste census will give justice to general (category), Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, women and all others," he said.

"Caste census will make everything clear. Everyone will come to know how much power they wield



and what our role is," he said, adding, "We will also break the 50 per cent wall."

The Constitution drafted by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar is not just a book but a way of life and philosophy of life. Likewise, caste census is a paradigm of development, he said.

"It will bring clarity and a new paradigm. Hence, BJP and RSS are discussing what position they should take and what they should say on caste census, Gandhi added.

"I want to tell you that whatever you do, the caste census will happen.

Do whatever discussion you want to do on it or is projected in the media, the people of India have decided that caste census will happen and the wall of 50 per cent will be broken. And this voice is slowly increasing. Our work is that of amplification and to make people understand that caste census will save the Constitution," he said.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, "Whenever I talk about caste census, Modi ji says that Rahul Gandhi is trying to divide the nation. We have to tell the country that we are fighting to secure justice for over 90 per cent marginalised people in the country."

The event was organised at the Suresh Bhatt Hall in Reshimbagh area of Nagpur, which is adjacent to Dr Hedgewar Smruti Mandir, a memorial of RSS founder Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar.

The Constitution talks about equality, one man-one vote, respect for all and every religion, caste, state and language, he said.

"But when people from the RSS and BJP attack the Constitution, they are not just attacking this book, but

but they are attacking the voice of the nation," he added.

Gandhi said that several institutions in the country, like the Election Commission, were a gift of the Constitution. "Kings and princes did not have an Election Commission," he said.

"You will not find a single Dalit, OBC and Adivasi in Adani company management," he said.

"You waive Rs 16 lakh crore debts of just 25 people, but when I speak of farmers' loan waiver, I am attacked for changing habits of these people," he added.

The biggest question before us is that there is no representation of Dalits, OBCs, tribals in government higher ranks, judiciary, corporates and other important establishments. You will not find 90 per cent of India there, he said.

Five per cent of people are running the country and they only benefit when the stock market soars, he said.

Without the Constitution, there will be no public healthcare and educational institutions like IITs, IIMs, he added.

## Trump scripts a historic comeback

CONTINUED FROM P1

"And now it's going to reach a new level of importance because we're going to help our country heal. We'll help our country...we have a country that needs help, and it needs help very badly," he said.

Soon after projections indicated Trump's victory, congratulatory messages started pouring in from world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French Presi-

*The victory by Trump is being seen as a remarkable comeback after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Joe Biden, which seemed then to be the end of his political career.*

dent Emmanuel Macron, for his "historic return to the White House".

After President Grover

Cleveland (1885-1889 and 1893-1897). Trump is the only person to return to the White House for another term after a gap of four years.

Trump served as President from January 2017 to January 2021.

"We made history for a reason tonight, and the reason is going to be just that we overcame obstacles that nobody thought possible, and it is now clear that we've achieved the most incredible political thing," Trump said in his speech.

"I want to thank the American people for the ex-

traordinary honour of being elected your 47th president and your 45th president," he said. "I will fight for you, for your family and your future."

"Every single day, I will be fighting for you and with every breath in my body, I will not rest until we have delivered the strong, safe and prosperous America that our children deserve and that you deserve. This will truly be the golden age of America," said Trump, who wrapped up his speech with a playful dance to the song YMCA by the band Village People.

The victory by Trump is being seen as a remarkable comeback after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Joe Biden, which seemed then to be the end of his political career.

Trump challenged the election results and even indirectly urged his supporters to march on the US Capitol that reportedly triggered the violent attacks and clashes inside the seat of American democracy, sending shockwaves across the globe.

In the following months, Trump unsuccessfully challenged the results in court.

## Trump speaks with PM Modi

CONTINUED FROM P1

world peace.

The warm personal camaraderie between the two leaders came through in the telephonic conversation as Trump said the "whole world loves Modi" and described India as a magnificent country and the Prime Minister as a magnificent man, they added.

Trump also said that he

considered Modi and India as a true friend, noting that the Indian leader was one of the first world leaders he spoke to after his victory, the sources added.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Had a great conversation with my friend, President Donald Trump, congratulating him on his spectacular victory. Looking forward to working closely together once again to fur-

ther strengthen India-US relations across technology, defence, energy, space and several other sectors."

As Trump cruised to victory, Modi earlier in the day congratulated him on his "historic" presidential poll victory, and said he looks forward to renewing their collaboration to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership.

## Scheme for easy student loans

CONTINUED FROM P1

The scheme will be applicable to the top QHEIs (quality higher education institutions) as determined by the NIRF rankings, including all HEIs, government and private that are ranked within the top 100 in NIRF in overall, category-specific and domain-specific rankings, state government HEIs ranked in 101-200 in the NIRF and all central government-run institutions.

"This list will be updated every year using the latest NIRF ranking, and to begin with 860 qualifying QHEIs, covering more than 22 lakh students to be able to potentially avail benefits

of PM-Vidyalaxmi, if they so desire," an official statement said.

"This will give support to banks in making education loans available to students under the scheme. In addition, students having an annual family income of up to Rs 8 lakh, and not eligible for benefits under any other government scholarship or interest subvention schemes, 3 per cent interest subvention for loan up to Rs 10 lakh will also be provided during moratorium period.

"The interest subvention support will be given to one lakh students every year. Preference will be given to students who are from government institutions and

have opted for technical and professional courses. An outlay of Rs 3,600 crore has been made during 2024-25 to 2030-31, and 7 lakh fresh students are expected to get the benefit of this interest subvention during the period," the statement said.

The Department of Higher Education will have a unified portal, 'PM-Vidyalaxmi', on which students will be able to apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention, through a simplified application process to be used by all banks.

Payment of interest subvention will be made through e-voucher and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) wallets.

## SC raps UP govt

CONTINUED FROM P1

width of the road in terms of records or maps and carry out a survey, which would allow ascertaining the encroachments, if any, on the road. In case an encroachment was found, the top court said, the state must issue a notice to the encroacher to remove it and if the correctness and validity of the notice was objected to, the state would issue a "speaking order" keeping in mind the principles of natural justice.

In a scenario of the objection being rejected, a reasonable notice would be furnished to the person against whom the adverse action was proposed, to remove the encroachment, it added. The bench further underlined if the person concerned failed to comply with it, the competent authority would take steps to remove the encroachment unless restrained by an order of the competent authority or the court. In a case where the existing width of the road, includ-

ing the state land adjoining it, was not sufficient to accommodate the road widening, the state would take steps to acquire its land in accordance with law before undertaking the exercise. While hearing the matter of the petitioner, represented by senior advocate Siddharth Bhatnagar and advocate Shubham Kulshreshtha, the court had remarked, "... it is clear that the demolition was completely high-handed and without the authority of law."

## Cong dissolves PCC unit in Himachal

CONTINUED FROM P1

Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party. Singh, who is wife of former chief minister Virbhadr Singh, was appointed as state Congress chief in April 2022.

"Congress president has approved the proposal to dissolve the entire state unit of the PCC, district presidents and Block Congress Committees of Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee, with immediate effect," an offi-

cial communication from AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said.

The Himachal Congress has been plagued by factionalism which was seen during the Rajya Sabha election in February, when ruling Congress nominee Abhishek Singhvi lost the election to BJP's Harsh Mahajan after some Congress MLAs defected and cross-voted in his favour.

Mahajan was appointed one of the working presidents of Himachal Congress when he switched sides and joined the BJP.

## J&amp;K Assembly passes resolution seeking special status

CONTINUED FROM P1

any restoration process to align with both national unity and the region's aspirations.

The BJP swiftly opposed the resolution, with Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma denouncing the proposal as politically motivated. "This resolution is a futile gesture, undermining a decision taken by Parliament, the highest democratic institution in the country," Sharma argued, dismissing the Assembly's authority on the matter. The state-

ment led to uproar in the House, as NC and BJP members clashed in a heated exchange.

In a show of defiance, BJP members tore copies of the resolution and hurled them into the well of the House. NC and Congress MLAs demanded immediate passage, with Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat condemning BJP's actions as a "dishonor" to the Assembly, accusing them of flouting parliamentary rules.

Amidst the chaotic scenes, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather called for a

voice vote, passing the resolution amid loud protests from BJP members, who shouted slogans including "5 August zindabad," "Jai Shri Ram," and "anti-national agenda nahi chalega." The Speaker briefly adjourned the House to contain the uproar.

Returning to the session, BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma alleged bias, accusing Speaker Rather of colluding with the NC government. "This resolution was orchestrated in secrecy. The Speaker has failed to remain impartial," Sharma

asserted, arguing that the recent mandate reflects popular support for the abrogation of Article 370, as the BJP garnered 26% of the votes in recent elections.

Following the resolution's passage, the ruling NC underscored its commitment to its manifesto, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stating on X, "By passing this resolution, the JKNC fulfils another manifesto promise, rejecting the erosion of our constitutional rights. J&K stands against the August 5, 2019 decision."

## Sharda Sinha will play on, in death as in life

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Popular Folk singer Sharda Sinha, celebrated for her soulful Chhath songs, breathed her last on day one of Chhath on Tuesday fighting cancer.

For millions, hers was the voice that tugged at the heart and called out Chhath, a festival dedicated to the sun god and the biggest in the region's cultural calendar. She always released a song during the festival and did so this year too notwithstanding her ill health.

Her songs echoed with the sounds of generations of folk singers who came before her; her voice earthy and imbued with the memory of home. Sharda Sinha, also called 'Begum Akhtar of Mithila', was the melody behind Chhath Puja and many a celebration in the region - and outside it too.

Sinha's voice became synonymous with the folk songs woven in the rich tapestry of everyday culture of Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh.

A trained classical singer who effortlessly melded the folk in her many songs, Sinha was hailed as the voice of her people and often called 'Bihar Kokila'.

The Padma Bhushan recipient, whose career spanned more than five decades, lent her voice to songs in Maithili, Bhojपुरi and Magahi languages. Some of her popular tracks



are "Chhathi Maiya Aayi Na Duariya", "Kartik Maas Joriya", "Ho Deen-anth", "Barh Re Jatan Se", "Dwar Chekai", "Patna Se", and "Koyal Bin".

Sinha, mourned by many who grew up listening to her songs, will also be remembered for her Bollywood songs, including "Tara Bijli" from "Gangs of Wasseypur- II", "Babul" from "Hum Aapke Hain Koun" and "Kahe Toh Se Sajna" from "Maine Pyar Kiya".

She is credited for providing dignity to the classical expression of folk music or "lok geet", overlooked and sometimes lost in the noise of what's defined as mainstream, as well as promoting its popularity among the masses as well as the classes. "Wasseypur" composer Sneha Khanwalkar described Sinha's voice as "pure wine" and recalled how they first met.

"Anurag (Kashyap) suggested, 'Do you want to try Sharda ji?' So I went to her house and I sang a few lines to her. She brought out her harmonium and sang those lines so I

thought this is the best..." Khanwalkar recalled in a video about the making of the film's music.

Sinha, who had been suffering from multiple myeloma since 2017, had been on oxygen support in the intensive care unit of the Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH), the cancer institute of AI-IMS, since October 27.

It has been an incredibly difficult time for her family, and her children Vandana and Anshuman, who kept fans updated about her health through social media.

Just weeks ago, they lost their father Braj Kishore Sinha to brain haemorrhage after a fall. It was a hard blow for the already ailing Sinha.

Born on November 1, 1952 in Bihar's Supaul district, Sinha was initiated into classical music by Pandit Raghu Jha, an eminent khayal singer of Panchgachhiya Gharana. She then trained under Pandit Sitaram Hari Dandekar, a khayal virtuoso and later from Panna Devi, a contemporary of 'Malika-e-Ghazal' Begum Akhtar and an exponent of thumri and dadra.

Lyricist Hriday Narayan Jha, Sinha's frequent collaborator, said the singer would leave no stone unturned when it came to her craft and would consult with elders of her family before recording the songs.

## In video message to PM, Sakshi says facing threats from WFI

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

Olympian and wrestling star Sakshi Malik has made an urgent appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing threats against her and expressing grave concerns about the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and its handling of the sport.

She urged the government to step in decisively to protect the integrity and future of wrestling in India.

In a video message shared



on her social media account on X, she said alleged that despite a court order suspending the WFI's activi-

ties, the federation has continued to exercise control over the sport. She shared her distress over alleged threats involving serious accusations of corruption, aimed at silencing her.

"Respected Prime Minister and Sports Minister, I greet you. Last year, after the Wrestling Federation elections, everyone witnessed Brij Bhushan Singh's dominance and bullying, which deeply troubled me and forced me to step away from wrestling.

## Govt to officials: Spurt in voice phishing

CONTINUED FROM P1

sonnel," the advisory issued recently by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) says.

The severity of the communication has been categorised as "high".

It has specified that attackers "manipulate" caller ID information to make a call appear as if it is coming from a "legitimate government number".

It says it was issued as "in recent months, there has been an increase in vishing attacks targeting government officials to compromise confidential informa-

*Security has been heightened in Kishtwar following the encounter between security forces and terrorists.*

tion and gain unauthorised access to official systems".

"Vishing" or voice-phishing is a social engineering attack where scammers use phone calls or voice messages to manipulate individuals to share sensi-

itive information, such as log-in credentials, personal information and financial details.

The attackers also deploy the tactic of conveying a "sense of urgency", "coercing" targets into revealing information by implying severe consequences for non-compliance and using "complex technical language" to confuse or intimidate targets, making them more likely to comply, the advisory has said.

It has asked government officials to be cautious against such techniques as it has underlined that caller

ID information can be "easily spoofed".

"Do not trust the legitimacy of the caller based solely on the displayed number. Cross-check any caller claiming to represent an official agency with official records," the communication is advised.

It has also asked officials to mandatorily verify the caller's identity through government channels before sharing sensitive information.

The advisory has asked them to call back the organisation or individual using publicly available contact

information.

Officials, according to the advisory, should always "be suspicious of any unsolicited calls asking for personal or confidential information, especially when the caller is creating urgency or panic to pressure compliance".

"Take time to verify the information provided by a suspect caller," the advisory has said.

It has also asked government staff to practise all established protocols for ensuring safe cyber interaction during work and otherwise.

# HC DENIES PERMISSION TO PERFORM CHHATH PUJA AT YAMUNA BANKS

The court said due to unauthorised construction at the river banks, water was not being allowed to stroll into Yamuna.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to allow devotees to perform Chhath Puja at banks of Yamuna river here, noting that it was highly polluted and could lead to people falling sick. The high court noted that the Delhi government has made sufficient arrangements for devotees to perform puja at 1,000 different spots in the city and nothing else can be done at the eleventh hour.

The high court's ruling came just a day before the start of the Chhath Puja festival.

"Please understand you will fall sick, we can't allow you (devotees) to go into the water. It is highly polluted. It is a gigantic task, it cannot be done now. We can't clean up Yamuna in one day's time," a bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice



A man steers his boat across the Yamuna River amid toxic foam in Yamuna, Delhi. Agencies

Tushar Rao Gedela said.

It said that "this will be very harmful, we don't want any harm to be done to devotees".

The bench observed that there was no unanimity in citizens and while someone wanted to clean up Yamuna, the others wanted the encroachment and authorised construction on the river to stay so that they could do

their politics.

The court referred to its recent order in another case in which judicial notice was taken about the fact that pollution in the Yamuna river was at an all-time high.

"Keeping in view the aforesaid facts as well as the fact that the Chhath Puja festival commences from tomorrow, this court is of the view that no orders can be

passed in the PIL. The same is accordingly dismissed," the bench said.

The court was hearing a PIL by Purvanchal Nav Nirman Sansthan challenging the ban imposed by Delhi government on Chhath puja celebrations at banks of river Yamuna.

Delhi government standing counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi told the court that

Yamuna was highly polluted at this juncture and if the devotees were allowed to perform Chhath Puja on the river banks, they are likely to fall sick.

He submitted that the government has earmarked 1,000 spots to perform the Chhath Puja in Delhi and sufficient arrangements have been made.

As the petitioner's counsel said the river banks could be clean and they were willing to take the initiative, the bench said it was a challenging exercise which could not be done overnight.

"The problem today is, we cannot be discharging sewage in the Yamuna. We are today discharging sewage in Yamuna. Whether it is industrial sewage or it is our own sewage. Look at the unauthorised colonies built at the banks. Their untreated sewage is going into this," the bench said.

# Govt launches patrol teams to combat industrial pollution

TIKAM SHARMA  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government is taking extensive measures to combat pollution in the national capital. Today, Delhi's Environment Minister, Gopal Rai, convened a review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat, focusing on eliminating industrial pollution from the city. The meeting included representatives from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Environment Department, Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Following the meeting, Minister Gopal Rai announced the formation of 58 inspection teams by DPCC and DSIIDC to regularly monitor industrial units across Delhi. In addition, 191 patrol teams from vari-



A view of the Kartavya Path covered in dense smog as the Air Quality Index (AQI) remains in the 'Very Poor' category as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in New Delhi. ANI

ous departments have been deployed to supervise the disposal of industrial waste throughout the city.

As part of Delhi's Winter Action Plan—unveiled on September 25—Minister Rai emphasized the goal of reducing pollution during the colder months. This plan, which outlines 21 key focus areas, includes monitoring industrial pollution and

managing waste disposal. The 191 patrol teams will work to ensure that industrial waste is properly disposed of across Delhi. The 58 inspection teams from DPCC and DSIIDC will conduct regular checks on industrial units to verify compliance with pollution control guidelines, submitting their reports periodically to the Environment Department.

# BJP attacks AAP over pollution, accuses party of 'anti-Sanatan mindset'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla on Wednesday attacked Aam Aadmi Party over the pollution levels in the national capital and River Yamuna, accusing the party of being a 'liar' and having an 'anti-Sanatan mindset'.

The BJP leader also said that AAP was doing politics over festivals like Diwali and Chhath Puja and playing a 'blamegame' over pollution. Speaking to ANI, Poonawalla said, "AAP is the biggest liar. They used to blame stubble burning in Punjab for air pollution. Since the AAP government has been formed in Punjab, they started blaming UP and Haryana. They can even blame the Israel-Lebanon war for this."

"Arvind Kejriwal had



spoken 'on record' that he would not blame anyone and will make River Yamuna as clean as River Thames by 2025. Today Gopal Rai is saying that the people of UP are contaminating and polluting the River Yamuna. The stretch between Okhla to Wazirabad creates 80 per cent pollution in the river. The sewage treatment plants are not effectively working," said Poonawalla.

# CBSE revokes affiliation of 16 Delhi schools

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education has withdrawn affiliation of 21 schools in Rajasthan and Delhi due to significant numbers of non-attending students from classes IX-XII. Of the 21 schools, 16 are in Delhi, while five of them are in Rajasthan's Kota and Sikar.

The board has also downgraded six schools in Delhi from senior secondary to secondary level after irregularities were observed during the surprise inspections. This was informed by the board through an official notice dated November 6, 2024. The CBSE has conducted a series of surprise inspections across Rajasthan and Delhi on September 3. The assessments were conducted in 27 schools, affiliated with the Board.

The prime objective of the inspections was to ascertain that the schools were operating in compliance with the norms of regular attendance



of students in schools as per Affiliation and Examination Bye-Laws of the Board.

Following the inspection, the CBSE issued Show Cause Notices, allowing schools 30 days to respond.

"The replies submitted by the schools were examined in detail by the Board. Based on the inspection findings and supported by video-graphic evidence: 21 schools had their affiliation withdrawn due to significant numbers of non-attending students from classes IX-XII," CBSE said in a statement.

"Six schools were downgraded from Senior Secondary to Secondary level," the statement added.

Out of 21 de-affiliated schools, five are in Rajasthan and 16 in Delhi. All 6 downgraded schools are situated in Delhi.

The CBSE said that the practice of dummy/non-attending admissions contradicts the core mission of school education, compromising students' foundational growth.

"To address this issue, we are taking decisive action to combat the proliferation of dummy schools and send a clear message to all affiliated institutions to resist the lure of accepting dummy or non-attending admissions," the statement read.

# 'Ban on Chhath Puja at Yamuna exposes Atishi govt's failures'

TIKAM SHARMA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress has criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government over the worsening condition of the Yamuna River. According to Delhi Congress, the Kejriwal-led government has turned Delhi into the most polluted city in the country, failing to deliver on promises of making Delhi a world-class city. Delhi Congress Chief Devender Yadav stated that the Atishi-led government must confront the reality of the Yamuna's severe pollution. Recently, the Delhi High Court, citing high pollution levels in the river, denied permission for devotees to conduct Chhath Puja along the Yamuna's banks, underscoring the Atishi government's shortcomings in keeping the river safe



and clean for the festival. A bench led by the Chief Justice noted that permitting Chhath Puja in the Yamuna could pose serious health risks to devotees.

Yadav also remarked that this represents a major setback for former Chief Minister Kejriwal, who often highlights his "achievements," as Delhi was recently declared the most polluted city in India by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Yadav referred

to this as yet another stain on Kejriwal's track record. He further stated that the national capital has already become infamous for being both the "dirtiest city" and the "rape capital" of the country, which he described as the legacy of Kejriwal's decade of governance failures.

Yadav added that the Delhi Congress has long been raising concerns about the toxic air and contaminated Yamuna waters. However, despite these repeated warnings, the Atishi government has failed to implement effective measures to address the deteriorating air and water quality, resorting instead to blaming others. According to Yadav, the AAP government has repeatedly shown itself to be incapable of tackling these critical issues facing the capital.

# AAP ramps up grassroots outreach and Padyatras ahead of assembly elections

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been intensifying its efforts ahead of the upcoming assembly elections with the party's national convener and senior leaders focusing to engage with voters and strengthen grassroots support.

AAP National Convener and party leaders are now in the second phase of conducting padyatras (foot marches) across different legislative constituencies.

In parallel, AAP has also been forming booth-level and mandal-level committees to ensure better organization and coordination at the local level. These committees will play a key role in mobilizing support and ensuring



smooth execution of the party's election strategies.

To further energize and motivate these booth and mandal-level officials, AAP is set to launch a District Officer Convention, which will begin on November 11.

This convention aims to bolster the morale of district-level officers and activists by acknowledging their efforts and reinforcing their role in the party's election campaign.

The strategic combination

of padyatras, committee formations, and the upcoming convention is part of AAP's broader strategy to consolidate its ground-level support and ensure a strong presence in the upcoming elections.

Addressing a press conference here at the national capital, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "The Delhi government has successfully communicated to the public the developmental works undertaken within the legislative assembly constituency through the 'Your MLA at Your Doorstep' program."

Rai said that after this program, polling booth committees have been established across Delhi by identifying people who have volunteered to work and take responsibility for

the upcoming legislative assembly elections.

"To establish direct communication with the people of Delhi, the National Convener of the Aam Aadmi Party, along with senior party leaders, has conducted successful dialogue sessions in all constituencies across Delhi prior to Diwali," he said.

"Following Diwali, the Aam Aadmi Party's National Convener and party leaders are now in the second phase of conducting padyatras (foot marches) across different legislative constituencies," Rai added.

Adding further, he said, "To strengthen the preparations for the upcoming legislative assembly elections, booth-level and mandal-level committees have been formed."

# 'PWDs should be encouraged to fight elections'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, who is participating in the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Australia, said persons with disability should be encouraged to fight elections, a statement said on Wednesday.

Goel is in Sydney for the conference being held on from November 3 to 8. The Speaker in his speeches talked about issues of violence and abusive language used by parliamentarians in Commonwealth, benchmarking, standards and guidelines, and creating inclusive elections for persons with disabilities, it said.

# Grocery store, car workshop shot at in Delhi; 4th firing incident in 48 hrs

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Two firing incidents were reported in Delhi's Paschim Vihar and Dwarka on Wednesday where some men opened fire at a grocery store and a car workshop, police said.

No casualties were reported in the incidents, they said. According to the police, three men opened fire at a grocery store (Raj Mandir hypermarket) in the Meera Bagh area of outer Delhi on Wednesday.

"At around 2.30 pm, a call regarding a firing incident was received at Paschim Vihar West police station. Teams from the local police reached the location after information," the officer said.

During the investigation, the police found that the complainant was working at his shop when three masked men on a motorcycle fired multiple rounds at the shop and fled, he said.

The crime team inspected the spot, and based on the complainant's statement, a case was registered.

In another firing incident, three bike-borne men opened fire at a car workshop in the Najafgarh area



*"At around 2.30 pm, a call regarding a firing incident was received at Paschim Vihar West police station. Teams from the local police reached the location after information," the officer said.*

of Delhi's Dwarka. Police said that they received a PCR call regarding the incident at the Chhawla police station around 4.15 pm. The complainant, owner of the car workshop, Joginder Singh (46) told the police that the two of the accused entered the shop when two of the employees were working.

"One of the accused kept sitting on the motorcycle. Both the accused who entered the shop had covered their faces with a cloth. They began firing on the parked

car and five rounds were fired hitting a car parked inside the workshop," police said.

The police are suspecting Kapil Sangwan of the Nandu gang behind the firing incident. The cases are under investigation.

However, these are not isolated incidents. Four firing incidents have been reported in the past 48 hours.

On Monday, two shooting incidents were in Delhi's Alipur and Nangloi at a property dealer's office and a furniture shop, respectively.

# Court discharges rape accused over WhatsApp chats, delay

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Court has recently discharged an accused in a rape case, ruling that the evidence, particularly WhatsApp chats exchanged before and after the alleged incident, contradicted the

prosecution's claims.

The case involved allegations of forceful sexual assault made by the complainant, who had been in a consensual relationship with the accused after a marriage proposal was made through a mutual relative.

Advocate Shashank Dewan, representing the accused, submitted that the complainant (prosecutrix) and the accused had been in a consensual sexual relationship, with no commitment to marriage. He further argued that the WhatsApp chats

exchanged between the two disproved the allegations of assault, showing no indication of the incident as claimed.

Advocate Dewan contended that the FIR was falsely filed by the complainant to pressure the accused into marriage.

Additionally, he pointed out the significant and unexplained delay in the registration of the FIR, which further cast doubt on the veracity of the allegations.

The incident was said to have occurred in November 2020 when the two were returning from shopping.

## SURVEY ON UP MADARSA BOARD ACT

### 56% SURVEYED AGREE WITH THE SUPREME COURT'S APPROVAL OF THE UP MADARSA ACT.

While considering the correctness of Allahabad High Court's judgment in March 2024 wherein it had declared U.P. Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004 (Madrasa Act) to be unconstitutional; the 3 Judge Bench of Dr D.Y. Chandrachud, CJ\*, J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, JJ.,

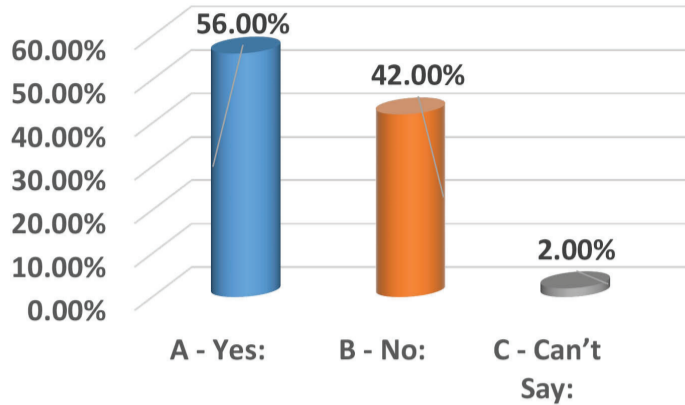
upheld Madarsa Act's validity holding that it is consistent with the positive obligation of the State to ensure that students studying in recognised Madarsas attain a level of competency which will allow them to effectively participate in society and earn a living.

The Court further held that Article 21-A of the Constitution and the Right to Education Act, 2009 must be read consistently with the right of religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

The Board of Madarsa Education (Board) with the approval of the State government can enact regulations to ensure that religious minority institutions impart secular education of a requisite standard without destroying their minority character.

#### Q1. ▶

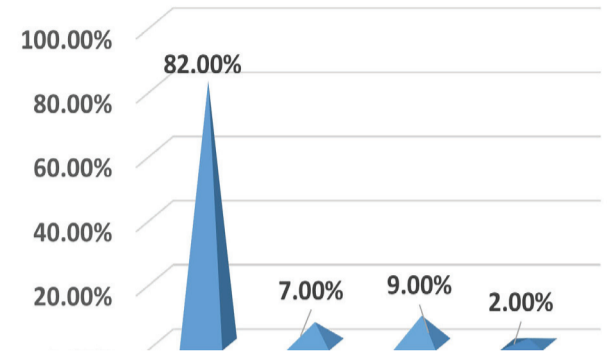
Do you agree with the Supreme Court's approval of the UP Madarsa Act?



#### Q4. ▶

Q4: What type of education is given in Madarsas?

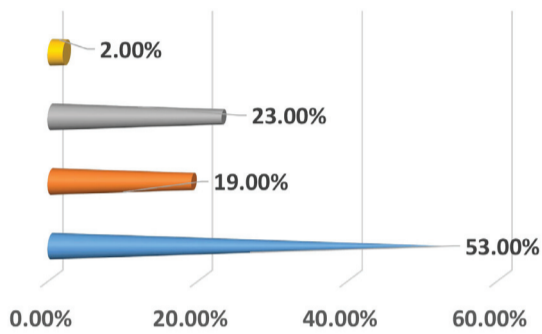
- A - Religious
- B - Social
- C - Skill Development
- D - Don't Know



#### Q2. ◀

What will be the benefit of the Supreme Court's approval of the UP Madarsa Act?

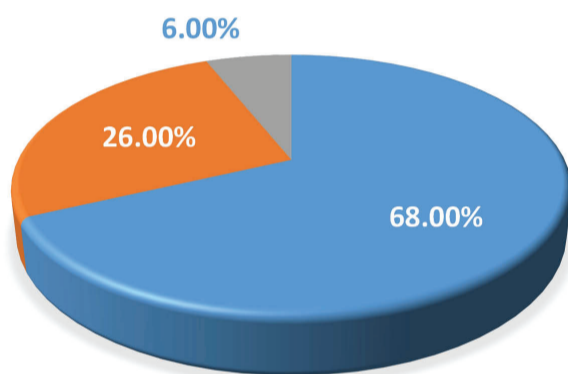
- A - Students
- B - Reduction in UP Government's Expenditure
- C - Benefit to SAPA
- D - Don't Know



#### Q3. ▶

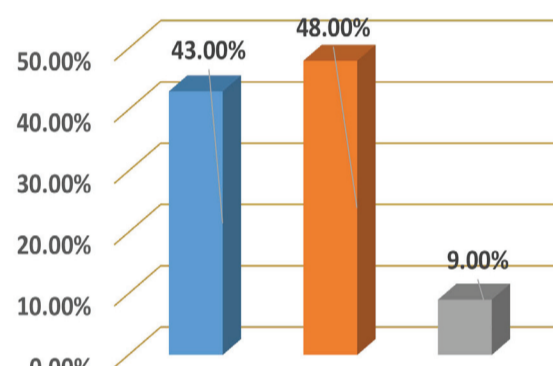
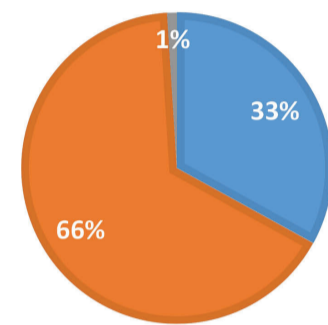
Why should the UP Madarsa Board Act emphasize modern education in Madarsas?

- A - Necessary
- B - Modern Education
- C - Can't Say



#### Q5. ▶

Can a Madarsa student become a doctor or an engineer?



#### Q6. ◀

Do you think the UP Madarsa Board Act is constitutional or unconstitutional?

- A - Constitutional
- B - Unconstitutional
- C - Don't Know

## THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY

MALE

94%

FEMALE

6%

## CITY

# DELHI COURT GRANTS TIME FOR ATISHI'S REJOINDER IN DEFAMATION CASE

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue Court on Wednesday granted time to Delhi CM Atishi Marlena's counsel to file a rejoinder to the reply filed by the BJP leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor. Delhi CM has challenged the summons issued to her in a Defamation case filed by Kapoor.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne heard the submissions of Se-

nior advocate Ramesh Gupta who appeared for Atishi Marlena and granted him time to file a rejoinder.

The matter has been listed on November 22 for further hearing.

Senior advocate Ramesh Gupta appeared through Video conferencing before the court. On the last BJP Leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor has filed a reply to the appeal filed by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi Mar-

lena. It is stated in the reply that the appeal is devoid of merit and liable to be dismissed. The sessions court had also called for the trial court record two days prior to hearing before the additional Chief Judicial Magistrate.

In the reply, it's stated that the order of summoning was passed after considering the facts, circumstances and material placed on record. It is also stated by respon-



dent that he represents BJP as media head and spokesperson of Delhi Unit in the general public. Therefore,

his long association with the party.

The reply was filed by advocate Shoumendu Mukherjee counsel for Praveen Shankar Kapoor. BJP leader had filed a Defamation complaint against Atishi Marlena.

Advocate Shoumendu Mukherjee appeared through video conferencing for Praveen Shankar Kapoor. BJP Leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor filed a

Defamation complaint. The Magistrate at Rouse Avenue court had issued the summons to Atishi Marlena on May 28 this year.

The Rouse Avenue court on July 23 granted bail Delhi Atishi after She appeared physically and furnished the bail bond. Before filing the complainant, Delhi BJP Leader sent a legal notice to AAP leader Atishi over her claims BJP approached her through a "very close" per-

son to join the party.

Notice sent by Praveen Shankar Kapoor stated that on April 2, 2024 Atishi held a Press Conference and claimed that she was approached by BJP to join the party.

Notice sent through Advocate on behalf of Praveen Shankar Kapoor had stated that Atishi deliberately made statements which are not only false, scandalous, concocted and illusionary.

# Crime Branch solves Khajuri Khas daylight murder in 24 hours

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A team from the Inter-State Cell (ISC), Crime Branch solved a broad daylight murder case of PS Khajuri Khas, Delhi within 24 hours, Delhi police said.

Promptly reacting to the incident ISC, Crime Branch launched an operation and was successful in nabbing the perpetrator in less than 24 hours.

Delhi Crime Branch said, "On November 3, a broad daylight murder was reported in the area of PS Khajuri Khas, Delhi wherein a person named Hemant Kumar was fatally shot in his wife and other family member's presence during Bhai Dooj gather-



ing. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 533/24, U/S 103(1) BNS r/w 25/27 Arms Act, was registered at PS Khajuri Khas, Delhi."

On November 3, the complainant reported that she along with her husband Hemant was celebrating Bhaiya Dooj at her mother's residence in Sonia Vihar, Delhi. Suddenly,

his brother-in-law named Ali Hassan @ Ajay Verma who had a contentious past involving business disputes with her husband Hemant came there. He pressured the complainant and deceased Hemant to withdraw an ongoing case against him. Ali Hassan @ Ajay Verma approached Hemant, shot him multiple

times and fled from there.

Despite, the complainant's attempts to intervene, accused Ali Hassan violently rebuffed her before escaping. Injured Hemant was rushed to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, where he was declared dead by the doctors.

The team developed intelligence about the accused's location. A team consisting of SIs Devender Singh & Roopesh Baliyan, HCs Gajendra Singh & Narendra Kumar and Ct. Ravindra Kumar under the leadership of Inspectors Pankaj Malik and Rohit Kumar under the supervision of ACP/ISC Ramesh Chander Lamba was quickly mobilized.

# 16-year-old stabbed to death by group of boys

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old boy died after being stabbed allegedly by a group of boys, police confirmed on Wednesday.

Police officials received information around 8:30 AM that a resident of Nehru Vihar, Mustafabad was stabbed by a group of people. According to police, the minor was taken to the Jag Pravesh Hospital where he succumbed to injuries and declared dead.

A case has been registered at the Dayalpur Police station and the police have launched an investigation to identify and nab the accused. Further details on the case are awaited. Earlier on November 1, a 38-year-old man was



stabbed to death by a group of people in Hastals Road area of West Delhi. The victim, identified as Gagan Oberoi, was a property dealer, police said. 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 was registered based on a complaint.

# Minor girl rescued after abduction from Welcome; two accused arrested

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Two men accused of abducting a minor girl were assaulted by locals in the national capital after she was rescued from a house at Janta Mazdoor Colony in the city's Welcome area, Delhi Police said.

A case was registered and a POCSCO section will also be added in the incident that took place on Tuesday, the police said. "On November 5 a PCR call was received at Police Station at Welcome stating that a 4-year-old girl, daughter of Mohammed Tanzeem resident of Janta Majdoor Colony in Welcome was missing. After this Case FIR no 601/24 u/s 137(2) BNS dated November 06 was registered at PS



Welcome and a search was conducted."

Delhi Police said that the girl was rescued from a house at Janta Mazdoor Colony in Welcome. The minor was found to be kidnapped by a man named Shahjad and his wife namely Afsa.

"Both the accused were beaten by people and the missing girl was recovered," Police said. Medical tests were conducted and the girl was given counselling. A POCSCO section will also be added against the accused, police said.

# STOCKS RALLY AS TRUMP'S WIN BOOSTS SENTIMENT

All NSE sectoral indices closed in green, with Nifty Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 up over 2%, led by a 3.99% Nifty IT surge.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Domestic stock markets on Wednesday positively reacted to the projected victory of Republican candidate and former US president Donald Trump in the US presidential elections. The Nifty closed in green territory at 24,484.05, up 270.75 points or 1.12 per cent and the BSE Sensex at 80,378.13, up 901.50 points or 1.13 per cent.

SBI Life Insurance, Titan, HDFC Life, IndusInd Bank, and Trent Limited. All the sectoral indices on the NSE traded in the green territory. Broader indices also posted strong gains, with Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 rising over two per cent each. All sectoral indices ended higher, led by Nifty IT, which surged 3.99 per cent, followed by Consumer Durables, and Realty indices, which gained more than two per cent.

## IT STOCKS SOAR OVER 4 PC



**Mumbai:** IT stocks appreciated sharply on Wednesday, fuelling a rally in the benchmark indices after it became clear that Donald Trump will take over as the next US president for the second term. Shares of Tata Consultancy Services surged 4.21 per cent, Infosys jumped 4.02 per cent, Tech Mahindra soared 3.85 per cent, and HCL Technologies climbed 3.71 per cent on the BSE.

Also, Persistent Systems zoomed 5.86 per cent, LTIM-indtree jumped 4.75 per cent, and Wipro advanced 3.75 per cent. The BSE IT index surged 4.04 per cent.

"Given their significant presence in the US market, IT companies may benefit from a rebound in US equities following the Republican sweep in the US elections, which is one of the major factors behind today's gain in the Indian stock market." "Strong quarterly results from IT companies or optimistic profit expectations could stimulate purchasing interest. Another reason is that Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) may be reviving their interest in Indian IT stocks, which would raise buying pressure," Praveesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said. The BSE Sensex jumped 901.50 points or 1.13 per cent to settle at 80,378.13. During the day, it soared 1,093.1 points or 1.37 per cent to 80,569.73. The NSE Nifty soared 270.75 points or 1.12 per cent to 24,484.05. "The feel-good factor of Trump's win in the US election had a rub-off effect on world equity markets, including local indices as domestic investors resorted to value buying, especially in IT stocks, which pushed the benchmark Sensex above the 80k mark. The market is hoping that the new regime will not hurt the HIB visa rules, leading to a rally in the recently beaten-down IT stocks," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Agencies



During the trading, the BSE Sensex upped over 1000 points at a point while Nifty reclaimed a level of 24,500. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Bharat Electronics Limited, Adani Enterprises, TCS, Wipro, and Infosys were the top gainers. Among the top losers during the trading were

The markets, around the globe except some Asian markets, are positively reacting to the victory of Trump, as S&P 500 futures hit a record high in a broad rally. The European shares opened higher today, following gains in the US stock futures after early election results indicated Trump's clear victory and

Republicans secured control of at least one Congressional chamber. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 2.61 per cent, while China's main indices showed mixed performance, with Hong Kong's Hang Seng falling 2.23 per cent. His-

torically, Trump's victory has been seen as negative for Chinese markets due to his anti-China stance. "Given his 'America First' approach to trade policy, a Trump victory might have a big effect on the Indian market. Agencies.

## Dollar gains strength, rupee falls to all-time low of 84.25

**Mumbai:** Amid the rising possibility of Donald Trump returning to White House, the dollar on Wednesday strengthened while the Indian rupee hit all-time low of 84.25 against US dollar. This development has heightened market expectations of higher government spending under a Trump administration, which could lead to a surge in the US fiscal deficit.

Investors anticipate that Trump's policies, known for prioritising domestic infrastructure, would push fiscal limits and increase borrowing needs. This scenario has already triggered a rise in the



dollar to levels last seen in July. Consequently, the Indian rupee slid to a record low of 84.25 against the dollar, though it later recovered slightly to trade at 84.18 at the time of filing this report.

According to the market experts, the dollar's rally to expectations that a Trump presidency would significantly increase government spending, likely aimed at stimulating the economy. Experts point out that such policies could widen the US fiscal deficit, potentially leading to greater government borrowing. An increase in US Treasury issuance to meet spending needs would elevate Treasury yields as investors demand higher returns to absorb the additional debt. Rising yields, in turn, bolster the appeal of dollar-denominated assets, driving demand for the greenback. The Mexican Peso has already dropped 3 per cent against the dollar, while the Japanese Yen and Euro have also weakened. Higher Treasury yields not only enhance the dollar's strength but put pressure on global currencies, particularly those of emerging markets like India. Ajay Bagga, Banking and market expert told ANI "Trump Trades are on in the markets. With Trump winning North Carolina, his chances of winning 270 Electoral College votes increase. Given Trump policies will lead to higher US fiscal deficit, US treasury yields will rise and as a result we are seeing US dollar rising to July levels. Agencies.

**The Indian rupee slid to a record low of 84.25 against the dollar, though it later recovered slightly to trade at 84.18 on Nov 06, 2024 12:10 IST.**

## Gold loses some glitter

**Mumbai:** Gold prices fell by Rs 150 to Rs 81,150 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in line with weak global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Subdued demand from jewellers and retailers also impacted the prices, the association said.

However, silver remained flat at Rs 96,700 per kg.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 150 to Rs 80,750 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 80,900 per 10 grams on Tuesday.

In the futures trade, gold contracts for December delivery fell by Rs 333 or 0.42 per cent to Rs 78,174 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). During the day, the yellow metal plunged Rs 1,007 or 1.3 per cent to hit a low of Rs 77,500 per 10 grams.

"Gold prices experienced intense volatility, fluctuating sharply between Rs 78,500 and Rs 77,500, as the US election outcome bolstered the dollar index.

"This dollar strength pushed gold to lows of Rs 77,500 and USD 2,700 in dollar terms. However, gold found some stability, recovering from oversold levels near USD 2,700 to around USD 2,725 per ounce," Jaaten Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Also, silver contracts for December delivery plunged Rs 1,122 or 1.19 per cent to Rs 93,526 per kg. The metal plummeted Rs 3,158 or 3.33 per cent to hit an intra-day low of Rs 91,490 per kg on the MCX.

In the global markets, Comex gold futures traded 0.57 per cent lower or USD 15.60 per ounce to USD 2,734.10 per ounce. "Gold prices are experiencing significant selling pressure in the European session on Wednesday, following a notable increase in the dollar index. "Donald Trump has emerged victorious in the US presidential race and is poised to become the 47th president," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. Agencies.



**Analysts foresee a possibility for gold prices to stabilise in the near term, as markets absorb the recent volatility surrounding the U.S. election.**

## India, ADB sign \$200 mn loan for Uttarakhand revamp

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 200 million loan on Wednesday to upgrade water supply, sanitation, urban mobility, and other urban services in Uttarakhand, the Ministry of Finance announced.

During the loan agreement signing, Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, noted that the project aligns with India's urban development agenda and supports Uttarakhand's efforts to enhance urban services, aiming to improve livability and sustainability in cities.

"The project aims to create urban infrastructure resilient to climate and environmental risks, such as floods and landslides, ensuring the safety and health of Uttarakhand's population," said Mio Oka, Country Director of the India Resident Mission at ADB.

"It will also build the capacity of state agencies in

project management, climate- and disaster-resilient planning, own-source revenue generation, and gender mainstreaming."

The project will enhance transportation, urban mobility, drainage, flood management, and public services in Haldwani, the state's economic hub, the ministry stated.

In addition, it will improve water supply systems in four cities—Champawat, Kichha, Kotdwar, and Vikasnagar--by developing efficient and climate-resilient infrastructure, as per the finance ministry.

In Haldwani, the project will develop 16 km of climate-resilient roads, establish an intelligent traffic management system, deploy compressed natural gas buses, and pilot electric buses.

To prepare the city for potential disasters, the project will construct 36 km of stormwater and roadside drains for flood management and implement an early warning system. A green-certified administrative complex and bus terminal will also be built

to enhance public service delivery.

In the other four cities, the project aims to achieve 100 per cent water service coverage by constructing 1,024 km of climate-resilient pipelines with smart water meters, 26 tubewells, new reservoirs, and a water treatment plant with a daily capacity of 3.5 million litres. Sanitation coverage in Vikasnagar will be improved through sewage treatment facilities that will benefit around 2,000 households.

According to the ministry's release, the project will introduce initiatives for women, including livelihood skills training for bus driving, ticketing, and operating electric charging stations. Recognising the role of women in managing water supply systems, the project will also build the capacity of women, including those from vulnerable households, in operating and managing water supply and sanitation services.

The European Investment Bank is co-financing the project with an additional USD 191 million, the finance ministry added.

## SpiceJet announces eight new flights

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

SpiceJet is further expanding its domestic network with the launch of eight new flights starting November 15. In the statement released on Wednesday, the airline announced that these new routes will connect Jaipur with Varanasi, Amritsar and Ahmedabad, while also linking Ahmedabad with Pune. This expansion follows the recent launch of 32 new flights in October 2024, including two international flights connecting Delhi with Phuket.

Last month, SpiceJet also commenced UDAN flights



linking Shivamogga in Karnataka with Chennai and Hyderabad, and introduced double daily flights between Chennai and Kochi, enhancing connectivity across key regional and metropolitan cities. "We are excited to announce the

launch of new flights from Jaipur to Varanasi, Amritsar, and Ahmedabad, as well as from Ahmedabad to Pune, providing our passengers with greater flexibility and convenience," SpiceJet Chief Business Officer Debojyoti Maharshi said.

"These new flights reflect our commitment to supporting passenger demand across tier-II cities and beyond. With our expanded winter schedule, including international and UDAN routes, we aim to provide our customers with greater

convenience, affordability, and seamless travel experiences," Maharshi added.

SpiceJet will deploy its 78-seater Q400 aircraft in these sectors. Bookings for the new flights are now open and tickets are available at the website of the airline, SpiceJet's mobile app and through online travel portals and travel agents.

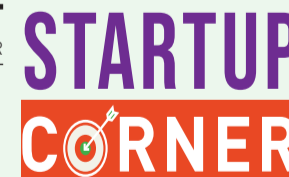
On Monday, the airline received a significant boost, with Acuite Ratings & Research Limited upgrading its long-term rating by four notches to 'B+' and its short-term rating to A4. The rating agency has also assigned a 'Stable' outlook to the airline.

## MAGIC to empower manufacturing startups

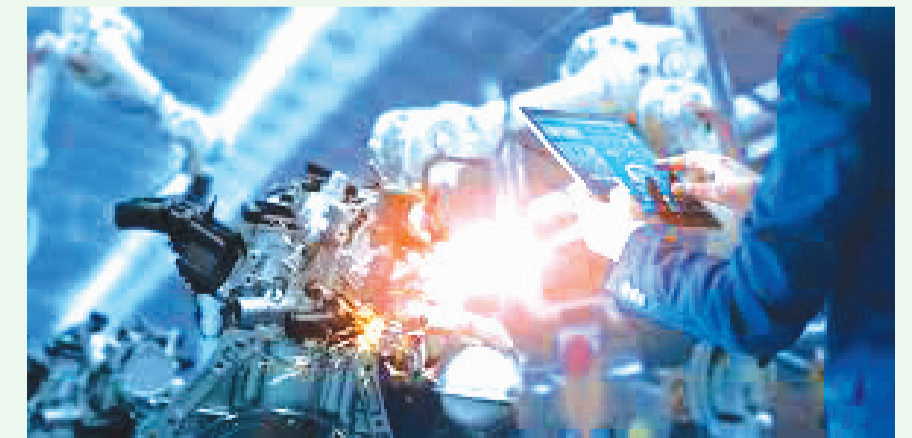
TDG NETWORK  
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

The Startup India Manufacturing Incubator Initiative has selected the Marathwada Accelerator for Growth and Incubation Council (MAGIC) as a significant step to strengthen the manufacturing startup ecosystem. This program, led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), aims to foster innovation and self-reliance in India's manufacturing sector.

The Startup India Manufacturing Incubator Initiative, launched in April this year, focuses on supporting manufacturing startups with essential resources and infrastructure. Through



a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the DPIIT partnered with select institutions, including MAGIC, to establish a support system for startups nationwide. The program,



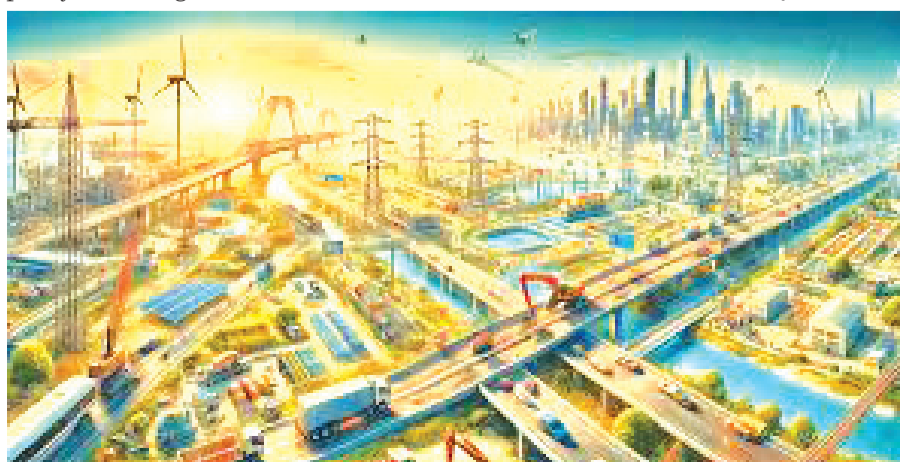
titled "Build Bharat with Startup India," emphasises building a strong manufacturing base to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life.

MAGIC's Executive Director, Kedar Deshpande, explained that the incubator will provide startups with key resources such as plug-

and-play facilities, prototyping labs, and technology management support, addressing common challenges in the industry. "Our mission is to support manufacturing startups in overcoming setup costs and infrastructure hurdles," he emphasised. Director Maithili Tamolkar added, "Through

this partnership, MAGIC is committed to creating an empowering ecosystem for manufacturing startups, aligned with DPIIT's mission to drive innovation in the industry."

As a regional hub, MAGIC is vital in advancing innovation and supporting local startups.



# SCREAMS OF DARKNESS BENEATH LIGHT!

## OPINION

DR VIJAY DARDA



A terrifying scene of war, shadow of death all over, and everyone playing their own tune

The night of Diwali, bathed in a warm glow of light, was certainly full of joy for all of us. A constant stream of visitors came, everyone embracing one another, and sharing sweets. Children were enjoying themselves, fireworks were being set off, and the noise of crackers echoed around. Those family members or friends who were far away were exchanging greetings over smartphones. Just like you, I was immersed in those joys until late into the night too. And that's how it should be. These festivals are our culture and heritage too. Life thrives on such celebrations!

However, as the night

passed, my mind began to reflect that we are fortunate to celebrate Diwali while there are places with crores of people where bombs are exploding instead of fire-crackers, and missiles are launched! A dance of death is reigning supreme. It felt as if those explosions were tearing my consciousness apart. I was reminded of a few lines from young poet Armaan Anand's poem titled 'Ladte huye Ukraine ke naam':

*Abbi-abbi khet se sabjjiyan todkar lauta bi tha ki, Angreji bhasa ke manual ke saath, Ek bandookb thama di gayi, Aur kaha gaya ki, Tumbe desb ke liye ladna hai. Abbi tak use desb ka pet bbarna tha, Ab ladna hai, Kaafi der tak bandookb ko ulat-palatar dekhta raba, Usne dekha ki bandookb se, Kabhi bhi aap khet nabin jot sakte, Uski garbbvati patni darwaza thame use door se dekhti rabi. Usne bandookb ko ek taraf rakh diya, Fir kulbadi uthai, Uske baath kulbadi ko janate the, Kulbadi uski bhasa sama-jbti thi,*

*Vab apni patni ke paas pabucha, Use gale lagaya aur kaba, Bachche ko batana ki uske pita ne,*

*Bandookbwalon par kulbadi chalaai thi, Jaban meri laash gire wahan ek cherry ka ped laga dena!*

Have you noticed that the Russia-Ukraine war and the war between Hamas-Hezbollah and Israel have killed thousands and left tens of thousands injured? These wars have displaced more than 10 crore people. Those affected or displaced have no connection to the reasons for these wars. They are the ones who wish to live peacefully, educate their children and build their futures. They want to celebrate Eid, Christmas and Diwali. All they desire are two square meals and clean drinking water. In Ukraine alone, about 14 lakh people do not have access to clean drinking water. They seek better health, but the pervasive smell of gunpowder has suffocated them, and every moment, the sounds of explosions pierce their ears. Mothers are forced to watch their children being torn to pieces, see their husbands getting killed, and children are left orphaned.

Why are the wars fought? Can't we live in peace? I was horrified to read the United Nations report that 3.7 crore people have died fighting wars in the last 200 years. This number does not include the civilians who died from hunger and disease after wars. Apart from the

wars being discussed everyday, internal conflicts continue in many African and Middle Eastern countries. We witnessed the war in Afghanistan and the misery that followed, where life has become hell. Major wars draw attention, but they cannot be just about statistics, after all! Over four decades have passed and we still see Kashmir bleeding. How, then, can anyone say... Kadam kadam badhaye jaa, khushi ke geet gaaye jaa!

More than 20 countries are engulfed in war, and the various factions fighting there are often manipulated by powerful nations so as to install favourable regimes and military bases there, and usurp the resources in those areas. I won't name any country but will question why those waging wars receive financial and weap-

onry support! Some warring groups are so strong that they are even more powerful than the army of their country.

I believe that arms dealers around the world constantly ensure that war persists somewhere or the other, just to sell their weapons. These dealers even supply weapons to the terrorist organisations with impunity. Can't these factories producing gunpowder and explosives be shut down? When there are no weapons, there would be no wars! But there is a mad race to pile up arms! Now even the land of Lord Buddha, Lord Mahavir and Mahatma Gandhi is manufacturing weapons. They claim they are for peace, but they are weapons nonetheless. It's a strange situation! Institutions like the United Nations have become ineffective

and irrelevant. We belong to a culture that believes in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. In the past, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru conveyed the message of peace, and now Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making every possible effort to bring about peace. But amid these horrifying war scenes, everyone has their own agenda. Grand speeches are made, but the harsh reality is that in these terrifying wars, no one hears the cries of the darkness. How will those caught in wars celebrate Eid, Christmas or Diwali?

This war will devour all. Those who ignite the fire will eventually be consumed by its flames.

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



## PERSPECTIVE REMARKABLE

# RESILIENT TRUMP BECOMES THE 47TH PRESIDENT OF THE US

In the end, it was hardly a contest. Democratic party candidate, US Vice President Kamala Harris held on to the blue states but let Donald Trump sweep all the swing states, which sealed her fate and sunk the Democratic party, which not only lost the presidency, but also the Senate to the Republican Party. All that talk about the race being close, proved to be just that—talk and a now-obvious campaign to mislead voters and influence them to vote against Donald Trump. The truth is, what we witnessed on 5 November was a deluge of anger expressed through the ballot box against the mismanagement of policy—with the economy featuring right on top—by the Biden government, apart from a revolt against the so-called progressive causes that have come to decide US government policy, including illegal immigration, which has made US cities unsafe, with crime rates soaring, apart from taking away jobs from low wage earners. In fact the result was a backlash against the globalist left's attempt to ignore, in fact subsume fundamental social and human values in the name of social justice, inclusivity and diversity, which, however, often gives rise to divisiveness, cancel culture or excessive political correctness, resulting in dehumanisation. The pursuit of correct pronouns or other such issues may excite Kamala Harris and her ecosystem, but is of no interest to the working class American, who is bearing the burden of price rise in the aftermath of Covid and the Russia-Ukraine war. Calls to defund the police do not make neighbourhoods safe. Idolizing a terrorist movement like Hamas on university campuses, or going around burning American flags and attacking Jewish professors and students is symptomatic of radicalization. Allowing transgressors into women's bathrooms in the name of inclusivity endangers women. It's a long list, where liberal insanity had started impacting the lives of ordinary people and they hit back.



One of the fundamental rules of democracy or an election is that the voters are never to be taken for granted or belittled even if they vote for a rival party. Every voter has his or her preferences for certain reasons. Just because someone is voting Trump does not make that person racist or misogynist. So demeaning them for their choice amounts to insulting them, which they will never forget. Calling Trump voters evil, Nazi or garbage only strengthens their resolve to get their voices heard through the ballot box. It's but natural that a smart politician like Trump would turn such an insult around, making it a rallying point for his campaign. In fact describing Trump as a "convicted felon" also did not help the Democratic camp. He was seen as the victim of the excesses committed by a very malign justice system. The sympathy factor worked brilliantly for him, with his base mobilising in full force to ensure that the election would go his way.

In fact, Trump's is one of the most incredible comeback stories that the world has seen. From losing an election to being abused, hounded, indicted, to surviving an assassination attempt and then becoming the President of the United States, it's a remarkable story of resilience. No amount of falsely painting him as a Nazi and evil, someone who will end democracy in the US, deterred the voters. This proves how limited an influence celebrities and public figures have, however famous they might be, for example like Oprah Winfrey.

In fact, no amount of scare mongering could deter the voting population. Kamala Harris couldn't come out of the shadows of Joe Biden's policies. Also, she was seen as incompetent, a non-achiever and lacking the personality to pull the voters her way. Her sole issue was abortion, but it was not good enough to mobilise the women voters, and could not sideline a burning issue like inflation in particular. On the whole, she was a poor pick, who was foisted on the Democratic Party as Presidential candidate. She lacked charisma and grassroots support, and performed poorly enough not to win a single county countrywide that Biden had won in 2020. Even then she won around 66 million popular votes, compared to Trump's around 72 million. So it is now incumbent on Trump to ensure that those who have not voted for him should not feel left behind. The US is deeply divided and as Trump said in his victory speech, it's the time to heal.

JOYEETA BASU

# PM-Vidyalaxmi: Yet another Modi ki guarantee for learners

The scheme will also provide for 3% interest subvention on loans up to Rs 10 lakh during moratorium period for those students having annual family income of Rs. 8.00 lakhs.

## OPINION

RAGHAVENDRA P. TIWARI



India is currently having over 600 million of its population between the ages of 18 and 35 constituting about 43% of the total population. By virtue of this, India has the largest number of millennials and Gen Zs in the world. This population constitutes critical mass for increasing GER in higher education from current 28% to 50% by 2035 as envisaged in NEP-2020. Moreover, India's working population in the age-bracket of 15-64 is nearly 68%. Current demographic dividend will not be available for longer period as youth population will turn old and thus will become non-productive. Precisely for this reason, PM Modi called current time-window in the lifespan of Bharat as the Amrut Kaal and has given clar-

ion call for making it Viksit by 2047 through self-reliant measures. This pious vision of the PM can be met with only by empowering youth with the necessary skillset, entrepreneurial mindset and creative thought processes. Skilled youth are in high demand world over and this trend will always remain as skilling, upskilling and reskilling will always be required to cope-up with ever-evolving job profiles in the work places. However, owing to the economic transformation that the nation has witnessed over the last decade, living standard has greatly improved leading to enhanced cost of living. And, education is no exception.

Central Government has taken number of initiatives for ensuring hassle-free access to quality higher education, especially with regard to NEP-2020 implementation. These include multidisciplinary and learning outcome based curriculum for holistic learning; innovative pedagogy (experiential learning, internship, field immersion, etc); evaluation to test the learning outcomes; Aca-

dem Bank of Credits; Multiple Entry Exit; Dual degree, joint degree and twin degree programs; emphasis on Indian Knowledge System and Universal Human Values, etc. The latest edition to the long list is PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide collateral free, guarantor free financial loans to needy meritorious students covering all categories to ease them from financial constraints for pursuing quality higher education.

Approved by the Cabinet on 5th November, 2024, as a Deepawali Gift to the nation, PM-Vidyalaxmi is a mission mode, simple, transparent, student-friendly and fully digital mechanism to facilitate easy access of loans to meritorious students admitted in, to begin with, top 860 quality higher education institutions. This initiative provides a single window integrated platform for students seeking educational loans to apply for it and to track their applications.

Covering one lakh students annually, PM Vidyalaxmi will add to the scope and reach of earlier initiatives of the current government for maximizing access to quality higher education for the youth of the economically and socially deprived sections of the society. The list will be updated annually based on the latest NIRF ranking. Under this scheme, students who will be ad-



mitted in quality Higher Education Institutions will be eligible to obtain collateral free, guarantor free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover full amount of tuition fees and other expenses to be incurred for pursuing academic programs.

Under PM Vidyalaxmi, government will also provide 75% credit guarantee of outstanding default for loan amounts up to Rs 7.5 lakhs to support banks to expand coverage. The scheme will also provide for 3% interest subvention on loans up to Rs 10 lakh during moratorium period for those students having annual family income of Rs. 8.00 lakhs and are not covered under any government scholarship of interest subvention. This will be in addition to full interest subvention already offered to students with up to Rs. 4.5 lakhs annual family in-

come. Interest subvention will be paid through E-voucher and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) wallets. An outlay of Rs 3,600 Crore has been made available for period from 2024-25 to 2030-31, and 7 lakh fresh students are expected to get the benefit of this interest subvention during the above timeslot.

In fact, PM-Vidyalaxmi will supplement the two components of the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP), namely, the Central Sector Interest Subsidy (CSIS) and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme (CGFS) for education loans, already offered by the Ministry of Education. Under the PM-USP-CSIS, students pursuing technical/professional courses from approved institutions with annual family income up to Rs 4.5 lakhs are already enjoying full interest subven-

tion during moratorium period for education loans up to Rs 10 lakhs. PM Vidyalaxmi, in a nutshell, is an entirely new scheme launched for empowering youth, especially of middle class, with necessary financial support for pursuing the education of their choice. The scheme will operate in tandem with PM-USP for providing financial support to all deserving students to pursue quality higher education and technical/professional education in a select quality Higher Education Institutions in India. The newly launched scheme, apart from making quality higher education available to meritorious students, will ease out the impounding stress of students opting for loan and will enable them to fully concentrate on learning. Kudos to PM Shri Narendra Modi and Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan for launching a new learner-centric scheme for spearheading the implementation of NEP-2020. PM Vidyalaxmi is yet another 'Modi Kee Guarantee'. It is, in fact, a confluence of Vidya, the Goddess of Knowledge, and Laxmi, the Goddess of Wealth. It is precisely for such welfare measures that the PM Modi is adored by the masses in India and abroad.

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# TRUMP AND INDIA



India gained diplomatic visibility, economic prospects, and defence ties from Trump's Feb 2020 visit, though questions remain about long-term benefits. ANI

India and the US share a longstanding history of trade disputes, with President Trump previously dubbing India as a "tariff king." During Trump's first term, India faced US tariffs on steel and aluminium in 2018 and lost its preferential trade status under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), affecting about 12% of its exports. Despite these obstacles, India has strengthened its relationship with Trump, aided by a close Modi-Trump alliance. Official data reveals India's total exports to the US reached \$54.7 billion by August 2024.

Trump's re-election brings India both opportunities and challenges, requiring strategic, economic, diplomatic, and cultural adjustments to strengthen India-U.S. relations.

## TDG EXPLAINER

and land acquisition are critical if India aims to seize these emerging opportunities effectively.

### Quadrilateral security dialogue

The Indo-Pacific region has become a focal point in Trump's foreign policy, particularly as the U.S. seeks to counterbalance China's re-

ality in the Indo-Pacific, enhancing its geopolitical standing. Moreover, as part of the Indo-Pacific strategy, the U.S. may expand joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and defense cooperation with India. Such collaborations could increase India's access to advanced military technology and intelligence, strengthening its security posture. However, closer alignment with the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific also introduces potential



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by members of the Indian community upon his arrival at Philadelphia airport on Sept 21 2024. PTI

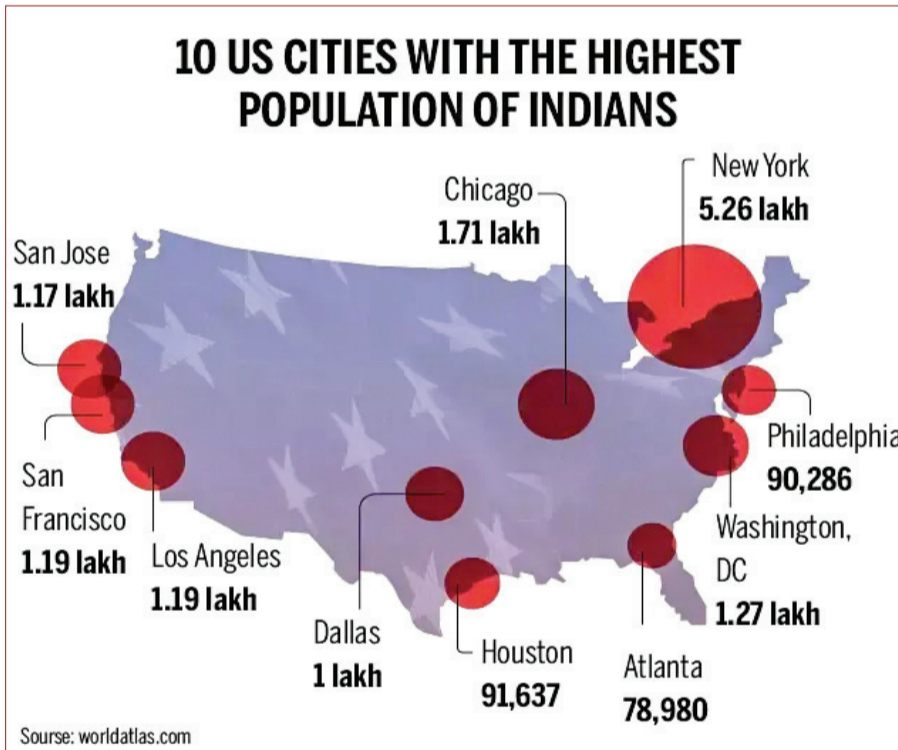
The re-election of Donald Trump as President of the United States in November 2024 marks a pivotal moment for global politics. As one of the world's largest democracies, the U.S. holds considerable influence across spheres that ripple outward, impacting numerous nations, including India. India and the U.S. share a complex, layered relationship that encompasses foreign policy, economic strategies, immigration, and cultural connections. Trump's return to office brings profound implications for this relationship, ushering in both new opportunities and challenges.

## FOREIGN POLICY AND INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

A defining theme of Trump's foreign policy has been his hardline stance on China, with a particular focus on reducing U.S. economic reliance on China. While this "decoupling" strategy primarily addresses U.S.-China tensions, its effects extend beyond these two powers, carrying weighty implications for India.

### Decoupling from China

Trump's administration has long promoted the idea of decoupling from China in sectors like technology, manufacturing, and critical supply chains. For India, this presents a dual-edged sword.



As U.S. companies seek alternatives to Chinese manufacturing, India stands to gain economically. Positioned as a potential manufacturing and technology hub, India could attract substantial foreign investment, generating jobs, capital, and expertise within the country.

However, to realise this potential, India must meet several conditions. The country needs to upgrade infrastructure, streamline regulatory processes, and address bureaucratic challenges to draw and sustain large-scale foreign investments. Enhancing digital infrastructure, improving business environments, and tackling issues like labor laws

regional influence. The U.S. has solidified partnerships with India, Japan, and Australia through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). India, with its strategic location and strengthening military capabilities, is a key partner in this regional strategy.

The Quad underscores a united approach toward securing a free, open, and stable Indo-Pacific. Trump's re-election signals a likely continuation, if not reinforcement, of this alliance. Both Indian and Australian foreign ministers have expressed optimism that the U.S. election results will not hinder the Quad's goals. This continuity underpins India's role in maintaining stabil-

risks, particularly concerning China, which could elevate tensions along India's borders with China.

## ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The U.S. presidential election has historically exerted a direct impact on emerging markets, and Trump's re-election has already influenced Indian markets. Given his strong protectionist stance, further fluctuations in Indian currency and equity markets are possible, especially if his policies lead to additional market shifts.

### Market: Currency and equity fluctuations

In the immediate wake of Trump's re-election, the Indian rupee depreciated to a record low of 84.1950 against the U.S. dollar, as early election results favored Trump spurred a dollar rally. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervened to curb a steeper decline by selling dollars, underscoring the vulnerability of India's currency to U.S. election dynamics and dollar movements.

Indian equity markets also reacted, with the NSE Nifty 50 index and the BSE Sensex gaining, buoyed by positive U.S. economic data and initial

optimism. IT stocks, in particular, surged, as a Trump-led administration might continue relying on outsourcing, benefiting Indian tech firms.

### Implications for Indian exports

Trump's "America First" approach to trade emphasizes protectionism, potentially presenting hurdles for Indian exports, especially in industries reliant on U.S. demand. Should Trump's administration impose new tariffs or trade restrictions, sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, and automotive parts may face barriers to entry into the U.S. market. India can mitigate these potential challenges by diversifying trade relationships and strengthening ties with other economies, particularly in Europe and Southeast Asia. By reducing dependency on the U.S. market, India may lessen the impact of Trump's protectionist measures.

## IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND THE FLOW OF INDIAN TALENT

Immigration policies, a cornerstone of Trump's politi-

cal platform, often prioritize stringent restrictions. Given his "America First" stance, any reforms to immigration are likely to impact Indian professionals and students in the U.S.

### Impact on H-1B visas and tech talent

One of India's key concerns is Trump's potential reform of the H-1B visa program. A significant portion of H-1B visas are held by Indian nationals, especially those working in the U.S. tech industry. Stricter visa conditions or reduced quotas would disrupt this talent pipeline, impacting both Indian IT companies and individuals seeking employment in the U.S.

Indian IT firms, already contending with changing global dynamics, may face added challenges if their employees find it harder to secure work authorization in the U.S. This would also affect Indian students pursuing higher education in the U.S., who rely on H-1B visas for post-graduation work opportunities. Negotiations between the Indian government and the Trump administration may be necessary to secure favourable conditions, or India

may explore strategies to foster domestic opportunities to retain this skilled workforce. Implications for students

The U.S. has traditionally attracted Indian students pursuing advanced degrees, particularly in fields like engineering, medicine, and business. Stricter immigration policies, however, may deter future students, leading them to consider alternative destinations such as Canada, Australia, or Europe.

This trend may, in turn, talented India by retaining a talented workforce. Through innovation-focused policies, research grants, and advanced educational institutions, India could create an environment that encourages skilled youth to stay and contribute to domestic growth.

## SOFT DIPLOMACY

Beyond the economic and policy-driven implications of Trump's re-election, cultural diplomacy holds great potential for shaping India-U.S. relations. Indian-American celebrities, influencers, and public figures have significantly impacted the Ameri-

can cultural landscape, fostering a deeper awareness and appreciation of Indian culture.

### Growing Influence of the Indian diaspora

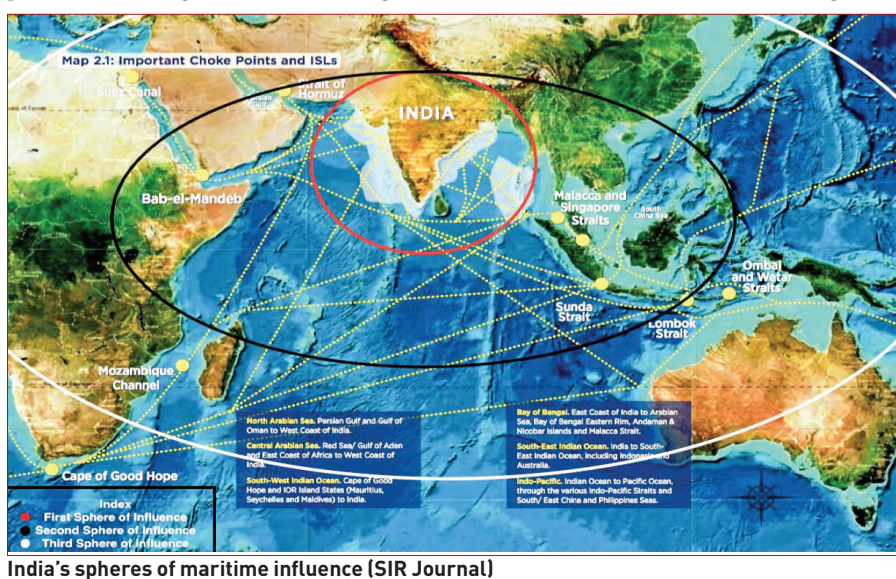
The Indian diaspora in the U.S. has become a formidable presence, making strides in politics, entertainment, technology, and academia. High-profile Indian-American personalities actively engaged in the U.S. election season, endorsing candidates and contributing to political discussions. This engagement reflects the diaspora's integration into American society and their role as informal ambassadors for India-U.S. relations.

The visibility of Indian-Americans in U.S. culture enhances India's soft diplomacy, fostering a positive image of India in the American consciousness. These high-profile figures serve as cultural bridges, promoting a nuanced understanding of India among the U.S. populace and creating people-to-people connections that underpin policy dialogues and economic partnerships.

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra

## Bollywood, cuisine, and festivals as cultural bridges

Indian culture, especially through Bollywood, cuisine, and festivals, has gained remarkable popularity in the U.S. Cultural exchanges of this kind help bridge societal divides, contributing to an increasingly robust bilateral relationship. Indian festivals like Diwali and Holi have become widely celebrated in many U.S. cities, while the influence of Indian cuisine is evident in countless Indian restaurants across the country. These exchanges not only bolster India's soft power but also play a role in countering stereotypes, building friendships, and fostering cultural appreciation. While intangible, such elements of cultural diplomacy create a conducive atmosphere for India-U.S. collaboration across broader domains.



## RAHUL GANDHI CITIZENSHIP ROW: ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT PETITIONER APPEARS BEFORE DELHI HIGH COURT, CLAIMS CBI IS INVESTIGATING THE ISSUE

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Subramanian Swamy v. Union of India & Anr observed and has informed that investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI has been initiated over a Public Interest Litigation, PIL filed in the Allahabad High Court against the alleged British citizenship of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

In the present case, the Public Interest Litigation, PIL is filed by Vignesh Shishir, BJP member from Karnataka in the Allahabad High Court wherein he appeared virtually before a division bench comprising Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela.

The bench in the case was hearing the Public Interest Litigation, PIL filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy with regards to the issue.

He in the case also sought a direction on the Union Government to file a status report on his complaint against the Congress leader.

It has been stated by



Vignesh Shishir before the court that, 'I have appeared before CBI in this case and have tendered very confidential evidences in this matter. The present matter is presently under the investigation by CBI and since the proceedings initiated in the Allahabad High Court is at very advanced stages, I submit that this case is leading to multiplicity of proceedings.'

It has also been prayed by Shishir before the court that for some time to place on record the relevant documents on the development that has taken place in his PIL before the Allahabad High Court.

The bench in its order stated that, 'Let an affidavit be filed within two weeks along with an application for impleadment.'

The bench in the case remarked that the Public Interest Litigation, PIL pending before the Allahabad High Court involves 'wider prayers' and that it does not want two parallel proceedings to be maintained on a similar issue.

It has been claimed by Shishir before the court that his Public Interest Litigation, PIL before the Allahabad High Court is at an advanced stage, Swamy appearing in person told the Court that the issue was raised by him as back as in 2017 and that the prayers in the two cases are not similar.

Swamy appeared as petitioner in person along with his counsel, Advocate Satya Sabharwal.

In August 2019, Swamy had written a letter to the Centre on alleged vio-

lations made by the Congress leader in 'voluntarily disclosing' to the British Government that he being a citizen of British nationality, amounting to holding a British passport.

It has been alleged by Swamy that Rahul Gandhi, being an Indian Citizen, has violated Article 9 of the Constitution of India, read with the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955.

Gandhi would lose or cease to be an Indian Citizen, Swamy has claimed.

The Article 9 of the Constitution of India states that no person shall be a citizen of India or be deemed to be a citizen of India if he has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of any foreign State.

On April 20, 2019, a notice was sent by Central Government to Gandhi with the subject 'complaint regarding citizenship.'

Swamy had written that a Company namely Backops Limited was registered in the United Kingdom in 2003, with Gandhi as one of the Directors and Secretary.

Further, it has been alleged by him before the court that in the Company's Annual Returns

filed in 2005 and 2006, Gandhi's date of birth was given as June 19, 1970, and that his nationality was mentioned as British.

Swamy has said that despite many representations made to the Central Government wherein asking for an update and status of his complaint, no action has been taken.

Swamy in his petition has sought direction on the Centre to decide his complaint or representation at the earliest and to furnish the conclusion or final order of the same.

The Supreme Court had dismissed the petition wherein restraining Rahul Gandhi from contesting the 2019 General Elections until the determination of the 'dual citizenship' issue upon his supposedly procuring British citizenship.

The Supreme Court orally remarked that, 'Some paper says he has British citizenship so he becomes a British citizen? Merely because a company speaks of him as a British citizen-ship so it means he has British citizenship?'

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on December 06, 2024.

## Supreme Court lays down steps to be followed by authorities before clearing encroachments for road-widening

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case In Re Manoj Tibrewal Akash observed and has expressed discontent over the 'high-handed' approach of the Uttar Pradesh Government in illegally demolishing houses, the court laid down the measures which needs to be followed by state authorities for clearing areas in road widening projects.

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

In the present case, the court was hearing the suo motu writ petition which is registered in the year 2020 based on a letter complaint sent by Manoj Tibrewal Akash, whose house was demolished in 2019.

The court in the case noted that while the house was encroaching only to the extent of 3.70 meters into the project road, the actual demolition was between 8 to 10 meters and in excess.

The court observed that the action of demolition was done without giving any proper notice to the occupiers and only through the public announcement

of drum-beating.

The court also observed that such conduct of the state authorities was 'completely high-handed and without the authority of law'.

The Following directions have to be laid down in order to ensure compliance with due procedure in law in road-widening exercises:

1. Ascertainment of the existing width of the road in terms of records or maps;

2. To Carry out a survey or demarcation to ascertain any encroachment on the existing road with reference to the existing maps;

3. If encroachment is found, issuance of notice to encroacher;

4. In the event the encroacher who raised an objection to the notice, the decision of the objection by speaking order in compliance with natural justice;

5. If the objection is rejected, a reasonable notice shall be furnished to the person against whom the adverse action is proposed to remove the encroachment;

6. On the failure of the person to do so, the competent authority may take steps to do so unless restrained by an order of the

competent authority of the Court;

7. If the existing width of the road which includes the plan adjoining the road is not sufficient to accommodate road widening, steps would have to be taken by the state to acquire the land in accordance with the law before undertaking a road widening exercise.

The court in the case observed and has directed the State to pay punitive compensation of Rs 25 lakhs to the petitioner whose house was illegally demolished. The said compensation is of an interim nature and would not come in the way of the petitioner adopting other legal proceedings for compensation. Further, the court directed the Chief Secretary of UP to conduct an enquiry against all officers and contractors who were responsible for the illegal demolitions and initiate disciplinary actions.

The court in the case also clarified that the State is at liberty to initiate criminal action also against the persons responsible for the illegal actions. The counsel, Senior Advocate Siddharth Bhatnagar appeared for the petitioner along with Advocate Shubham Kulshreshtha.

## Delhi High Court restrains Alpino Health Foods from publishing advertisements 'disparaging' oats

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Marico Limited v. Alpino Health Foods Private Limited observed and has restrained Alpino Health Foods Private Limited, which being a Bengaluru-based brand, from publishing or sharing its advertisements disparaging 'Oats' as a category of foods, either on social media or otherwise.

The bench headed by Justice Mini Pushkarna in the case passed the ex parte ad interim injunction order in favour of Marico Limited wherein the suit is filed against Alpino, a brand which has actress Shilpa Shetty as the brand ambassador and investor.

In the present case, Marico was aggrieved by Alpino's marketing via advertisements allegedly targeting oats as a category of food.



It being the case of Marico's that it launched 'Saffola Oats' and rolled oats and the advertisements were disparaging to oats.

The suit filed alleged before the court that Alpino was trying to establish its product against regular rolled oats and was running a 'brazen and bizarre advertisement campaign' against the entire oats category by defaming and disparaging the natural characteristic of oats to 'choona'.

It was also alleged before the court that Alpino's advertisements called rolled

oats 'lifeless, boring and impossible to finish.'

It was also submitted before the court that the intent and storyline of the impugned advertisements was to maliciously slander, denigrate, and disparage Oats and to spread misinformation and paranoia among the consumers about oats by saying that they are bad, poisonous and unsuitable for human consumption.

The court in an interim order dated October 29 issued a summons in the suit and said that Marico was able to demonstrate a prima fa-

cie case in its favour for the grant of ad interim injunction.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that the plaintiff has demonstrated a prima facie case for grant of injunction and in case no ex-parte ad-interim injunction is granted, the plaintiff will suffer an irreparable loss.

Further, the court stated that the balance of convenience also lies in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendant.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on March 19, 2025.

The counsel, Advocates Mr. Chander M. Lall, Sr. Advocate with Mr. Ankur Sangal, Ms. Pragya Mishra, Mr. Raghu Vinayak Sinha, Mr. Shaurya Pandey and Ms. Ananya Mehan appeared for the Petitioner.

## Punjab and Haryana High Court: Father not absolved from providing maintenance for child even if mother is working

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case X v Y observed that even if mother is working and is earning sufficiently, it would not automatically mean that the father is absolved of his responsibility in order to provide sustenance for his children.

The High Court in the case emphasized that the father is legally bound to maintain his child as per his lifestyle and status.

The single judge bench of Justice Sumeet Goel in its order stated that section 125 of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC is a tool for social justice enacted to ensure that women and children are protected from a life of potential vagrancy and destitution. If the husband or father has sufficient means, he is obligated to maintain his wife and children, and cannot shirk away from moral

and familial responsibilities.

Adding to it, the court stated that in households wherein the women are working and are earning sufficiently to maintain themselves, it does not automatically mean that the husband or father is absolved of his responsibility to provide sustenance for his children.

The court stated that the father has an equal duty to provide for his children and there cannot be a situation wherein it is only the mother who has to bear the burden of expenses for raising and educating the children.

The court made the said observations wherein the High Court in the case refused to interfere with the order of Family Court wherein directing a man to provide interim maintenance to his minor daughter at the rate of Rs.7,000 per month along with litigation expenses to the tune of Rs.10,000.

The man had challenged

the order of Family Court before the High Court.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner's father contended before the court that he is employed in a private job and earns a 'meagre' monthly income for an amount of Rs.22,000 and that six of his family members are dependent on him, whereas his wife is a government teacher with a monthly income of Rs 35,400.

Adding to it, he stated that the minor daughter is in the custody of the mother, who has sufficient means to maintain, hence the order of interim maintenance should be set aside.

Further, the court in the case opined that even the mother is working, it does not mean the father will be absolved from taking responsibility of his child.

The High Court stated that the father is legally bound to maintain his child according to his status and lifestyle.

The court while consider-

ing the facts and circumstances of the case observed that the Family Court had taken into account not only the financial capability of the petitioner father but also the comprehensive efforts required to raise a child, which should be fairly shared between both the parents.

Further, the court stated that contentions raised by the petitioner at this stage regarding the factual aspects are a matter of trial.

The court noted that the order under challenge only interim in nature and is not a final decision on the maintenance petition.

The High Court stated that the interim order of Family Court cannot be said to be on the higher side and is 'rather just and appropriate in the facts and circumstances of the case'.

Accordingly, the court dismissed the father's petition.

The counsel, Advocate Rahul Garg appeared for the Petitioner.

## High Court directs Punjab and Haryana to issue SOP on timely testing of forensic evidence in FSL

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case Kuldeep Singh Versus The State of Haryana observed and has issued the set of directions to the Government of Punjab and Haryana in order to ensure expeditious Forensic Science Laboratory, FSL reports of incriminatory evidences.

The bench comprising of Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Sudeepti Sharma was hearing the present matter. The bench in the case stated that a direction is also passed upon all the Directors General of Police in the States of Punjab and Haryana in order to issue standing operating procedure which relates to:

1. The the making of prompt despatch(es) of the incriminatory items or ma-



terials to the FSLs or RFSLs concerned,

2. Relating to prompt testings thereof, and, (c) there alters the same being returned to the Court(s) concerned.

Adding to it, the court stated that the Chief Secretaries to the State of Punjab and to the State of Haryana, are directed to draw a standard operating procedure pertaining to timely testing of being made by the FSLs or RFSLs concerned, vis-a-vis the incriminatory material.

The bench in the case observed and has directed the Chief Secretaries to the States of Punjab and Hary-

ana in order to ensure that the posts in the regional centres of FSL as stated in the affidavit is promptly filed.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana, and Punjab's Administrative Secretary had filed the compliance affidavit on whether there being sufficient manpower in FSLs.

It has also been noted by the court that the Punjab Government has stated that proposal has been made for strengthening the existing Forensic Divisions, for the effective and speedy examination of NDPS Act cases, at FSL Mohali, and, also at the three Regional Testing Forensic Science Laboratories at Bathinda, Amritsar and Ludhiana, thus through procurements of instruments.

The court noted that Haryana has stated in the affida-

vit that the establishment of regional centres of FSLs is in process.

The court in the case stated that the SOP should also include that tampering of sealed cloth parcels are not done after the examination of the incriminatory material.

Adding to it, the court in the case stated that the Special Steering Committee to oversee the enforcement of the standing operating procedures be forthwith established.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that the States should consider batch-wise training of Police Officers at Himachal Pradesh's Police Training College, Daroh.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on December 20, 2024.

## Supreme Court holds prior sanction mandatory to prosecute public servants for money laundering: Section 197 of CrPC

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Directorate of Enforcement Etc. v. Bibhu Prasad Acharya Etc. Etc. observed and has held that section 197(1) of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC which provides that prior sanction from the government is required to prosecute public servants and judges for offences which are alleged while discharge of public duties, will apply to cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The bench comprising of Justice Abhay Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case observed and has dismissed an appeal by the Directorate of Enforcement chal-

lenging the order of Telangana High Court that set aside the cognizance orders against an IAS officer which being on the ground of lack of prior sanction.

The bench headed by Justice Oka while pronouncing the judgement held that the provisions of Section 197(1) of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC will apply to Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA.

The allegations made against respondent Bibhu Prasad Acharya involved misuse of official position in land allotments, undervaluation of assets, and unauthorized concessions that allegedly benefitted private companies linked to former Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy while causing significant financial loss to government.

The Enforcement Directorate alleged before the court that Acharya conspired with prominent figures to facilitate these transactions.

It has been contended by Acharya before the court that he acted within official capacity, arguing that prior government sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC was necessary for prosecution.

The Enforcement Directorate, ED argued before the court that the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA being a special statute with overriding provisions under Section 65 and Section 71, does not require such sanction.

The Enforcement Directorate, ED maintained that the allegations involve abuse of official powers for private gain, thus negat-

ing the protection offered by Section 197 of Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC.

Further, it has been argued before the court that the proceedings initiated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA do not necessitate sanction as the PMLA is a complete code providing procedure for everything.

The Telangana High Court on January 21, 2019 allowed for quashing the petition wherein the court set aside the cognizance orders issued by the Special Judge in proceedings under the PMLA.

The High Court in the case held that lack of required prior sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC rendered the cognizance orders unsustainable.

# ISRAEL NETANYAHU FIRES DEFENCE MINISTER OVER 'LACK OF TRUST'

AGENCIES  
TEL AVIV

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired his Defence Minister Yoav Gallant citing lack of trust, Times of Israel reported.

Gallant, who was a long-time rival from within the Likud Party, will be replaced by Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz. Minister without Portfolio Gideon Sa'ar will replace Katz, as per Times of Israel.

Times of Israel quoted a statement from the Prime Minister's Office which stated that Netanyahu informed Gallant that his tenure as the Defence Minister would end "48 hours from the receipt of this letter."

"I would like to thank you for your service as defense minister," the curt letter concluded, as per Times of Israel.



Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (in left) with Defence Minister Yoav Gallant (in right).

*Times of Israel quoted a statement from the Prime Minister's Office which stated that Netanyahu informed Gallant that his tenure as the Defence Minister would end "48 hours from the receipt of this letter."*

"Unfortunately, although in the first months of the war, there was trust and there was very fruitful work, during the last months this trust cracked between me and the

defence minister," Netanyahu said in a video statement, as per Times of Israel.

He says they disagreed on the management of the war and charged that Gal-

## GALLANT LAMENTS NETANYAHU'S WAR POLICY

TEL AVIV: Hours after being sacked as Israel's defence minister, Yoav Gallant in his address to people of the country, expressed gratefulness for the country's security forces and lamenting the policies of the Netanyahu government. Disapproving of Netanyahu's policy regarding the Hamas war, Gallant warned that Israel would forever bear "the mark of Cain" if it abandons the hostages held in Gaza. The former defence minister said his dismissal stemmed from disagreements on three issues: ultra-Orthodox military conscription, a hostage deal with Hamas, and a state commission of inquiry into the government's failures related to the October 7 attack that sparked the ongoing Gaza war, as reported by Times of Israel. Netanyahu fired Gallant on Tuesday evening, citing a "lack of trust" between the two, which the prime minister claimed helped Israel's enemies. Gallant, a longtime rival from within the Likud Party, will be replaced by Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz. Minister without Portfolio Gideon Sa'ar will replace Katz, as per Times of Israel.

lant made statements and took actions that contradict cabinet decisions. Netanyahu also accused Gallant of indirectly aiding Israel's enemies: "I made many attempts to bridge these gaps, but they kept getting wider," Times of Israel quoted him as saying.

"They also came to the knowledge of the public in an unacceptable way, and worse than that, they came to the knowledge of the enemy -- our enemies enjoyed it and derived a lot of benefit from it," Times of Israel quoted Netanyahu.

## Chinese human rights lawyer released after 5-year sentence

AGENCIES  
GUANGXI

Human rights lawyer Qin Yongpei has been released after serving a five-year sentence and has returned home to Nanning in Guangxi Province, an autonomous region of China.

His release on October 31 marked the end of a conviction that human rights advocates view as a targeted response to his legal advocacy in defense of human rights in China.

In a post on X, the advocacy group Front Line Defenders stated, "On 31 October, human rights lawyer Qin Yongpei completed a five-year sentence, was released from prison, and returned to his home in Nanning, Guangxi Province. Qin Yongpei is a renowned human rights lawyer and we believe his imprisonment was a retaliation against his peaceful and legitimate human rights work."

The case underscores the dangers faced by human



*Qin Yongpei is a renowned human rights lawyer and we believe his imprisonment was a retaliation against his peaceful and legitimate human rights work."*

rights defenders in China, where freedom of speech and political expression remain heavily restricted.

Qin Yongpei's legal troubles began in 2019 when he was arrested on charges of "inciting subversion of state power" for his outspoken criticism of

the Chinese government. His case, initially handled by the Nanning Municipal Public Security Bureau, was transferred to the Nanning Municipal People's Procuratorate in 2020 for further review and then moved to the Nanning Intermediate People's Court.

## Trump victory: Israel's right-wing parties' leaders happy

AGENCIES  
JERUSALEM

While the final results of the American elections are yet to be revealed, the leaders of Israel's right-wing joint Knesset list "Religious Zionism" have made it clear that they expect a Donald Trump victory and are happy about it.

Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, the leader of the Religious Zionism Party, tweeted Wednesday morning, "God bless Israel. God bless America."

While not mentioning Trump by name, his supporters know what Smotrich means.

Minister of National Itamar Ben-Gvir who leads the Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Strength) Party, a faction in the Religious Zionism bloc - simply tweeted, "God Bless Trump."

## North Korean troops clash with Ukrainian forces in Kursk

AGENCIES  
SEOUL

North Korean troops have clashed for the first time with Ukrainian forces in Russia's war against Ukraine, as per the New York Times with the report also stating that the troops are occupying a portion of Kursk region in Russia.

The New York Times reported this on Tuesday citing a senior Ukrainian and a senior US official.

This follows Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirming the first combat engagement between North Korean troops and Ukrainian forces and he said that some 11,000 North Korean soldiers were already in Russia's Kursk region.

South Korea's Defence Ministry also on Tuesday said that some 10,000 North Korean troops have been deployed in Russia, with a "considerable" num-

## Airstrike kills Hezbollah Commander for rocket strikes on Metula

AGENCIES  
JERUSALEM

A Hezbollah commander who directed numerous rocket attacks on the northern Israeli city of Metula was killed in an airstrike in southern Lebanon, the Israel Defense Forces said on Wednesday morning.

Hussain Abd Al-Haleem Harb, who commanded the terror group's Khiam region, directed and personally carried out numerous rocket attacks against Israeli communities in the Galilee, particularly Metula.

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was forced to cancel a visit to the city when a drone exploded near the municipality shortly before his arrival.

Over the past day, the Air Force struck approximately 70 Hezbollah and Hamas targets in Lebanon and Gaza, including terror squads, missile launchers, weapons storage facilities, and other infrastructure.

*Hussain Abd Al-Haleem Harb, who commanded the terror group's Khiam region, directed and personally carried out numerous rocket attacks against Israeli communities in the Galilee, particularly Metula.*

Meanwhile, troops in the southern Gaza area of Rafah killed several terrorists and uncovered a large amount of weaponry, including RPG missiles, explosives, and anti-tank missiles.

After the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, Hezbollah began firing rockets and launching drones at northern Israel communities daily. More than 68,000 residents of northern Israel are displaced from their homes.

Hezbollah leaders have repeatedly said they would continue the attacks to prevent Israelis from returning to their homes.

According to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 Second Lebanon War, the terror group is forbidden from operating in southern Lebanon.

At least 1,200 people were killed, and 252 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on October 7.

Of the 97 remaining hostages, more than 30 have been declared dead.

Hamas has also been holding captive two Israeli civilians since 2014 and 2015, and the bodies of two soldiers killed in 2014.

## Power and water crisis sparks protests in Karachi, disrupts traffic on key roads

AGENCIES  
KARACHI

Residents in Karachi Pakistan staged a protest on Tuesday evening to express their frustration over ongoing electricity and water shortages, which resulted in a major traffic disruption.

According to the Express Tribune report, the demonstrators blocked a key road in the area, causing long vehicle queues and severe congestion, including on the Lyari Expressway. The protesters complained about daily power cuts lasting over 12 hours, with unscheduled outages becoming a regular occurrence. Additionally, they pointed out that both planned and unplanned load-shedding have severely impacted the water supply in the region.

Despite filing numerous complaints with the Water Corporation about the power outage schedule, the protesters claimed that no meaningful action had been taken to resolve the water supply issues. They called for an immediate end to both scheduled and unscheduled power cuts in the area.

The protest caused major traffic disruptions, leaving commuters stuck in a huge traffic jam as they tried to leave work, resulting in sig-



*Despite filing numerous complaints with the Water Corporation about the power outage schedule, the protesters claimed that no meaningful action had been taken to resolve the water supply issues.*

nificant inconvenience.

The report further stated that after discussions with the police, the protesters agreed to peacefully disperse after receiving assurances from the authorities. The road was cleared and reopened for traffic, with the traffic police working to restore normal vehicle movement. Earlier, residents of Karachi's Jahangir Road had also held a protest, calling for an end to the ongoing power and water shortages.

The protest led to the closure of both lanes on Jahangir Road, causing significant traffic disruptions. Police were stationed at the site to handle the situation and help stranded commuters.

Meanwhile, the Battagram Trade Union declared a full shutter-down strike and sit-in starting Tuesday, in protest against the continuous power outages in the district.

The union also announced plans to withhold electricity bill payments until the power supply schedule is restored to normal.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has increased electricity rates for Karachi by Rs0.40 per unit as part of the monthly adjustment for August 2024.

A notification from NEPRA confirmed that these additional charges will be included in consumers' bills for January 2025 by K-Electric.

## Expensive to maintain ex-presidents: Sri Lanka

AGENCIES  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka government on Wednesday announced that a committee is reviewing the issue of the expenditure on security details for former presidents and a decision would be taken only after its report.

Declaring that it is expensive to maintain the former presidents, Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the cabinet spokesperson, told reporters here that the government incurs an expenditure as high as Rs 1.100 million annually for it.

"Once the committee report comes out, we will put it up to the cabinet for appropriate action," he said.

Herath was responding to a letter written by the former president Chandrika Kumaratunga to the Ministry of Public Security on Tuesday claiming that her security has been reduced.

She claimed that there is information that the members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who ran a violent campaign for creating a separate Tamil state, have vowed to kill her.

Herath said her security had not been reduced and that it was a false claim.

The current govern-



*However, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, after he was elected, appointed a committee to report to the cabinet on the privileges.*

ment in the run up to the presidential election had pledged to slash all privileges extended to former presidents, including personal security.

However, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, after he was elected, appointed a committee to report to the cabinet on the privileges.

Herath said slashing of security was needed given its high cost to the public exchequer. "In future, there will be apportioned security provided to them based on assessments," he added.

## Bangladesh's southeastern port city witnesses tension over comments on ISKCON

AGENCIES  
DHAKA

Army-led joint forces on Wednesday patrolled parts of Bangladesh's southeastern port city of Chattogram, a day after clashes over a Facebook post by a Muslim grocer against the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) that left many injured.

Officials and witnesses said tension sparked over the Facebook post of a trader, Osman Ali, on Tuesday calling ISKCON a "terrorist group" angering the Hindu community in the neighbourhood at Hazari Gali area. The Hazari Gali is mainly inhabited by Hindu community who run ornate shops and wholesale medicine outlets.

Witnesses said several people too were wounded as the army, paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and policemen used batons during the brief overnight clash while shops and businesses were shut at Hazari Gali area where army troops were patrolling in their jeeps alongside police.

Lieutenant Colonel Ferdous Ahmed told a news briefing on Wednesday



*Witnesses said several people too were wounded as the army, paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and policemen used batons during the brief overnight clash while shops and businesses were shut at Hazari Gali area where army troops were patrolling in their jeeps alongside police.*

that the mob rallied in front of Ali's shop, prompting the joint forces to reach the scene and take Ali and his brother to secure custody.

"But scores of unruly people threw acid used for jewelry works and broken glass bottles from adjacent or nearby buildings leaving five army soldiers and seven policemen wounded," he said.

Ahmed said the joint forces detained 80 sus-

spect and a process was underway to identify the culprits reviewing local intelligence and CCTV footage for legal actions.

Another police officer said some Hindu community leaders called the joint forces to scene to evade any major violence on Tuesday evening.

"No violence occurred afresh but a tense situation prevails in the area on Wednesday," a local journalist told PTI from the scene.

THE CELEBRATIONS



Supporters of President-elect Donald Trump cheer as Pennsylvania votes are counted (Source: Ian Maule)

# TRIUMPHANT

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

Donald Trump went from being a businessman, real estate tycoon and a reality TV star to becoming the country's first former US President to be declared a convicted felon.

And after surviving two assassination bids during his 2024 campaign, the 78-year old remains unstoppable with American voters giving him a second term. In the process, he shattered the dream of the Democratic Party, as well as that of millions of Kamala Harris

*And after surviving two assassination bids during his 2024 campaign, the 78-year old remains unstoppable with American voters giving him a second term.*



election rally in Pennsylvania.

He was born in Queens, New York, on June 14, 1946 to Mary and Fred Trump, a successful real estate developer, as the fourth of their five children. He earned a degree in finance from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.

After taking over his father's company in 1971, he renamed it Trump Organisation and soon diversified

into projects like hotels, resorts, residential and commercial buildings, casinos and golf courses. Trump also dabbled in Reality TV with 'The Apprentice' in 2004 that made him a household

name in America. Trump married Ivana Zelnickova, a Czech athlete and model, but divorced her in 1990. The couple has three children -- Donald Jr, Ivanka and Eric.

He then married actor Marla Maples in 1993 but divorced in 1999. They have an only child, Tiffany. Trump's current wife Melania, whom he married in 2005, is a former Slovenian model. They have a son, Barron William Trump.

In the 2016 presidential race, fighting as a Republican nominee in the presidential race, Trump won against the Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. The 2024 election took place against the backdrop of concerns over the economy, illegal immigration and the wars in west Asia and Europe. Trump's support base saw him as the only one who could offer solutions to these.

conviction in a New York court -- making him the first former US president to be held guilty of a crime.

A grand jury found him guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records. The Biden-Harris campaign said at the time that no one is above the law while Trump called the verdict the result of a "rigged" political system.

Yet, none of this could deter his ardent supporters, who rallied behind him and his policies. The vehement support was on full display in Milwaukee in July when Trump, with a bandaged ear after having survived an assassination attempt, arrived for the Republican National Convention to formally accept the party's nomination for President for the third consecutive election.

Trump was hit by a bullet in the upper part of his right ear when a shooter fired multiple shots at his

supporters, to finally have the first woman President in the White House.

He is now the oldest person in US history to be elected president.

From the time he left office after his loss in the 2020 presidential election to his nomination as the Republican candidate in the 2024 race, Trump continued to dominate the American news cycle and the country's psyche.

He refused to accept the November 2020 result that brought Joe Biden to the White House, and a stunned nation watched his supporters storm the US Capitol on January 6. The riots disrupted a joint session of the US Congress which was in the process of affirming the presidential election results.

His third run for the job in 2024 was characterised by a slew of indictments and criminal cases, and a

## How Trump's 'new star' Musk stands to benefit from his presidency

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

Hours before it became official that Donald Trump had returned to the White House, his biggest supporter was already inside the Oval Office.

Elon Musk, who has been a key backer of Trump's return to the presidency, was in his default wind-up mode as he used his X platform to post a superimposed picture of himself - holding a sink - inside the seat of US power. "Let that sink in," he wrote.

It was amateurish but Musk's contribution to Trump's victory has been serious and will reap benefits for the world's richest person.



"We have to protect our geniuses, we don't have that many of them," said Trump. Musk, who is worth \$264bn (£205bn), can easily afford the more than \$100m he has given to the fellow billionaire's campaign via his Super Pac.

There were immediate signs of a return on that investment on Wednesday morning. Shares in Tesla, the electric carmaker which he leads as CEO and in which he owns a 13% stake, were up about 15% in pre-trading on Wall Street, implying a

wealth gain of \$15bn.

There could be more to come. Dan Ives, an analyst at the US financial firm Wedbush Securities, said a Trump victory could add up to \$200bn to the value of Tesla, which would increase Musk's wealth by about \$26bn.

"The biggest positive from a Trump win would be for Tesla and Musk," Ives wrote in a note to investors, citing likely benefits such as the possibility of Trump imposing tariffs - or import taxes - on electric vehicles made in China.

## DECISIVE VICTORY IN A DEEPLY DIVIDED NATION

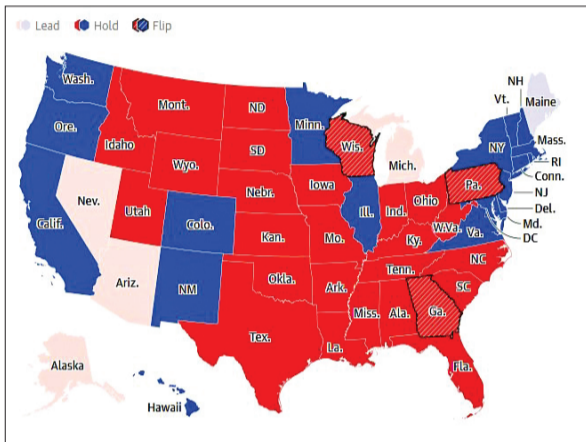
AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump scored a decisive victory in a deeply divided nation. And in so doing, the Republican president-elect exposed a fundamental weakness within the Democratic base and beat back concerns about his moral failings, becoming the first U.S. president with a felony conviction.

Trump won over frustrated voters with bold promises that his fiery brand of America-first economic populism and conservative culture would make their lives better. He will be tested immediately, however, and there are reasons to believe his plans for mass deportations and huge tariffs may hurt the very people who enabled his victory.

Still, he is set to enter the White House on Jan. 20, 2025, from an undisputed position of strength. With votes still being counted, he could become the first Republican in two decades to win the popular vote.

The results left Democrats facing an urgent and immediate reckoning, with no obvious leader to unite



- With modest shifts, Trump undermines the Democrats' coalition
- Trump focus on immigration, economy and culture worked
- Trump will take charge of a nation with deep fissures
- Trump's criminal baggage not an issue for many voters
- 'Bro' politics beats out abortion concerns
- Democrats face leadership crisis with urgent need to regroup

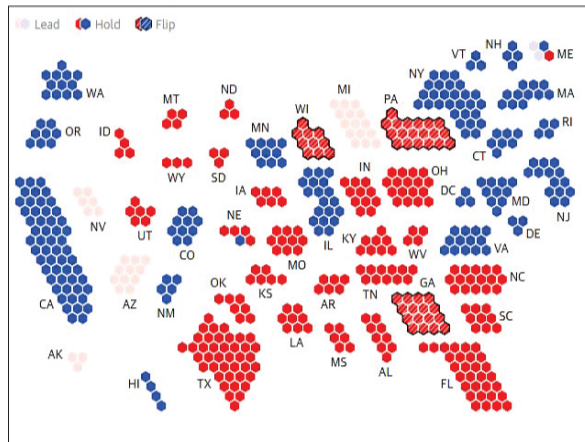
the anti-Trump coalition and no clear plan to rebuild as an emboldened Trump prepares to re-take Washington.

Black voters — men and women — have been the bedrock of the Democratic Party, and in recent years, Latinos and young voters have joined them.

All three groups still preferred Democrat Kamala

Harris. But preliminary data from AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide, suggested that Trump made significant gains.

Voters under age 30 represent a fraction of the total electorate, but about half of them supported Harris. That's compared to the roughly 6 in 10 who backed Biden in 2020.



Slightly more than 4 in 10 young voters went for Trump, up from about one-third in 2020.

At the same time, Black and Latino voters appeared slightly less likely to support Harris than they were to back Biden four years ago, according to AP VoteCast.

About 8 in 10 Black voters backed Harris, down from the roughly 9 in 10 who backed Biden in 2020. More than half of Hispanic voters supported Harris, but that was down slightly from the roughly 6 in 10 who backed Biden in 2020. Trump's support among those groups appeared to rise slightly compared to 2020. Collectively, those small

gains yielded an outside outcome.

For all of the showmanship, profanity and name-calling, Trump ultimately won over voters with grand promises to improve the economy, block the flow of immigrants on the Southern border and his siren call to "make America great again."

He also appealed to religious voters in both parties by seizing on the Democrats' support for the transgender community.

Overall, about half of Trump voters said inflation was the biggest issue factoring into their election decisions. About as many said that of the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border, according to AP VoteCast.

## European Summit to assess Trump 2.0

AGENCIES  
BUDAPEST

Dozens of European leaders will be assessing a new global outlook on Thursday, during a one-day summit bound to centre on the dread of many and the joy of a few in the wake of the election of Donald Trump as the next US president that could have far-reaching consequences for the continent.

During his election campaign, Trump has threatened anything from a trade war with Europe, a withdrawal of NATO commit-



ments to a fundamental shift of support for Ukraine in its war with Russia — all issues that could have groundbreaking consequences for nations across Europe, especially the 27-nation European Union (EU).

It was already beyond doubt that the trans-Atlantic relationship would change after Tuesday's vote. But

under a Democratic presidency, that was expected to be gradual. Under Trump's second presidency, it might be politically seismic. And for the EU, where populist and hard-right forces have already cracked open fissures with the political establishment, the election of Trump can only embolden them further. For summit host and ardent Trump fan, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Wednesday marked a beautiful day — even if EU relations were extremely turbulent during his first 2017-2021

presidency. "I see a brilliant victory. Perhaps the biggest comeback and giant struggle in Western political history," Orbán exuded. "For the world, it means the hope for peace." The EU had prepared for months for a potential return of Trump, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen congratulated him once his victory became clear. She said that the EU and the United States "are more than just allies. We are bound by a true partnership between our people, uniting 800 million citizens."

## Kamala – She inspired hope

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

More than a decade ago, a journalist called Kamala Harris "female Obama". However, the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants failed to match the achievement of first African-American president Barack Obama.

The Democratic leader's defeat to her Republican rival Donald Trump in a bitterly contested election shattered her dream to



become the first woman President of the US. But her nomination enthused women that this door in public life is not closed to

them. Harris, 60, has known other firsts, though. She has been the district attorney for San Francisco -- the

first woman, first African-American and first Indian-origin person to be elected to the position.

As vice president, she is the first woman to hold the post. Also, she happens to be the first African-American or Indian-American person to make it there.

In an Op-ed published three days before the November 5 election, Harris recollected her frequent visit to India as a child and remembered her late mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a

cancer researcher and civil rights activist. She said she believes Americans want a president who works for all American people. "And that has been the story of my entire career," she said.

Harris got her big chance when President Joe Biden abandoned his own bid for reelection in July following his poor performance in a nationally televised debate with Trump. Biden endorsed Harris as the party nominee in the election.

## BAD GUYS HAVE ALL THE FUN UNTIL THE END: DENZEL WASHINGTON ON 'GLADIATOR II' ROLE



TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Bad guys have all the fun, says Denzel Washington who turns antagonist for Ridley Scott's 'Gladiator II' and took the conscious decision to not watch the first Russel Crowe starrer because he didn't want to be connected to it.

The veteran Hollywood star plays Macrinus, a former slave turned wealthy, conniving arms dealer, in the sequel to the blockbuster 2000 original.

"I didn't go back to watch the first film. I didn't want to be connected to that. I watched the first film years ago. So I didn't want to look at it," Washington told PTI in a virtual interview from London. In "Gladiator II", Scott brings back the epic gladiatorial battles made famous in "Gladiator", the classic that bagged five Oscars, including for best picture and best actor for Crowe. Washington, 69, had earlier worked with Scott on the director's 2007 "American Gangster", also co-starring Crowe.

"Ridley Scott first, last and always," Washington said. "He called and I said yes. He's one of my favourite if not my favourite directors that I work with... he and his brother (Tony Scott). But when he called, I said yes. It's as simple as that,"

## VIKRANT MASSEY REVEALS HE'S BEEN RECEIVING THREATS FOR 'THE SABARMATI REPORT'



TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Actor Vikrant Massey's next film is based on the real-life events of the burning of the Sabarmati Express in Godhra, Gujarat on February 27, 2002.

On Wednesday, the film's trailer was launched at an event in Mumbai, and surprisingly, during the media interaction, Vikrant opened up about him getting threats for being associated with the project that delves into the controversial and sensitive Godhra Train Burning incident.

"Ji Haan aaye hai or Aa rahe hai (Yes, I have been receiving threats). But as I said ki hum kalakar hai or Kahaniyaan bolte hai. This film is purely based

the actor said.

Asked if he had fun playing a bad guy again after his Oscar-winning role in "Training Day" (2001), where he plays a corrupt narcotics officer, Washington said, "Absolutely. You know bad guys have all the fun, until the end." "Gladiator II" features an ensemble cast also including Paul Mescal, Pedro Pascal, Joseph Quinn, Fred Hechinger as well as Connie Nielsen and Derek Jacobi, who reprise their roles from the first part.

While "Gladiator" focused on Maximus (Crowe), the sequel takes place many years later and centres around Mescal's Lucius, the son of Maximus and Lucilla (Nielsen). Exiled at a young age, Lucius' home is invaded by the Roman empire and he turns gladiator at the Colosseum with hopes that he will one day avenge his family's death. Washington's role as Macrinus sees him playing a gladiator 'owner' who views Lucius as a key instrument in his plans to overthrow Rome's young emperor -- twins Caracalla (Hechinger) and Geta (Quinn).

Washington, who won his first Oscar, a best supporting actor trophy, for playing an American Civil War soldier in the war drama "Glory", said he didn't discuss the character much with Scott before working on the movie.

on facts. It is something that I am dealing with or we as a team collectively are dealing with and I think we will deal with it the way it has to be," Vikrant shared.

The Sabarmati Report is directed by Dheeraj Sarna and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ekta R Kapoor, Amul V Mohan and Anshul Mohan. The film also features Raashii Khanna AND Riddhi Dogra in pivotal roles.

In the film, Vikrant plays a journalist who probes the truth behind the 2002 Godhra train burning incident in The Sabarmati Report.

The Sabarmati Report is scheduled to be released in theatres on 15th November 2024.

### PICTURE PERFECT

Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Varun Dhawan pose together in Mumbai to promote 'Citadel Honey Bunny', set to release on November 7. (Instagram)



## 'GANGS OF WASSEYPUR' TEAM, SONU NIGAM, KAVITA SETH PAY RICH TRIBUTES TO SHARDA SINHA

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Anurag Kashyap, Manoj Bajpayee, Richa Chadha, Humna Qureshi, and Sonu Nigam were among the prominent cinema personalities who condoled the death of popular folk singer Sharda Sinha, fondly called 'Bihar Kokila' by her fans. Sinha, who was undergoing treatment at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi following a health complication due to multiple myeloma, died on Tuesday night. She was 72.

The Padma Bhushan recipient lent her voice to songs prominently in Maitili, Bhojpuri and Magahi languages such as "Chhathi Maiya Aayi Na Duaariya", "Ho Deenanth", "Dwar Chekai", and "Patna Se",



but had also sung Hindi film songs like "Taar Bijli" ("Gangs of Wasseypur"), "Kahe Toh Se Sajna" ("Maine Pyar Kiya"), and "Babul" ("Hum Aapke Hain Koun...").

Kashyap, who directed "Wasseypur", shared

Sinha's photo on his Instagram Stories with the lyrics of "Taar Bijli".

"Sharda Sinha," he captioned the post with a broken heart emoji.

Bihar-born Bajpayee, who played the role of Sardar Khan in the 2012 film, said

he was saddened by the news of the singer's death.

"I pay my respects to the great singer Sharda ji who took Bhojpuri music and singing to the national and international level with her singing! May God give peace to her soul," he wrote on X.

## 'Thama' is a project of a lifetime for me: Ayushmann Khurrana

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana is extremely excited to be a part of "Thama", which will be made under the Maddock Films banner.

In the film, Ayushmann will share screen space with Rashmika Mandanna and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. Sharing his happiness on headlining the horror comedy universe, the 'Bala' star in a press note said, "I'm excited that Dinesh Vijan feels this is the best time for me to enter his blockbuster horror comedy universe in and as 'Thama'. After Stree 2 became the all-time biggest Bollywood film in the history of Hindi cinema, I am thrilled to be part of this universe's legacy as it moves forward and also feel responsible for giving audiences a theatrical experience that they will remember for years to come."

He is quite happy to col-



laborate with Dinesh Vijan after Bala.

He added, "Dinesh and I have a similar passion for disruption. Our film Bala was a project that made people jump up from their seats and laud it for being really fresh. Thama is our second collaboration and it is so new that I can't wait for the reaction of people when they see it in theatres next Diwali. We are drawn to each other when we want to completely shatter the mould and give audiences something that they have never seen before. Thama is that project, a total wildcard, a film that no one has seen in India. I'm really pumped to join the sets of this film and create a huge big screen experience with Dinesh and his entire team of fellow visionaries like Amar Kaushik, my director Aditya Sarpotdar and the writing genius Niren Bhatt."

## BEYONCÉ CHANNELS PAMELA ANDERSON IN 'BODYGUARD' MUSIC VIDEO

TDG NETWORK  
WASHINGTON

Pop icon Beyoncé channelled Pamela Anderson in a surprise music video for the track 'Bodyguard' from her album Cowboy Carter, reported E! News.

The video showed Beyoncé donning a red swimsuit styled like Anderson's when she starred in the series, 'Baywatch'. She also channels Anderson's look in the 1996 film 'Barb Wire', wearing a black dress and high boots, as well as her ensemble in the 1999 MTV Video Music Awards.

"Beyoncé's latest music video for 'Bodyguard' from



her album Cowboy Carter highlights some of Pamela Anderson's most eye-catching looks," reported E! News. In a historic moment, 'Cowboy Carter' also soared to the top of Billboard's Top Country Albums chart.

The album's singles, "Texas Hold 'Em" and "16 Carriages," released during the Super Bowl festivities, made significant impacts on the charts as well.

Both tracks secured top positions on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart, marking Beyoncé's first entries on the tally and further solidifying her place in the country music scene, as per a report by Billboard.

### BRAIN PICKING

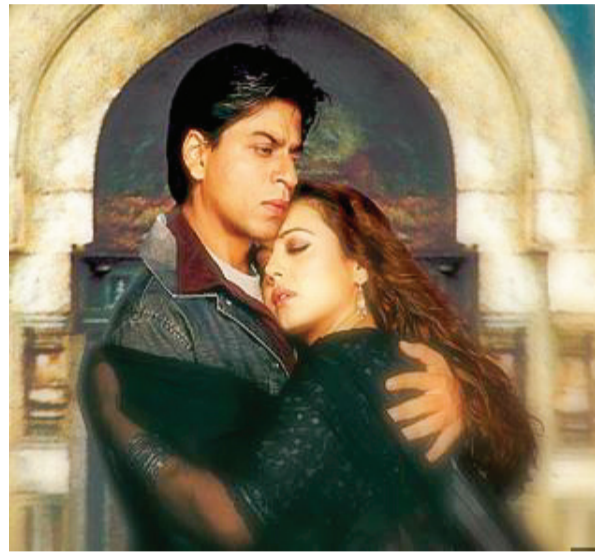


I want to do something that people have not seen before... surprise everyone. There has to be variety in work.



—SHRADDHA KAPOOR  
(Indian Actress)

## SHAH RUKH, PREITY ZINTA'S 'VEER ZAARA' MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY



TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta, and Rani Mukerji starrer 'Veer Zaara' has created an everlasting impact on the minds of people because of the remarkable star cast, story and music. There is good news for all the fans as Yash Chopra's iconic film is all set to re-release internationally on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

It will entertain the audience once again. The film will be re-released internationally on 600 screens on November 7.

It will also premiere for the first time in Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar.

Another highlight is that the re-release prints of 'Veer

Zaara' will also include the iconic deleted song 'Yeh Hum Aa Gaye Hai Kahaan'. It is the first time that the song will be a part of the movie.

Directed by the legendary Yash Chopra, Veer-Zaara transcends borders and generations with its powerful narrative of love, sacrifice, and hope. The film also starred Amitabh Bachchan, Hema Malini, Rani Mukerji, Divya Dutta and Manoj Bajpayee.

The film showcases the eternal love story of Indian Air Force pilot, Veer Pratap Singh (Shah Rukh Khan) and a Pakistani woman, Zaara Hayaat Khan (Preity Zinta).

'Veer Zaara' was much liked for its story, performance by the cast of the movie and music.

## SURIYA SAYS HE'S 'MANIFESTING' REUNITING ON-SCREEN WITH WIFE JYOTIKA



TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Tamil cinema star Suriya says he hopes to reteam with wife and frequent collaborator Jyotika in a film soon but the couple isn't the one to go after directors for a script. The couple, who tied the knot in 2006, has co-starred in seven films, including Poovellam Kettuppar, Kaakha Kaakha, Perazhagan, Vel, Vaaranam Aayiram, 7aum Arivu as well as 24, in which he played a triple role.

"I try my best to shy away from double roles. But coincidentally I have done more than six-seven films and one triple role in 24. I had many arguments with my director that it doesn't connect..."

"I don't look like my father and my father doesn't look like me... But in this film, there's a timeline. I think once you watch the film, maybe you will understand why the same actor is playing this character," he added.

Manifesting, asking the universe to happen," he added.

On playing double roles, Suriya is awaiting the release of his new Tamil film Kanguva, in which he plays a dual role. Directors are somehow able to convince him to essay double-role characters in films, including Perazhagan, Vel, Vaaranam Aayiram, 7aum Arivu as well as 24, in which he played a triple role.

"I try my best to shy away from double roles. But coincidentally I have done more than six-seven films and one triple role in 24. I had many arguments with my director that it doesn't connect..."

"I don't look like my father and my father doesn't look like me... But in this film, there's a timeline. I think once you watch the film, maybe you will understand why the same actor is playing this character," he added.

# TECH TALK: ALL ABOUT FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE | PART 2

The concluding part of our last week's story, "Is AWD and 4WD the same thing?"

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

In Part One of this story last week (Thursday, 31 October), you learnt that while in pure engineering terms all kinds of AWD/4WD/4x4 vehicles come under the "All Wheel Drive" category, specific use-cases—and auto manufacturers' marketing teams' latching on to them—over decades marked a clear distinction between AWD and 4WD/4x4 vehicles. However, as clear that distinction is in some parts of the world where people just can't do without power going to all four wheels of their vehicle, it's quite blurry in India, because, right from the alleged "founding fathers" of Indian automotive journalism to the most popular automotive YouTubers of our country—everyone has always been, and still remains, indifferent to differentials and transferences. That's why this series of stories is important for you and everyone else interested in knowing the basic (and advanced too, at a later stage) concepts of AWD and 4WD vehicles.

If you missed reading the first part of this story last week, I'd suggest you read that first and then come back here as it would be better for your understanding. You may still choose to hang around and see where this takes you though. However, those of you, who have read it, would know that this story would now continue from where we left last time—the major differentiating factor between AWDs and 4WDs.

## HOW TO KNOW WHETHER A VEHICLE IS AN AWD OR A 4WD?

It's simple, and something that's mentioned in the first paragraph of this story. If a vehicle has a transference, it's a 4WD vehicle. If it doesn't have one, even if the manufacturer claims that it's a 4WD/4x4, it's actually an AWD vehicle. See how simple that was?

So, if not a transference, what does an AWD vehicle have, you ask? Well, it would ideally have a center differential, or at least a clutch pack which is summoned when the sensors shout, "Mayday Mayday Mayday!" conveying to the ECU that the primary set of wheels (it's just one wheel, but we'll address that later) is losing traction, so please send power to the opposite set. Alright, "Mayday" was an exaggeration; the power transfer doesn't take that long and it happens in milliseconds without the driver ever noticing it (at speed). Offroad, at slow speeds, would be the only time you might notice it.

## EXAMPLES OF AWD VEHICLES

As mentioned in part one of this story last week, the Jeep Compass 4x4, Meridian 4x4, Skoda Kodiaq 4x4, and VW Tiguan 4Motion are all AWDs. Again, the Hyun-



dai Tucson AWD and Mahindra XUV700 AWD, as mentioned in their nomenclatures, are AWDs, and the same is true for the Toyota Hyryder AWD and Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara AWD.

## EXAMPLES OF 4WD VEHICLES

The Jeep Wrangler Rubicon, Land Rover Defender, Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon, Toyota Fortuner, Hilux, Isuzu MUX, V-Cross, Mahindra Thar, Thar Roxx, Maruti Suzuki Jimny, and Force Gurkha are some of the most hardcore 4WD vehicles you can buy in India. Of course, some of these vehicles are available in 2WD variants as well, and it's obvious that here I am talking about their 4WD versions only.

Also, while the majority of vehicles in this list are traditional "part-time" 4WDs where you should never engage the transference on the road (hard surfaces like tarmac, concrete, etc.), there are two vehicles here that have both a transference and a center differential each. Can you guess and let me know which are those two vehicles? Also, there is one that has a transference AND a clutch pack that allows you to engage 4WD, in a particular mode, on the road as well. Can you tell me which is that vehicle and what mode allows you to drive it in 4WD on the road? You'll find my email at the end of this story.

I must also mention here that while all the vehicles in this list (4WD) have two-speed (4H and 4L) transferences, there are vehicles

like the Jeep Grand Cherokee that are available with both single-speed and two-speed transferences. However, only the former is available in India for now. It's still quite potent, both on the road and off it, and you may read all about it on our website (thedailyguardian.com)

if you can't find the hard copy of that article published on the 14th of March this year.

## ONE MORE CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AWD AND 4WD

So now that you know what makes a vehicle an AWD or a 4WD, it's time to quickly know about one more crucial difference between the two.

The majority of AWD vehicles, especially the ones available in India, are FWDs (Front-Wheel-Drive) where power primarily goes to the front wheels; the rear wheels get power only when needed.

However, the majority of 4WD vehicles are RWDs (Rear-Wheel-Drive) where power primarily goes to the rear wheels, and the front wheels will get power only when YOU engage 4WD. Yes, it's in your hands. Most AWDs also give you that option, but it's not always a 50:50 split between the front and rear axles like it is on most 4WD vehicles.

There is one exception though; one each in AWD and 4WD vehicles. You have many AWD vehicles that are truly all-wheel-drive, which means power is constantly sent to all four wheels. These vehicles have a proper center differential, and not just a clutch pack.

Similarly, power also goes to all four

wheels all the time in full-time 4WD vehicles. These have a transference AND a center differential.

I won't get into torsen differentials, viscous couplings, etc., for now as there would be a dedicated story on differentials, where these, and more, would be covered in detail.

## SO, SHOULD YOU BUY AN AWD OR A 4WD?

You'll get more and more clarity on it with every story in this series, but even right now I can give you an answer if you have been holding off your purchase due to the confusion around AWDs and 4WDs.

See, for the majority of city dwellers, 2WD vehicles would suffice, and these are actually the vehicles that get sold the most as compared to their AWD or 4WD versions.

However, if you think that you would drive to places where you might not feel confident in a two-wheel-drive vehicle, and are wondering whether to go for an AWD or a 4WD, I'll make it simple for you. Get an AWD if your sporadic "adventurous excursions" would entail driving primarily on "man-made" paths, even if they are covered in a bit of snow/ice. Anything more severe and you'd be better off with a 4WD.

## NEXT 4WD STORY

Although I would be covering everything about 4WD and offroading in this series, you may still let me know the topics you expect me to cover FIRST, and I might just oblige. Write to me at shiraz.shah@itvnetwork.com.



# AUGMENTED REALITY IN MARKETING: HOW BRANDS ARE USING AR FOR CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT



**THE NEXT**  
**ABHISHEK ANAND**

In today's competitive market, where attention is currency, brands are turning to augmented reality (AR) to create memorable and engaging consumer experiences. AR marketing combines the virtual and physical worlds, letting consumers interact with brands in immersive, playful ways that boost engagement and loyalty.

Here's a look at some standout AR campaigns in my today's article that highlight how this technology is transforming the way brands connect with consumers.

## 1. PERSONALIZED SHOPPING WITH SEPHORA'S VIRTUAL ARTIST

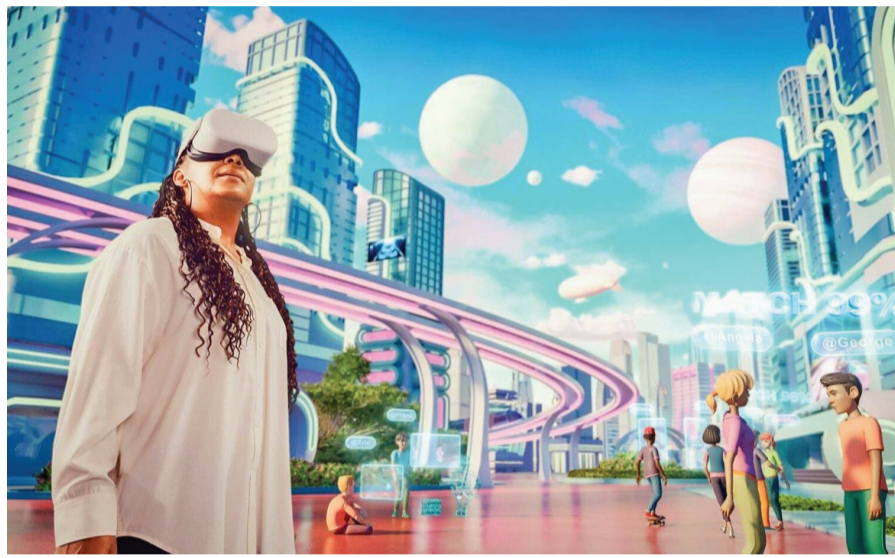
When it comes to make-up, picking the right shades online can be tricky. Sephora addressed this with their Virtual Artist app, an AR tool that lets users "try on" makeup by uploading a selfie. Whether testing lipstick or eyeshadow, customers can see how products look in real-time and even follow tutorials on how to create specific looks.

This approach is a win-win: shoppers feel more confident about their purchases, and Sephora builds trust and loyalty by offering a helpful, engaging tool. The Virtual Artist app shows how AR can create a seamless, enjoyable shopping experience while also deepening customer connections.

## 2. PLAYFUL COMPE-

## TITION WITH BURGER KING'S "BURN THAT AD" CAMPAIGN

Burger King took a playful approach to AR with their "Burn That Ad" campaign in Brazil, which let users virtually "burn" competitors' ads via their smartphones. When users scanned a competitor's ad, the image appeared to go



up in virtual flames, after which they received a coupon for a free Whopper.

This campaign encouraged consumer interaction and sparked a sense of fun competition. It was an instant hit, with customers quickly sharing their experience online, making it both a brand engagement and a customer acquisition success. The "Burn That Ad" campaign is an excellent example of how AR can create memorable, gamified experiences that resonate with consumers.

## 3. VIRTUAL FURNI-

## TURE PLACEMENT WITH IKEA PLACE

Furniture shopping can be daunting, especially when trying to imagine how a new piece will look at home. IKEA tackled this with their IKEA Place app, which lets users place virtual furniture in their real-life space using AR. Customers can rotate, reposition, and even swap items, creating a realistic sense of how each piece will fit and look.

This tool doesn't just aid in decision-making; it also

the excitement of the game to fans. By scanning a Coca-Cola bottle with their smartphones, fans could watch animated footballers celebrating goals or performing tricks in AR.

This experience brought fans closer to the sport they love, building a deeper emotional connection with the Coca-Cola brand. It's a great example of how AR can create interactive storytelling moments that connect consumers to a brand, amplifying the thrill of the World Cup through

immersive technology. Pepsi took AR to the streets with their "Unbelievable Bus Shelter" campaign in London, transforming an ordinary bus shelter into a portal of surprises. People waiting for the bus could look at the screen and see animated tigers prowling, UFOs flying overhead, or meteors crashing down.

This creative use of AR turned an everyday setting

## 5. UNEXPECTED FUN WITH PEPSI'S "UNBELIEVABLE BUS SHELTER"

Pepsi took AR to the streets with their "Unbelievable Bus Shelter" campaign in London, transforming an ordinary bus shelter into a portal of surprises. People waiting for the bus could look at the screen and see animated tigers prowling, UFOs flying overhead, or meteors crashing down.

This creative use of AR turned an everyday setting

into a fun, shareable experience, attracting attention on social media and sparking conversations about the brand. The campaign demonstrated how AR can captivate passersby, creating a lasting impression and spreading brand awareness in a truly "unbelievable" way.

## THE FUTURE OF AR IN MARKETING

These campaigns illustrate the transformative potential of AR in marketing. From gamifying experiences to offering virtual try-ons and creating immersive interactions, AR can turn traditional advertising into a two-way engagement, inviting consumers to become part of the brand story.

As AR technology continues to evolve, brands are likely to find new ways to connect with audiences, creating memorable interactions that drive loyalty and engagement. For consumers, it's an invitation to interact and have fun with brands, bridging the gap between physical and digital worlds in ways that are as interactive as they are unforgettable.

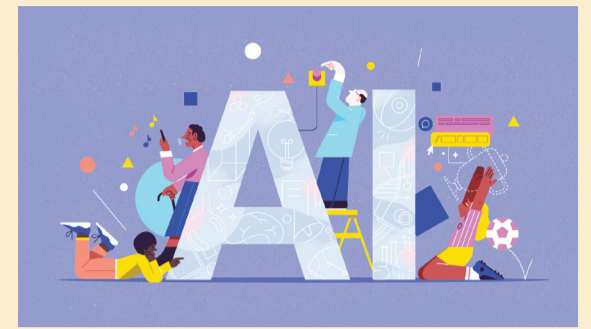
The possibilities are endless, and the time to start is now! Reach Skill Bud to explore more to get AR Catalogue & stand out in your competitive landscape!

This article is authored by Abhishek Anand, who is the founder of Skill Bud Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a tech company that specializes in Website Development, Augmented Reality, Web 3.0, Metaverse and Digital Marketing. He is also an Author, Speaker, Mentor and helps startups & businesses grow with technology.

# LISTICLE: 5 GENERATIVE AI TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2024

SAMEET GUPTA

Looking into the year 2024, one thing we can be quite sure of is that generative AI is not a hype but a real game changer that is altering industries. At EvoluteIQ, AI forms the core fabric of our technology platform, and it's imperative to understand the trends that will define the AI landscape in the coming years.



ate visual effects, allowing for unprecedented creative exploration.

Companies prioritizing privacy will distinguish themselves by demonstrating a commitment to data security.

## 1. ADVANCEMENTS IN NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING (NLP)

New developments are enabling AI to understand context, intonation, and subtlety with greater accuracy, making human-computer interactions more natural. A Grand View Research report projects the global NLP industry to grow significantly, with a 40.4% CAGR from 2023 to 2030. As NLP evolves, its impact extends to healthcare, where AI aids in diagnostics, and law, where it streamlines data searches. The ongoing improvements in NLP will only deepen its integration into everyday life, boosting efficiency in human-device interactions.

## 2. AI-DRIVEN CONTENT CREATION

Generative AI (GenAI) is revolutionizing content creation by producing high-quality text, video scripts, and even music, saving time and money while fostering creativity. This trend enhances industries like entertainment, where GenAI is used to generate music and cre-

## 3. INTEGRATION OF GENAI IN PERSONALIZED MARKETING

In marketing, GenAI can analyze vast amounts of data to recognize patterns, enabling more effective targeting and higher conversion rates. A McKinsey report notes that organizations using AI-driven personalization have seen demand improve by 10% on average. AI can craft messages that resonate with recipients, enhancing email marketing and other digital communications by making them highly relevant.

## 4. ENHANCED DATA PRIVACY MEASURES

As AI becomes ingrained in consumers' lives, data protection must advance alongside it. In 2024, we expect technological enhancements focused on privacy safeguards within AI systems. Methods like differential privacy, which allows data analysis while protecting individual records, and federated learning, which enables model training across devices without sharing raw data, are critical in protecting user information.

## 5. THE RISE OF ETHICAL AI PRACTICES

Ethics in AI is a crucial area, and 2024 will likely see increased emphasis on ethical principles like fairness, accountability, and transparency. Large organizations are implementing frameworks to mitigate bias and promote responsible AI. For instance, companies are developing algorithms for hiring processes that avoid discrimination, while ethical considerations around facial recognition continue to prompt new guidelines and regulations globally.

As we enter a new era, Generative AI (GenAI) is set to transform how businesses operate. At EvoluteIQ, we are committed to harnessing these advancements to create intelligent automation solutions that are innovative, ethical, and secure. In this evolving landscape, GenAI stands as both a powerful tool and an intelligent companion in everyday life.

*The author is the Co-Founder and CEO of EvoluteIQ.*

# Harnessing technology for sustainable banking: Strategies for long-term growth



KUSHAL RASTOGI

The banking sector is experiencing a pivotal transformation driven by digital evolution. The adoption of technology is now essential not only for maintaining a competitive edge but also for ensuring long-term, sustainable growth. Banks today are focusing on improving operational efficiencies, reducing risks, understanding customer behavior, and creating value across the financial ecosystem by leveraging advanced digital tools and emerging technologies.

Lending, as the primary revenue driver for banks, has historically relied on traditional processes for loan sourcing, underwrit-

ing, and management. However, these methods often fall short in optimizing risk management and service efficiency. Technology is now crucial in modernizing lending operations, allowing banks to enhance credit assessments, streamline approvals, and improve the health of their loan books. By integrating AI and ML into credit models, banks can analyze vast amounts of data, including alternative sources like transaction histories and spending behaviors. This approach enables a more holistic assessment of borrower creditworthiness, identifying risks early and aligning credit offerings with institutional risk appetite.

Beyond credit modeling, technology has streamlined loan origination, underwriting, and monitoring. Tools like Optical Character Recognition (OCR), paperless documentation, and automated workflows have reduced approval times, cut costs, and minimized errors. This efficiency allows

banks to process more applications accurately, creating a seamless customer experience and increasing operational productivity.

AI-powered systems have also transformed loan portfolio monitoring, allowing real-time oversight that detects potential delinquencies before they escalate. Proactive monitoring facilitates timely actions, such as loan restructuring or borrower support, and enables dynamic strategy adjustments in response to market shifts. In loan recovery, AI-enabled systems automate reminders, track payments, and segment borrowers by behavior for tailored communication, improving recovery rates and reducing collection costs. Additionally, digital channels like WhatsApp and mobile apps enhance borrower convenience, facilitating easier payments and reducing friction.

Customer analytics is another area where technology is unlocking new opportunities for banks.

By analyzing financial behaviors, banks can personalize cross-sell and upsell efforts, maximizing customer lifetime value and driving sustained growth. Meanwhile, evolving regulatory standards require accurate compliance and reporting. Technologies like AI and blockchain have made complex reporting more transparent, secure, and automated, ensuring banks meet regulatory requirements across multiple jurisdictions.

In essence, digital solutions empower banks to build a robust, agile, and sustainable foundation. By enhancing risk assessments, streamlining lending processes, and personalizing customer engagement, banks can thrive in a dynamic financial landscape, setting new standards for long-term growth and sustainability in the banking ecosystem.

*The author is the Founder & CEO of Knight Fintech.*



# ROLE OF AI IN MANAGING REMOTE TEAMS: ENHANCING EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



MR. SIDDHARTHA CHANDURKAR

Remote work is becoming the new normal, giving businesses more freedom and flexibility. But how can companies ensure their remote teams stay productive, transparent, and motivated? AI is stepping in to address these challenges.

AI is rapidly becoming a key tool in remote work setups and its usage in remote work will grow by 18.7% from 2024 to 2033, highlighting the rising demand for AI-driven solutions.

## CHALLENGES OF MANAGING REMOTE TEAMS

**1. Communication & Collaboration Gaps:** With teams spread in different locations and time zones, communication barriers are common, leading to miscommunication or delays.

**2. Tracking Productivity & Performance:** Without a physical presence, it's hard

for managers to keep track of teams' performance, creating uncertainty about their accountability and efficiency.

**3. Unstable Security:** When employees work from different locations and devices, the risks of data leaks, security breaches, and cyberattacks increase.

## THE ROLE OF AI IN ENHANCING EFFICIENCY

Gartner reports that 64% of businesses have increased their investment in remote performance management tools since the pandemic.

## BETTER COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT

Gartner says that remote organizations that have implemented AI-driven team management tools boost collaboration by 30%. AI communication tools such as Fireflies and Otter.ai help in scheduling meetings, call

reminders, response to queries, etc.

## TASK AUTOMATION

AI tools like Zapier and Trello improve productivity and efficiency in remote teams, allowing them to work across different time zones with minimal errors.

## ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY WITH AI

A Microsoft study reports that over 85% of managers are not confident about their team's productivity due to remote work. AI put this concern to an end, helping leaders to lead teams with trust and confidence.

## TRACK PERFORMANCE

AI-powered productivity monitoring software such as wAnywhere and E-mo-nitrix provide real-time insights into how remote employees spend their working hours.

## STRENGTHEN SECURITY

Adopting AI security tools such as wAnywhere and Zerofox can ensure that remote teams stay compliant with industry-grade regulations such as GDPR, CCPA, HIPAA, ISO, and more. Businesses can reduce data violations, security breaches, and enforce a clean desk policy even in remote setups.

AI can make remote work smoother by automating tasks, improving security, and helping manage teams. But it's important to choose the right AI tool. Businesses should look at their team's needs before deciding. The future of work will depend on how well AI and remote work together for long-term success.

*Mr. Siddhartha Chandurkar, CEO & Founder at wAnywhere by ShepHertz*

# SHREYAS IYER'S 152 NOT OUT DRIVES MUMBAI TO 385/3 AGAINST ODISHA ON 1ST DAY

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Shreyas Iyer returned to Ranji Trophy with another cracking 152 not out to power Mumbai to a dominating 385/3 against Odisha in their Elite Group A clash's first day, here on Wednesday.

Iyer found strong support from Siddhesh Lad, who made 116 not out (234 balls, 14x4s) as the two middle-order batters tore into the Odisha bowling, putting on 231 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket stand.

India batter Iyer's belligerent knock off 164 balls included 18 fours and four sixes and this was his second consecutive ton in Ranji Trophy this season as he scored 142 in his previous appearance.

Iyer and Lad came together when Mumbai were rocked twice in quick succession by Biplab Samantara, who denied Angkrish



RANJI TROPHY

Raghuvanshi (92 off 124 balls, 13x4s, 3x6s) his maiden ton and trapped skipper Ajinkya Rahane leg-before for a golden duck.

In another Group A clash in Pune, the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium's pitch turned out to be a batting-friendly surface as Services reached 239/4 at stumps on the opening day against Maharashtra.

While openers Suraj Vash-

isht (79 off 191 balls, 9x4s, 1x6s) and Shubham Rohilla (67 off 132 balls, 9x4s) added 128 for the opening wicket, Ravi Chauhan hit a 130-ball 59 with five fours and two sixes to consolidate for the visitors.

At the MCA Ground in Shillong, the hosts Meghalaya were in trouble against Jammu and Kashmir who produced an all-round show to be ahead by 52 runs

at the close of play.

Jammu and Kashmir bowlers Auqib Nabi (9-3-14-5) and Abid Mushtaq (15.3-5-19-5) wreaked havoc as the hosts were shot out for a mere 73 in 16 overs, with openers Bamanbha Shangpliang (21) and Arpit Subhas (24) being the only ones to resist. In reply, Akash Kumar (3/39) lead the fightback for Meghalaya but the hosts had too little to

defend in the first innings as Jammu and Kashmir took a vital first-innings lead. Only 51 overs were bowled in the contest between Baroda and Tripura as Atit Sheth's unbeaten 74, with eight fours and one six, took the visitors to 157 for four.

## BRIEF SCORES

**At Mumbai:** Mumbai 385/3 in 90 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 92, Siddhesh Lad 116\*, Shreyas Iyer 152\*; Biplab Samantara 2/36) vs Odisha.

**At Pune:** Services 239/4 in 90 overs (Suraj Vashisht 79, Shubham Rohilla 67, Ravi Chauhan 59; Mukesh Choudhary 1/34) vs Maharashtra.

**At Shillong:** Meghalaya 73 in 16 overs (Bamanbha Shangpliang 21, Arpit Subhas 24; Auqib Nabi 5/14, Abid Mushtaq 5/19) trail Jammu and Kashmir 125/6 in 37 overs (Abdul Samad 34, Sahil Lotra 19\*, Akash Kumar 3/39) by 52 runs.

# Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant jumps to sixth in latest ICC Test rankings

TDG NETWORK  
DUBAI

Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant rose in the latest Test player rankings on Wednesday following his exceptional performance in the recently concluded three-match Test series against New Zealand. New Zealand clinched a narrow 25-run victory in Mumbai to claim a 3-0 series whitewash over India, with Pant and Mitchell the main beneficiaries in an ever-changing landscape within the top 10 list for Test batters.

Pant rose five places to sixth overall on the back of a pair of half-centuries during the Test in a sure sign that he is back to his best following a serious car accident, with the attacking left-hander now just one spot behind the career-best fifth position he first occupied in July 2022.

On the other hand, New Zealand batter Dary Mitchell is one spot behind Pant - seventh overall - following his eight-place rise and first-innings score of 82 against India, joining teammate Kane Williamson (second) as the only New Zealanders inside the top 10 rankings for Test batters. England right-hander Joe Root maintained a healthy lead at the top of the category, with Williamson, Harry Brook (third), Yashvasi



Jaiswal (fourth) and Steve Smith (fifth) his closest challengers. India's Shubman Gill (up four places to 16th) also made some ground on the list for Test batters following a score of 90 in the first innings against New Zealand in Mumbai, while Player of the Series Will Young gained 29 spots to move to 44th overall for the Black Caps.

Experienced spinner Ravindra Jadeja was the big mover on the latest rankings for Test bowlers, with the Indian left-arm right-hander gaining two places to move to sixth behind No.1 ranked South African Kagiso Rabada following his 10-wicket haul against New Zealand.

## PT Usha confirms dates for 38th National Games in Uttarakhand

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha has confirmed the dates for the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand. In an official letter to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, she highlighted the event's significance and the IOA's commitment to ensuring its success.

Despite the indefinite postponement of the IOA's Special General Meeting, originally set for October 25, 2025, PT Usha assured the Chief Minister that the IOA remains fully commit-

ted to the National Games. She emphasised that internal IOA matters would not affect the planning and execution of this key event.

The IOA has approved the proposed dates for the National Games, from January 28 to February 14, 2025. However, PT Usha noted a scheduling clash with the Asian Winter Games, which will be held in Harbin, China, from February 7 to February 14, 2025. As India will be sending a large contingent to the Asian Winter Games, she highlighted the need to adjust the National Games schedule to prevent any overlap.



## Thomas Draca first Italian cricketer to register for IPL 2025 mega-auction

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Italy's right-arm seamer Thomas Draca became the first international cricketer to register his name from the country for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 mega auction which is scheduled to take place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25.

Draca has lodged his name in the list of all-rounders category with a base price of Rs. 30 Lakhs. It would be interesting to see whether the IPL franchise shows their excitement to purchase the fast bowler or not in the upcoming mega auction.

The Italian speedster made his international debut earlier this year in June against Luxembourg where he registered figures of 2/15 in his four overs. His side went on to win this match by 77 runs. He has so far played four matches for his national side in the shortest format of the game where he has managed



to scalp

The fast bowler recently competed for the Brampton Wolves in the Global T20 Canada 2024 and surprised everyone with his exceptional performance. Draca fared as the joint second-highest wicket-taker in the tournament with a total of 11 wickets in six matches, averaging 10.63 and with an economy rate of 6.88. He delivered his top performance of the season against Surrey by taking 3 wickets for 18 runs in four overs, helping his team defend 198 where his team secured a 59-run victory.

He also recorded figures of 3/10 and 3/30 against Mississauga and Surrey respectively which aided his team in securing second place on the points table. Brampton was eliminated in the second qualifier of the competition following a five-wicket loss to Toronto Nationals.

Registration for the IPL 2025 player auction has officially closed, with a total of 1,574 players signing up. This includes 1,165 Indian players and 409 overseas players, all competing for a place in the world's premier T20 league.

The comprehensive list of registered players features 320 capped players, 1,224 uncapped players, and 30 players from Associate Nations. Specifically, the breakdown includes 48 capped Indian players, 272 capped international players, 152 uncapped Indian players who previously played in IPL seasons, 3 uncapped international players with prior IPL experience, 965 uncapped Indian players, and 104 uncapped international players.

Among the 409 overseas players, Australia leads with 76 registrations, followed by South Africa with 91, and England with 52. Other notable countries include New Zealand with 39, West Indies with 33, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka with 29 each, and the USA with 10 players. Players from Bangladesh (13), Ireland (9), Canada (4), Netherlands (12), Zimbabwe (8), Scotland (2), UAE (1), and Italy (1) have also registered.

## Chennai Chess Grand Masters: Arjun Erigaisi beats Vidit Gujrathi in opening match

TDG NETWORK  
CHENNAI

Arjun Erigaisi, participating in his first home tournament since his historic 2,800 ELO Rating, beat compatriot Vidit Gujrathi after five hours of end-to-end action in the opening round of the Chennai Chess Grand Masters 2024 in Chennai on Monday to mark a positive start. Arjun will be aiming to replicate the achievements of last year's winner Gukesh Dommaraju, who used the triumph at this competition to propel himself into the Candidates, and, eventually, the World Chess Championship.

The Chennai Chess Grand Masters 2024 featured two categories - Masters & Challengers. With a rating average of 2729, the Masters presents a more competitive field this time around. The debuting Challengers, meanwhile, is designed to provide emerging Indian talent the chance to compete in a top-class tournament. Kailasanathan Swaminathan, former Man-



aging Director of Microsense Private Limited, made the ceremonial first move in the highly anticipated match between Vidit and Arjun, officially marking the start of the tournament. Vidit, commanding the white pieces, launched his onslaught with a King's Pawn Opening, before Arjun countered with the French Variation of the Sicilian Defense. The two Grandmasters battled on, exchanging blows at frequent intervals, before engaging in a gritty finish to the game that witnessed Arjun coming out on top after just over five hours of play. Rising Indian talent Aravindh Chithambaram - currently ranked 29th in the world-faced Amin Tabatabaiee on board 1, managing to secure a hard-fought draw against the Iranian grandmaster.

## Champions League: Real Madrid, Manchester City humiliated

TDG NETWORK  
MILAN

European heavyweights Real Madrid and Manchester City both suffered big defeats in the Champions League.

Defending champion Madrid was humbled 3-1 at home by AC Milan, while Erling Haaland missed a penalty and City squandered a fourth-minute lead as it lost 4-1 at Sporting Lisbon, whose coach will soon take charge of its crosstown rival. It was a much better evening for Liverpool, as Luis Diaz scored a hat trick and Cody Gakpo grabbed another goal in a 4-0 win over German champion Bayer Leverkusen



sen at Anfield that marred Xabi Alonso's return to his old home. The Leverkusen coach was given a warm welcome on his return to the club where he became a fan favorite as a player over five seasons between 2004-09. Alonso won the Champions League with Liverpool in 2005. Liverpool moved top of the league phase table

with four wins from four games, followed by Sporting and Monaco, both on 10 points after three wins and a draw.

## RESULTS

PSV Eindhoven (NED) 4 (Flamingo 16, Tillman 33, Bakayoko 83, Krcic 88-og) Girona (ESP) 0 Slovan Bratislava (SVK) 1 (Strelec 5) Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 4 (Spikic 10,

Susic 30, Kulenovic 54, 72) Bologna (ITA) 0 Monaco (FRA) 1 (Kehrer 86) Celtic (SCO) 3 (Kuhn 35, 45+1, Hatate 72) RB Leipzig (GER) 1 (Baumgartner 23) Borussia Dortmund (GER) 1 (Malen 86) Sturm Graz (AUT) 0 Lille (FRA) 1 (David 27) Juventus (ITA) 1 (Vlahovic 60-pen)

Liverpool (ENG) 4 (Diaz 61, 83, 90+2, Gakpo 63) Bayer Leverkusen (GER) Real Madrid (ESP) 1 (Vinicius 23-pen) AC Milan (ITA) 3 (Thiaw 12, Morata 39, Reijnders 73) Sporting Lisbon 4 (Gyokeres 38, 49-pen, 81-pen, Araujo 46) Manchester City (ENG) 1 (Foden 4).

## T20 World Cup finalists India and South Africa meet again

TDG NETWORK  
DURBAN

South Africa start a four-match Twenty20 international series against India at Kingsmead on Friday, just over four months after the visitors beat them in the T20 World Cup final.

Both squads show significant changes from the sides that played in Barbados, where India lifted the trophy with a seven-run win.

South Africa will be missing their three most successful bowlers from the World Cup campaign - fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje and left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi, as well as batsman-wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock.

With most of India's leading players preparing for a Test series in Australia, there are only four survivors from the World Cup-winning team -- captain Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and Arshdeep Singh.

South African coach Rob Walter acknowledged the reality of having to prepare a team at a time of congested and often conflicting schedules.

*The four matches were originally due to be played on India's tour of South Africa in 2021/22 but were postponed because of Covid restrictions.*

"The worlds of short-form cricket, leagues and Test matches are starting to encroach on each other. We're seeing that with other sides around the world having to field two different squads.

"We want to be in the same position and know that we're strong enough to win on both fronts.

"Cricket is in a tenuous

position and it's going to take some seriously strong management to make sure that we look after our players first and foremost so that when they do play for South Africa, they're there to deliver their best performances." Walter is at least able to call on in-demand franchise stars such as David Miller, Heinrich Klaassen, Marco Jansen and Keshav Maharaj, which was not the case when South Africa were beaten in their most recent T20 international against Ireland in Abu Dhabi in September.

The four matches were originally due to be played on India's tour of South Africa in 2021/22 but were postponed because of Covid restrictions.

The tour will provide a financial bonanza for Cricket

## FIXTURES

- November 8, Durban
- November 10, Gqeberha
- November 13, Centurion
- November 15, Johannesburg

South Africa because of revenues from Indian television. It will also provide fringe players in the Indian squad, such as uncapped Ramandeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak and Yash Dayal, a chance to make an impact ahead of the scheduled Indian Premier League player auction in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on November 24-25.

## SQUADS

- South Africa:** Aiden Markram (captain), Ottneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaassen (wk), Patrick Kruger, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mhlangeni Mpongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Andile Simelane, Lutho Sipamla (third and fourth matches only) and Tristan Stubbs.
- India:** Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal.

## Afro-Asia Cup set to be revived after 17 years

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Afro-Asia Cup, a series of white-ball games played between an Asian XI and an African XI, is set to be revived according to the Africa Cricket Association (ACA), following the AGM on Saturday, revealed ESPNcricinfo.

During the AGM, a six-person interim committee was

appointed to restructure the ACA. It was also decided to increase the number of competitive opportunities for players on the continent. The Afro-Asia Cup has only been played twice before, in South Africa in 2005 and India in 2007. A third edition was scheduled for 2009 in Kenya but it never took place.

If the tournament goes on to take place, players from

India and Pakistan, who do not play bilateral series against each other, could end up playing in the same Asia XI team.

"The Afro-Asia Cup, apart from the cricket, brings much-needed financial input to the organisation, and the appetite is huge from both ends. We have had conversations with our counterparts within the Asia Cricket Council, and obviously, our

African contingents, they want the Afro-Asia Cup to be revived," Tavengwa Mukhlani, interim chair of the ACA, who is also the Zimbabwe Cricket Chair, said at a press conference as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

In 2005, the three-match ODI series ended 1-1 after the final game was affected by rain. In 2007, the Asia XI secured victory in all three matches.