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LOGJAM ENDS, HOUSE TO DEBATE CONSTITUTION

Parliamentary discussions will be held from Tuesday

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Parliament is expected to resume its normal functioning from Tuesday after days of disruption over demands of opposition parties with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju stating after a meeting of floor leaders that members shared concern over the stalemate and "everyone has accepted that discussions will be held from tomorrow".

The two Houses of Parliament have seen repeated adjournments over opposition demands including a discussion on Adani issue, Sambhal violence and Manipur situation.

In an effort to break the stalemate, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla called a meeting of floor leaders of political parties in his chamber on



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla calls a meeting of all Floor Leaders in his chamber, at Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Monday afternoon.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Rijiju said listed business including bills will be taken up in the two Houses of Parliament.

"Today, a meeting of all-party floor leaders was held with Speaker (Om Birla) today. Since a few days there

has been a deadlock in the Parliament, everyone has expressed their concerns over it. We too said that all elected representatives come to the Parliament of India to express their views and the Parliament not functioning (properly) for several days

■ P3

Breakthrough achieved after Speaker Om Birla called a meeting of floor leaders of political parties in his chamber

'The Sabarmati Report' screened in Parliament

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi watched the movie 'The Sabarmati Report' on Monday along with several members of his Cabinet besides MPs from the ruling alliance at the Balyogi Auditorium in the Parliament library building.

DETAILS ■ P2

Maha CM: Suspense continues, parleys on

AGENCIES
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The suspense over who will be Maharashtra's new chief minister will end on December 4, when the state BJP legislature party elects its new leader, a senior party functionary said on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the BJP named Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani as its central observers for the legislature party meeting.

Devendra Fadnavis, two-time former chief minister, is widely seen as the frontrunner for the top post. The meeting will be held Wednesday morning in Vidhan Bhawan, a party functionary said.

In the November 20 state assembly polls, whose results were declared three days later, the Mahayuti won 230 of the 288 assembly seats. The BJP led with 132 seats, while the Shiv Sena got 57 and NCP

■ P3



Maha will get BJP CM, says Rupani

RAJKOT: Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, one of the two central observers of the BJP for its legislature party meet in Maharashtra, on Monday asserted efforts will be made to unanimously elect a leader and said he feels the neighbouring state will get a "BJP CM".

Earlier in the day, the BJP, which heads the ruling Mahayuti in Maharashtra, named Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Shrikant denies being in race for Deputy CM

MUMBAI: As the Mahayuti is yet to declare the Chief Minister face of Maharashtra, Shiv Sena MP from Kalyan, Shrikant Shinde on Monday refuted the "rumours" of him becoming the Deputy CM of Maharashtra and said that he is not in the race for any ministerial position in the state.

"After elections results, formation of government is delayed a little and that is why so many rumours

■ P3

BJP national president polls on backburner, focus shifts to Delhi polls

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The BJP may delay the election of its national president despite the enthusiasm in the party following the victory in Maharashtra and Haryana assembly elections. Internal discussion is going on within the party on whether the national president election should be held after the Delhi elections. However, the process for other party elections is continuing as planned.

DETAILS ■ P4



If Fadnavis does not become CM, he could be a strong candidate for BJP national president

Akal Takht orders Badal to clean bathrooms of Gurdwara

Strips Parkash Singh Badal of 'Fakhr-e-Qaum' title

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

Sri Akal Takht, the supreme temporal authority of Sikhs, has directed former Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal to undertake cleaning duties in



the kitchen and bathrooms of a Gurdwara as penance for his role in the "sacrilege" case of 2015.

The decision stems from Badal's support for Dera

Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim, linked to the alleged sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib. Sukhbir Badal's resignation is accepted and SAD is ordered to perform President election within six months.

In a related move, the Akal Takht has stripped Sukhbir's late father, former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, of the prestigious 'Fakhr-e-Qaum' title. The directives

■ P3

SC refuses to ease curbs imposed to fight pollution

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said 'no' to relaxing Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)-IV measures to curb air pollution in Delhi and it will hear the parties on this aspect on the next date of hearing.

A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and AG Masih also noted that none of the NCR

■ P3

B'desh: Mamata for UN peacekeeping force

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

Amid reports that at least three Hindu priests from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) have been arrested in civil unrest that has roiled Bangladesh since August, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday called for a United Nations peacekeeping force be deployed in Ban-



gladesh and demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal intervention to secure the safety of religious minorities in the violence-hit neighbouring nation.

Addressing the Bengal Assembly, she said: "We have families... properties..."

■ P3

Protestors barge into B'desh mission

TDG NETWORK
AGARTALA/NEW DELHI

In a shocking incident, the premises of the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala were reportedly breached by unidentified miscreants. The Central government termed the incident as "deeply regrettable".

The alleged attackers were accused of desecrating the national flag of Bangladesh, triggering widespread con-

demnation and calls for justice.

As per sources, activists of the Hindu Conflict Association protested in front of the Agartala Bangladesh Assistant High Commission office unfurled the national flag of Bangladesh and burnt it.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on said the incident was "deeply regrettable". The MEA reiterated India's commitment to up-

■ P3

Haryana govt in catch-22 as Punjab farmers call Delhi march

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The renewed Delhi Chalo call by farmer leaders from Punjab has once again placed the BJP-led Haryana government in a tight spot, thus setting the stage for another round of confrontation between Haryana Police and the agitating farmers if Haryana government tries to stop them.

■ P3

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Justice Surya Kant

Hon'ble Judge, Supreme Court of India

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Kisan Ekta Sangh and All India Kisan Sabha left-wing members during their 'Delhi Chalo' march over their various demands, in Noida on Monday. ANI

WHO SAID WHAT
IN PARLIAMENT

GADKARI GETS BACK
SEAT NEXT TO AMIT
SHAH IN LS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been allocated seat number one in the Lok Sabha chamber, while the seat opposite to him on the other side of the semicircular front row has been earmarked for Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Union minister Nitin Gadkari was earlier allocated division number 58 in the second column, but has now been given seat number four next to Home Minister Amit Shah, according to a circular issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has got division seat number two, next to the prime minister. Another prominent opposition leader, Akhilesh Yadav, who heads the Samajwadi Party (SP), will sit on seat number 355 in the front row.

CONG: PLACES OF
WORSHIP ACT MUST
BE IMPLEMENTED IN
LETTER, SPIRIT

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Monday asserted that the Places of Worship Act, 1991, must be implemented in letter and spirit, and said that oral observations made by ex-CJI DY Chandrachud in May 2022 seemed to have opened a "Pandora's box". Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh termed as "unfortunate" the various rows that have cropped up recently, including claims on a mosque in Sambhal and Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti's dargah in Ajmer.

COASTAL SHIPPING
BILL INTRODUCED IN
LS AMID DIN

NEW DELHI: A Bill that seeks to promote coastal trade and encourage the participation of Indian-flagged vessels owned and operated by Indian citizens for national security and commercial needs was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday. Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways minister Sarbananda Sonowal introduced the Bill amid noisy protests by opposition members over the recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and the Adani issue.

GOVT RESPONSIBLE
FOR 'WASHOUT':
JAIRAM RAMESH

New Delhi: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday accused the BJP-led central government of being responsible for the "washout" of proceedings since the start of the Winter Session of Parliament and alleged that the opposition leaders were "not allowed to speak".

"Who is responsible for this washout? It is the government that is responsible. Opposition wants discussion on issues of Adani, Manipur, Sambhal, Ajmer, unemployment... But our notices are not even mentioned and our leaders are not allowed to speak," Jairam Ramesh told ANI.

HOUSE ADJOURNED FOR 5TH DAY IN A ROW AMID DISRUPTION

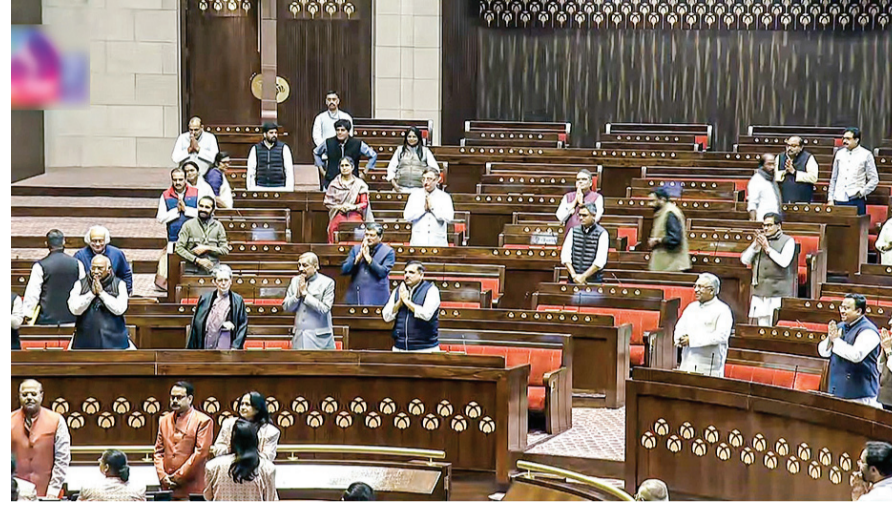
Adani, Manipur, Sambhal remained key issues over which opposition demanded discussions

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha stood adjourned for the day on Monday, the fifth working day of the Parliament Winter Session 2024, amid protests and slogans in the both houses by opposition parties seeking discussion over the Adani issue, violence in Manipur and Sambhal.

Both Houses were adjourned for the day after they reconvening at 12 noon following adjournments since the sessions began at 11 am.

Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected 20 notices received under Rule 267. The Chairman referred to Murphy's Law, which states that "anything that



MPs greet as they arrive to attend the proceedings of the House during the Winter Session of Parliament. ANI

can go wrong will go wrong. It appears that there exists a deliberate effort to actualize Law to impede this House's proper functioning." Parliament proceedings

have been stalled since the beginning of the Winter Session amid protests by opposition parties over the Adani issue and violence in Manipur and Sambhal.

On the early adjournment of Parliament in the last few days, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said that they have met the Speaker and their only demand is that he

DEADLOCK OVER KEY DEMANDS

- Both Houses were adjourned for the day after they reconvening at 12 noon following adjournments since the sessions began at 11 am.
- On the early adjournment of Parliament in the last few days, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said that they have met the Speaker and their only demand is that he takes action to run the House smoothly. "We want the Speaker to run the House," Gogoi said.
- On the meeting of the floor leaders of the INDIA alliance prior to commencement of House proceedings, JMM leader Mahua Maji said that there several issues like Manipur issue, and there is Adani issue, which are very important

important "There are several issues like Manipur issue, there is Adani issue, which is very important, there should be discussion (in Parliament) on it, so these things were discussed (in the meeting)... it seems like the party in the power wants the Houses to be adjourned," Maji said.

Opposition members have been continuously pushing to have a discussion on the floor on the Adani issue, Sambhal violence and the Manipur situation, raising slogans in the Parliament.

The first session of the Winter Parliament commenced on November 25, with both Houses getting adjourned fairly early due to disruptions. The winter session will go on till December 20.

Deliberate 'algorithm' in place: Dhankhar on Parliament deadlock

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In an impassioned address on Monday, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed grave concerns over the repeated disruptions in the Upper House, which he argued were undermining the very functioning of the Parliament.

Citing Murphy's Law-- "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong"--Dhankhar suggested that a deliberate "algorithm" seemed to be in place, intentionally impeding the proper conduct of business.

"Hon'ble Members, you are all undoubtedly cognizant of Murphy's Law," Dhankhar said, highlight-



ing the repeated failure to carry out legislative work. "It appears there exists a deliberate algorithm to actualize Murphy's Law in this August House, consequently impeding the proper functioning of Parliament."

The Chairman's comments came as a response to the ongoing disruptions, which have prevented the House from transacting crucial business.

"We find ourselves achieving precisely the antithesis of what our Constitution ordains," he added, emphasizing the constitutional duty of Parliament to function efficiently.

Calling for a return to order and decorum, Dhankhar appealed to the members' sense of responsibility, urging them to respect the sacrifices made by the framers of the Constitution and countless patriots who laid down their lives for the country's democratic institutions.

"In reverence to the framers of our Constitution and the innumerable patriots who made the supreme sacrifice, I implore this House to permit me to proceed with the business listed on today's agenda," the Chairman said.

Bickerings and brickbats



It's extremely unfortunate. The govt should accept the adjournment motions of the opposition. After all, the indictment by the US courts of the Adani has a larger significance and connotation beyond just one company and those connotations are - what are the signals that it sends about India's business environment?

— Congress Leader Manish Tewari

There are several issues like Manipur issue, there is Adani issue, which is very important, there should be discussion (in Parliament) on it, so these things were discussed (in the meeting)... it seems like the party in the power wants the Houses to be adjourned

— JMM leader Mahua Maji



"The Prime Minister has yet not answered a question on the floor of the House... No notices by the opposition have been accepted since November 2016," he said, citing various complaints from the opposition... There is no deputy leader in Lok Sabha; out of 221 bills passed by 17th Lok Sabha, a third of bills were passed in less than 60 minutes

"At the time of Parliament elections, the seat-sharing arrangement could not be done in a meaningful way. Some problems remained. Otherwise, the results would have been different also," Raja said.

— CPI general secretary D Raja



TMC, Congress at loggerheads over Adani controversy

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A meeting of the I.N.D.I.A Bloc, led by Mallikarjun Kharge, was held recently. However, no TMC MPs attended it. The root cause appears to be a clash of priorities: TMC wants discussions in Parliament on issues like inflation, unemployment, and farmers' concerns, while the Congress is insistent on raising the Adani issue.

According to sources, TMC has been maintaining its distance from the Con-

gress, especially after the latter's significant defeats in Haryana and Maharashtra. Adding to the disarray within the opposition, the Samajwadi Party (SP) has also taken a different stance. SP prioritizes discussions on the Sambhal issue, with MP Dharmendra Yadav even meeting the Lok Sabha Speaker today, stating that the matter is of paramount importance to the party.

The deadlock within the opposition contributed to the Lok Sabha functioning for merely 70 minutes today, raising concerns. So far,

only 4% of scheduled business has been conducted in the Lok Sabha, while the Rajya Sabha has managed just 5%.

Several parties expressed dissatisfaction over the disruption, as they wish to raise issues concerning their constituencies. To address this, a meeting chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was held today. All parties reportedly agreed to work towards running the House smoothly. However, it remains to be seen how this consensus will be implemented in practice.



TMC MPs Mahua Moitra, Kirti Azad, SP MP Ram Gopal Yadav and others at Parliament on Monday. ANI

GLIMPSES ON DAY 5



Congress MPs Priyanka Chaturvedi, Shaktisinh Gohil and BJP MP Surendra Singh Nagar



Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra



Congress MP Shashi Tharoor in a conversation with BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad



Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda receives birthday greetings

PM Modi, his cabinet colleagues watch 'The Sabarmati Report'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi watched the movie "The Sabarmati Report" on Monday along with several members of his Cabinet besides MPs from the ruling alliance at the Balyogi Auditorium in the Parliament library building.

Some members of the audience, including veteran actor Jeetendra and Raashii Khanna, who has a key role in the movie, told reporters after the meeting that Modi told them this was the first film he had watched after becoming the prime minister.

Modi was joined by Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Jitan Ram Manjhi, a BJP ally, among others. The film claims to reveal the truth behind the fire inci-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi watches 'The Sabarmati Report' movie, at Parliament Library in New Delhi on Monday. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others are also present. ANI

dent in Sabarmati Express at Godhra on February 27, 2002, killing 59 devotees returning from Ayodhya after participating in a religious ceremony.

Vikrant Massey, who played the lead protagonist, said it was a different experience watching the movie with Modi that cannot be expressed in words. He expressed his delight and

appealed to the people to watch the film. This experience was the highest point in his career, he added.

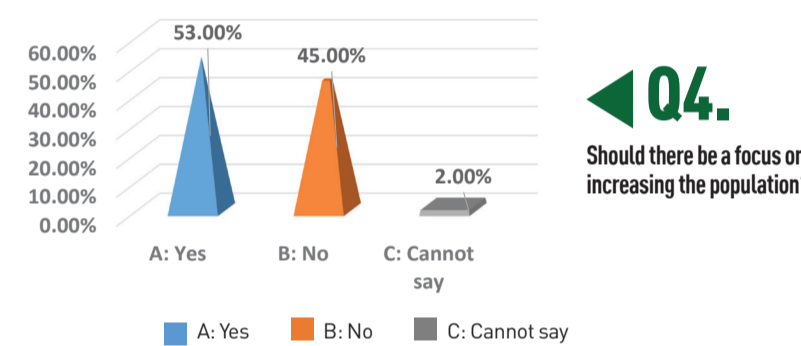
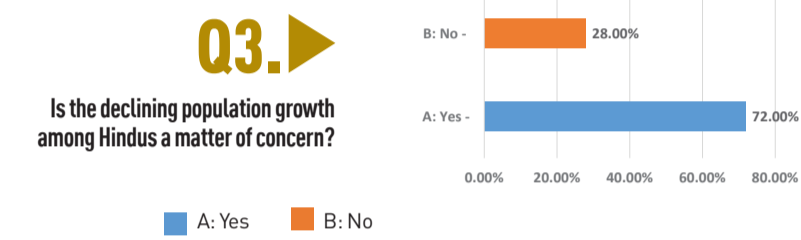
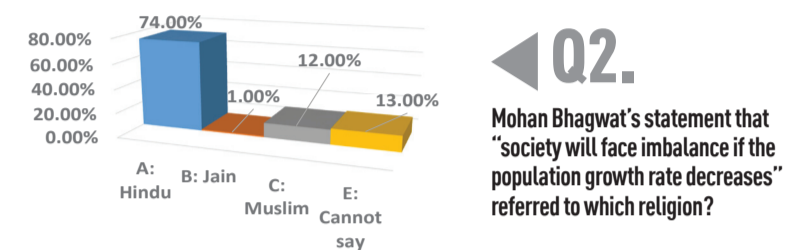
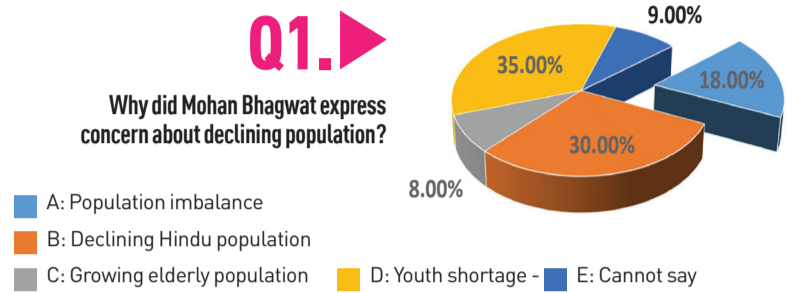
In a post on X after watching the film, Modi commended the makers of the film for their effort.

Jeetendra told reporters that this was the first time he had watched a film with the prime minister due to his daughter Ekta Kapoor,

DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON MOHAN BHAGWAT'S STATEMENT

72% consider declining Hindu population growth a concern

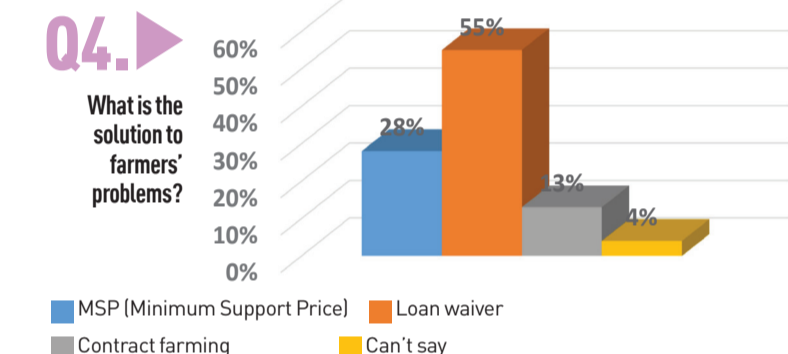
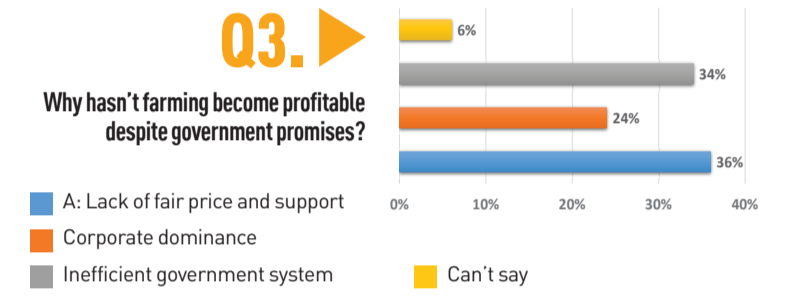
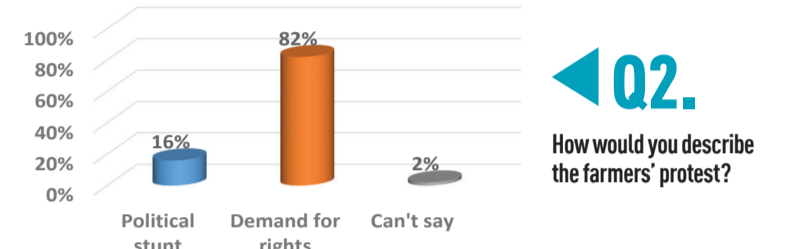
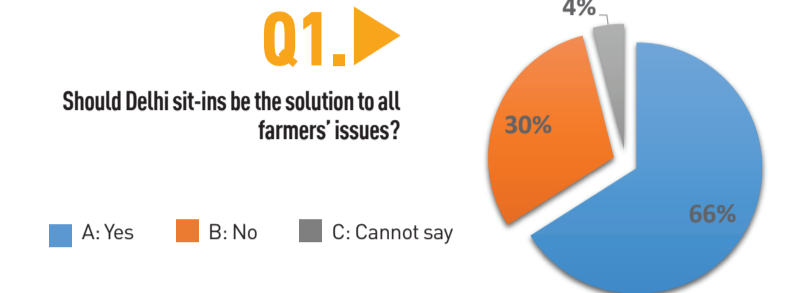
RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in his speech in Nagpur had said that family is an integral part of the society and every family serves as a key building block. (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's advocacy for each couple in India to have at least three children has drawn ire from the opposition. Expressing concerns over the nation's declining population growth, Bhagwat said that if the total fertility rate (TFR) of a society falls below 2.1, it faces risk of extinction.



DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON FARMERS' PROTEST

66% people believe that Delhi farmer protest is the solution to all farmers' issues

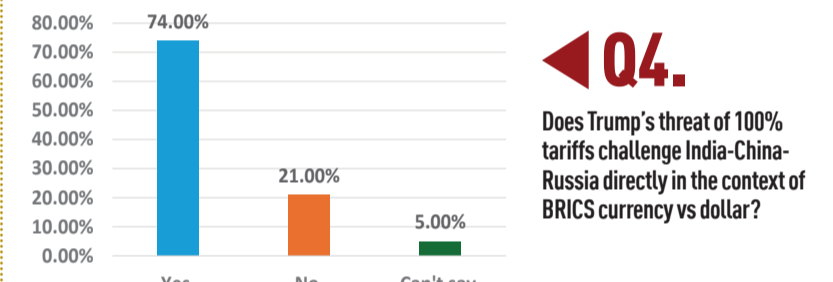
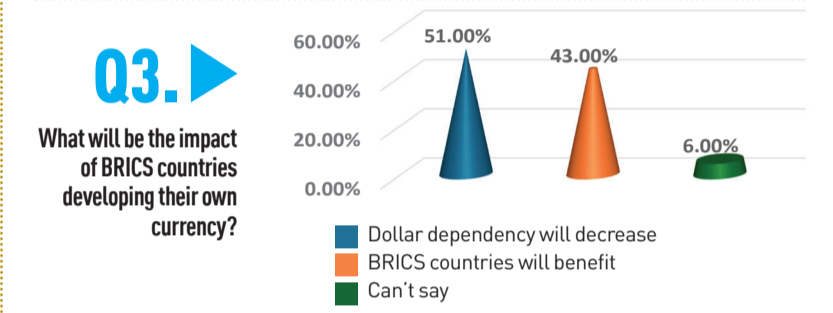
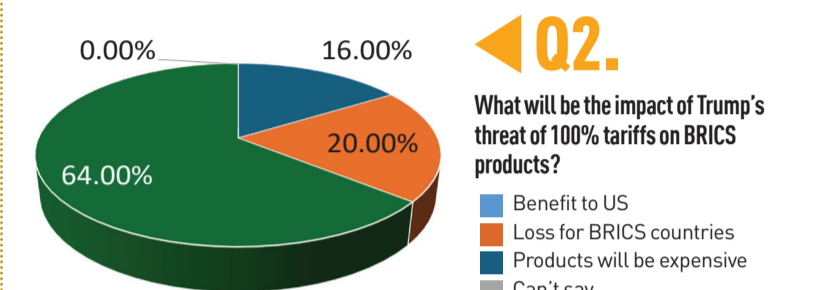
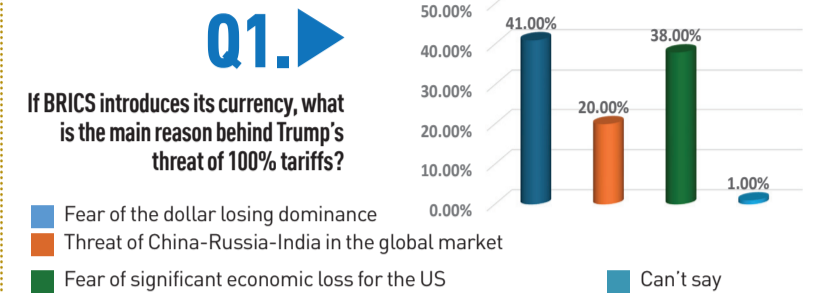
Farmers' protests under groups like SKM and BKP march towards Delhi during Parliament's winter session, demanding action on unresolved issues. The march caused major traffic disruptions at the Delhi-Noida border, likely to persist. Supreme Court urged peaceful demonstrations, while protesters criticized the government for ignoring their demands since February.



DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON BRICS CURRENCY VS DOLLAR

41% believe Trump has threatened tariffs on BRICS as dollar would lose dominance

Donald Trump urged BRICS countries to pledge not to create or support a new currency to replace the US dollar, warning of 100% tariffs if they do. While the BRICS grouping, originally made up of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, has expanded, it has no common currency, although discussions on the matter have gained traction after Western sanctions on Russia.



Maha CM: Suspense continues

Continued from P1
41 seats. BJP leader Girish Mahajan, who is considered close to Fadnavis, visited Eknath Shinde's house in Thane Monday evening. Bharat Gogawale, MLA of the caretaker CM's Shiv Sena party, on Monday claimed that Shinde did not want to be a part of the new dispensation in the state. "I was with (Shinde) saheb the day before. We were all with him. He told us that

he will be outside "power" (government) and work from outside. But we all insisted that he work from within the government," Gogawale said. The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Monday said the home portfolio should be given to it. Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Shirsat said "it is a convention that if BJP gets the CM post, then the home ministry should be with

(the party that gets) deputy CM." "The home portfolio being with us will be good for the Mahayuti alliance," Shirsat said. There were reports that caretaker CM Eknath Shinde had conveyed his displeasure at not being given a second chance as CM by retreating to his village Dare in Satara district, but he attributed the visit to a need for rest after a hectic election campaign.

Maha will get BJP CM, says Rupani

Continued from P1
and Rupani as central observers for its legislature party meeting in Mumbai, where the MLAs will elect their leader. "Maharashtra BJP legislature party's meeting will be held either on Tuesday or Wednesday. Efforts will be made to unanimously elect a leader in that meeting of BJP MLAs. I and Sitharamanji will attend the meeting as observers and submit a report to the high command for the declaration of a leader, who may eventually become the

CM if such a formula is finalised," said Rupani at his residence in Rajkot. "I have a feeling that Maharashtra will get a BJP chief minister this time around since (outgoing CM) Eknath Shinde has made it clear that he will back the party's candidate (for the top post)," he maintained. The crucial meeting of newly-elected BJP MLAs will be held on Wednesday morning in Vidhan Bhawan in south Mumbai, a party functionary said in the financial capital.

Shrikant denies being in race

Continued from P1
are floating around and one is that I am going to be the deputy chief minister in the new government. I want to tell everyone that this is completely baseless and false, there is no fact in this. I had already a chance to become a minister in the

Union Cabinet after Lok Sabha elections, but I chose to work for my party organisation and it is still like that, I have no desire for a position in power," Shrikant Shinde posted on X. He further said that he is not in the race for any ministerial position in the state, adding that he is willing

to work for his Lok Sabha constituency and Shiv Sena. "I can understand the enthusiasm and competition of News media but at the same time, they should not turn their back on the facts. I hope that rumours about me. Will stop now," he added.

Protestors barge into mission

Continued from P1
hold sanctity of diplomatic premises and assured enhanced security of the diplomatic missions of Bangladesh located in India. The attacks against minorities in Bangladesh has sparked outrage both domestically and internationally. Protesters have taken to the streets in various parts of India, expressing solidarity

with minorities in Bangladesh. Protesters denied any unruly protests and stated that peaceful demonstrations were held. "What is happening in Bangladesh is known to everybody. We are protesting against the atrocities of Hindus and for insulting the Indian flag. We have submitted a memorandum to the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission and also

we asked them to take effective steps to take measures against the culprits," a protester in Agartala told this newspaper. Diplomatic and consular properties should not be targeted under any circumstances. Government is taking action to step up security arrangements for the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi and their Deputy/Assistant High Commissions in the country.

Logjam ends, House to debate Constitution

Continued from P1
now is not good. Everyone accepted this," he said. The minister said opposition parties made several demands. He said there was a proposal before Business Advisory Committee to have a discussion on Constitution and the government has agreed to it. "On December 13-14, we will hold discussion on Constitution. The discussion would first be held in Lok Sabha...everyone has accepted. On December 16-17, discussion will be held in

Rajya Sabha," he said. Rijiju said Lok Sabha Speaker told the meeting that if anyone wants to raise an issue, there is a rule for it. "You can submit a notice for it but creating a ruckus in Parliament and obstructing the functioning is not good. Everyone has accepted this. It is good that everyone has accepted that discussions will be held from tomorrow. We will pass the first Bill tomorrow after discussions in Lok Sabha. In Rajya Sabha too, Listed Business will be passed. I appeal once again to all Opposition MPs and

Leaders that all agreements that have happened today - we should run the Parliament smoothly...Starting tomorrow, the Parliament will function smoothly - such an agreement has been made. I am hopeful that this will happen," he said. Those present at the meeting of floor leaders included Congress member Gaurav Gogoi, TDP's Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, DMK's TR Baalu, NCP(SP) leader Supriya Sule, Samajwadi Party's Dharmendra Yadav, Janata Dal-United member Dileshwar Kamait, RJD's

Abhay Kushwaha - RJD, TMC's Kalyan Banerjee, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Arvind Sawant and CPI(M) leader K Radhakrishnan. Gaurav Gogoi said the opposition has been demanding a discussion on the Constitution of India in both the Houses of Parliament to mark 75 years of adoption of Constitution. Kalyan Banerjee expressed hope that Parliament will resume normal functioning from tomorrow. "Hopefully, the House will begin from tomorrow. We all have agreed on that. There

will be a discussion on the Constitution of India on the 13th and 14th of December... The Speaker will allow a discussion on the Sambhal incident and Bangladesh issue tomorrow," he said. Parliament proceedings have been stalled since the beginning of the Winter Session amid protests by opposition parties. On Monday, the two Houses were adjourned till 12 noon and then for the rest of the day. The winter session of Parliament began on November 25 and will continue till December 20.

Akal Takht's order

Continued from P1
followed a meeting of Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh with Sikh clergy to discuss Panthic issues, including matters concerning the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). Sukhbir Badal, who uses a wheelchair, is scheduled to fulfil his penance alongside SAD core committee members and former cabinet ministers by cleaning bathrooms on December 3 from 12 noon to 1 pm. This follows his submission of an unconditional apology to the Akal Takht, acknowledging past mistakes. The Akal Takht had previously declared Sukhbir

Badal a 'Tankhaiya' on August 30, citing decisions taken during his tenure as Deputy Chief Minister and SAD president that allegedly tarnished the Panth's image. The directive underscores the Akal Takht's stance on accountability within the Sikh community's leadership. Sukhbir Badal has admitted the charges against him. The Sikh clergy also pronounced religious punishment for some others who are or were associated with SAD. They included Sukhbir Singh Badal, Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Sucha Singh Langah, Hira Singh Gabaria and Balwinder Singh Bhundar.

Mamata for UN peacekeeping force

Continued from P1
and loved ones in Bangladesh. We accept whatever stance the Government of India takes on this...but we condemn atrocities on religious grounds anywhere in the world and appeal to the Union Government, and the Prime Minister, to intervene." Banerjee said she had spoken to the chief of the ISKCON's Kolkata unit to extend her sympathies and support, and stressed: "If Indians are attacked

in Bangladesh, then we cannot tolerate it. We can bring back our people... The Government of India can take this matter up with the United Nations... so a peacekeeping force can be sent." She also said she was not seeking to interfere with the internal affairs of another country, but pointed out that when Bangladeshi fishermen had mistakenly entered Indian waters, or when a Bangladeshi trawler had capsized, her Government had

"rescued them and treated them (well)". Two ISKCON priests were arrested by Bangladesh on Saturday, according to the religious group's Kolkata unit spokesperson Radharaman Das. This, he claimed, was in addition to the arrest of two devotees and a third, the secretary of one of the arrested priests, going missing. The ISKCON row started with the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari last week.

Haryana govt in catch-22

Continued from P1
Leaders of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM, non-political), who have been protesting at Haryana and Punjab borders since February 23, have given a call to start their foot march towards Delhi on December 6. Since thousands of farmers from Punjab are gearing up for another protest march to Delhi, a move that could spell trouble for the Union government ahead of Delhi's assembly elections slated for early next year. Meanwhile, the situation places the BJP led Haryana government in a difficult situation as the previous Manohar Lal led government in Haryana was already facing criticism for using force against the farmers.

states--Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh --complied with its direction to pay compensation to construction workers and directed the Chief Secretaries of these states to be present on next date virtually. The top court said that when it summons top officials then only the ball starts rolling. The top court also clarified that it will permit relaxations only after observing a downward trend and said that it will hear the parties on Thursday on the aspects of modification of the applicability of GRAP IV. Meanwhile, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati showed data on AQI and suggestions for relaxation of GRAP IV but the court was not convinced observing that

SC refuses to ease curbs

Continued from P1
the AQI is not stable. The SC directed the CAQM to take steps in communicating the mitigating measures to all concerned authorities and to coordinate efforts to ensure implementation of these mitigating measures. It also took into account the shocking things revealed from reports of court commissioners as it noted that there is a complete lack of coordination between MCD, Delhi Police, DPCC and other authorities and says that it is the responsibility of the commission to coordinate activities of all these entities with a view to ensure that measures are implemented. SC also directed the Delhi Police to ensure that members of the bar who are court commissioners are adequately protected.

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CYCLONE FENGAL: THE WRATH CONTINUES...

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Slow moving cyclone Fengal which remained stationed over North Tamil Nadu for over 24 hours wreaked havoc in the Villupuram-Tiruvannamalai-Dharmapuri-Krishnagiri belt, bringing unprecedented flooding in these districts.

In Villupuram district, around 160 km south of Chennai, over 160 lakes and water bodies have breached the danger mark and are overflowing. Most roads in Vikravandi and the surrounding villages in Villupuram district are cut off from the mainland. The district is completely battered by cyclone Fengal and continues to grapple under unprecedented floods. The heavy downpour has cut off access to villages as the roads and bridges are submerged in water.

"We did not have any prior information. We have lost everything. I don't even have clothes to change," says Rajeswari Velu, a 45-year-old woman who walked out from her house in hip deep water along with her family to reach a nearby relief centre. "There was no food and water for the past two days. No power rather".

In Villupuram, the Thenpennai river is overflowing, bringing massive flooding in most parts of the district. Several trees have been uprooted. At Arangandanallur, most houses are submerged in at least four feet of water.

Fengal brought 42 cm rain to Villupuram while the

- Cyclone Fengal: Causes severe flooding in Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri.
- Villupuram Crisis: 160 lakes breached, roads and bridges submerged, over 160,000 hectares of crops flooded.
- Heavy Rainfall: Villupuram received 42 cm; Krishnagiri saw 50 cm of rain in one day.
- Displaced Families: Residents struggle with food, water, and power shortages.
- Transport Disruptions: Train services suspended, highways cut off due to floods.



NATURE'S FURY

- Landslide Tragedy: Seven feared trapped in Tiruvannamalai landslide, rescue operations underway.
- Rescue Efforts: NDRF and SDRF teams deployed for flood relief and search operations.

neighbouring districts of Tiruvannamalai and Dharmapuri received up to 33 cm of rainfall on December 1. In Villupuram, large swathes of agricultural land with standing crops are submerged in water. It is one of the important districts linking Chennai and Trichy. "Around 1,29,000 hectares of crops have been inundated in Villupuram, Kallakurichi and Tiruvannamalai districts due to cyclone Fengal," Chief Minister M.K. Stalin told reporters after visiting the flood affected areas.

He said that as many as nine NDRF teams and eight SDRF teams are working in Villupuram and Cuddalore for rescue and relief efforts.

As water began rising above the danger level on the arterial bridge connect-

Met Department issues heavy rain alert for several parts of South India

TDG NETWORK
AMARAVATI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heavy rain alert for several parts of south India, including North interior Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, for Tuesday (December 3) as the remnant low-pressure area of Cyclone Fengal persisted over North Interior Tamil Nadu.

According to the IMD, the low-pressure area is likely to emerge into the southeast and adjoining east-central Arabian Sea off the north Kerala-Karnataka coasts around December 3.

The report further mentioned heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places with extremely heavy falls at isolated places, particularly in the ghat districts of Tamil Nadu and areas adjoining Kerala on 2nd December. It will decrease becoming isolated heavy rainfall on December 3.

According to the report, in Kerala, heavy to very heavy rainfall in a few places with extremely heavy falls at isolated places on December 2 and heavy rainfall expected on December 3.

In South Interior Karnataka, heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely

heavy falls at isolated places is very likely on December 2 and isolated heavy rainfall on December 3.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places is very likely over Coastal Karnataka on December 2 and isolated heavy rainfall on December 3, the IMD said.

The remnants of Cyclone Fengal, after making landfall, caused severe flooding in the coastal regions of North Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Particularly affected was the Sankaraparani River in Puducherry, where over 200 residences in NR Nagar were inundated.

Four buried alive in landslide in Tiruvannamalai

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

A second landslide hit the Tamil Nadu temple town of Tiruvannamalai Monday afternoon, a day after a first led to a boulder falling on a residential building and trapping seven people, of whom at least four have died and three are still trapped.

The first took place Sunday at 4.30 pm on the lower slopes of the famous Annamalaiyar Hill after heavy rainfall - courtesy Cyclone Fengal, which crossed the coast Saturday afternoon near capital Chennai - battered the district.

Rescue ops - aided by a team of experts from the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai - are ongoing, but have been hampered by heavy rain and the threat of another boulder balanced precari-

ously further uphill. The second landslide was at a spot near a local temple. The southern state has received heavy rainfall since Fengal made landfall. That rainfall continued Monday, two days later, with Villupuram district in northern Tamil Nadu battling unprecedented floods; washed out bridges and overflowing virtually blocked access to villages and residential colonies, as also damaging acres of crops and affecting rail traffic.

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The southern state has received heavy rainfall since Fengal made landfall.

That rainfall continued Monday, two days later, with Villupuram district in northern Tamil Nadu battling unprecedented floods; washed out bridges and overflowing virtually blocked access to villages and residential colonies, as also damaging acres of crops and affecting rail traffic.

Tragic videos have emerged online of vehicles, including large buses at the bus station in Uthangiri, where it has rained for 14 hours straight, being dragged off the road by floodwaters.

Over in western Tamil Nadu, parts of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts also saw record floods. Uthangiri in Krishnagiri got 50 centimetres in 24 hours till 8.30 am, while Villupuram received 42 cm, Harur in Dharmapuri 33 cm, and Cuddalore and Tiruvannamalai 16 cm.

Tragic videos have emerged online of vehicles, including large buses at the bus station in Uthangiri, where it has rained for 14 hours straight, being dragged off the road by floodwaters.



Delay likely in BJP's national president election as focus shifts to Delhi polls

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The BJP may delay the election of its national president despite the enthusiasm in the party following the victory in Maharashtra and Haryana assembly elections. Internal discussion is going on within the party on whether the national president election should be held after the Delhi elections. However, the process for other party elections is continuing as planned. The election of Mandal presidents is expected to be completed by the 15th of this month. District president elections will conclude by December 30, and the process for to elect state presidents will begin. The election of the national president was originally planned for the last week of January. Sources indicate that the BJP is prioritizing the Delhi elections, aiming for a victory following successes in Maha-



However, with Delhi elections expected in January and a new government anticipated by February, the party may delay the national president election until after the Delhi polls.

rashtra and Haryana. The Sangh is also setting the criteria for the new president. The effort is to give a chance to a face that has worked in the Sangh. Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will finalise the name. The election of the national president of BJP was to be held last year, but due to

the Lok Sabha elections, it was postponed by a year. After the Lok Sabha elections, the party announced the election programme and aimed to complete the election of the president by January. In the meantime, due to elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, the elections in these states could not be held on time.

Several names are being discussed for the position of national president, with Bhupendra Yadav, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Saroj Pandey among the frontrunners.

However, the delay in choosing the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra has raised questions about whether a Brahmin or a Maratha should take the position. If Devendra Fadnavis does not become the CM, he could be a strong candidate for national president, with support from the Sangh and Prime Minister Modi. On the other hand, if Fadnavis is made CM, the choice for national president may go to someone else. The party is still debating these decisions, and the outcome will likely depend on the political developments in Maharashtra and Delhi.

Regardless, the BJP is focused on strengthening its position and preparing for the upcoming challenges.

Indian Navy to kick off bike rally in TN

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

The Indian Navy's "Sea Riders Odyssey 2024" bike rally is all set to begin on December 4, 2024, as part of the Navy Day 2024 celebrations. Organized by the Headquarters, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area, in collaboration with the Royal Enfield, Orazo and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, this 13-day rally will cover about 2500 kilometers across various locations in Tamil Nadu.

The cities that will be covered by the rally include Puducherry, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Trichy, Karaikudi, Dhanuskodi, Rameswaram, Valliyoor, Madurai, Kodaikanal, the Sainik School at Amara-vathipudur, Coimbatore, Wellington, Salem and Vellore.

The rally will culminate on December 16, 2024, at INS Adyar, Chennai, where it will be received by the Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area, Rear Admiral Ravi Kumar Dhingra.

Maha: BJP appoints Rupani, Sitharaman as central observers

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as the party's Central Observers for Maharashtra.

Despite the Mahayuti alliance's resounding victory in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, more than a week has passed, and the alliance has yet to announce its next Chief Minister.

On Sunday, Caretaker Chief Minister and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde stated that the decision rested with the BJP, and assured his full support to the chosen candidate.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena MP from Kalyan, Shrikant Shinde, on Monday refuted the "rumours" of him becoming the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and emphasised that he is not seeking any ministerial position in the state.

"After elections results, formation of government is



delayed a little and that is why so many rumours are floating around and one is that I am going to be the deputy chief minister in the new government. I want to tell everyone that this is completely baseless and false, there is no fact in this. I had already a chance to become a minister in the Union Cabinet after Lok Sabha elections, but I chose to work for my party organisation and it is still like that, I have no desire for a position in power," Shrikant Shinde posted on X (formerly Twitter).

The results of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly were declared on Saturday, November 23. In these

elections, the Mahayuti secured 230 of the 288 seats in the state assembly. However, the alliance has yet to finalise its Chief Ministerial candidate.

The BJP won 132 seats, while its allies -- the Shiv Sena, led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, secured 57 seats, and the NCP, led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, won 41 seats.

In contrast, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) suffered a major setback. The Shiv Sena (UBT), led by Uddhav Thackeray, won only 20 seats, Congress secured 16, and the NCP(SP), led by Sharad Pawar, managed just 10 seats.

Scuffle breaks out between police, Congress leaders outside party office

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

A scuffle broke out between Uttar Pradesh Police and Congress leaders on Monday outside the UP Congress Office in Lucknow after the Congress delegation led by State President Ajay Rai was prevented from going to visit violence-hit Sambhal. Meanwhile, Ajay Rai said that the delegation of the Congress party will visit Sambhal after the day when the Police will inform them that restrictions have been lifted in the district



"The DCP and other police officials have said that they inform us when the restrictions are lifted. There are restrictions in Sambhal till 10th December. The day the Police will inform us that restrictions have been lifted, a delegation of the Congress party will visit Sambhal,"

Rai said. Congress leader Sachin Chaudhary alleged that the Uttar Pradesh Police is preventing a delegation of the party from going to Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh and demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation inquiry into the matter.

"Police are stopping us (from going to Sambhal). Earlier, they gave us the time for December 2. I just want to ask that if we cannot ask about the well-being of the victims, isn't it a matter of shame? We demand a CBI inquiry into the matter.

'We grant bail and next day you become Minister'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday was surprised after knowing that Senthil Balaji was appointed as Minister in Tamil Nadu soon after he was granted bail in the money laundering case related to the cash-for-jobs scam.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said, "We grant bail and the next day you go and become Minister. Anybody will be bound to be under the impression that now with your position as a senior cabinet minister witnesses will be under pres-



sure. What is this going on?"

The top court was hearing a plea seeking to recall the September 26 judgment by which it had granted bail to Balaji on the ground that witnesses would be under pressure since Balaji was

appointed minister after his release.

The bench said that it would not recall the judgment but it would limit the scope of enquiry to whether the witnesses were under pressure.

It asked Balaji's counsel to get instructions and posted the matter to December 13.

"The apprehension is that considering the seriousness of allegations against the 2nd respondent (Balaji) in the predicate offences, the witnesses may not be in the frame of mind to depose against the 2nd respondent who is holding the position of cabinet minister... This is the only aspect on which prima facie we are inclined to consider the application, and while making it clear that there is no reason to interfere with the judgement on merits and adjudication of the application remains

confined to the aforesaid," said the apex court.

On September 26 judgment, the apex court granted bail to Balaji, despite finding that there was a prima facie case against him, on the grounds of his long incarceration, since June 2023, and the unlikelihood of the trial commencing soon.

On September 29, Balaji took oath as the minister.

Balaji, was arrested on June 14, 2023, in connection with a money laundering case linked to a cash-for-jobs scam when he was the Transport Minister during an earlier AIADMK regime.

SANJAY SINGH GIVES NOTICE IN RS FOR DEBATE ON CRIMES IN DELHI

Accuses Amit Shah of turning Delhi into a hub of crime

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

AAP Parliamentary Party Chairperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh submitted a notice under Rule 267 on Monday, seeking an urgent discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Delhi's worsening law and order situation. Singh launched a sharp attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing him of turning Delhi into a hub of crime by protecting gangsters and mafias. He further alleged that while MLAs who report criminal activities are being wrongfully arrested, criminals continue to operate with impunity.

Speaking to the media, Singh said, "I had previously submitted a notice in the Rajya Sabha regarding Delhi's law and order crisis, and today, I have submitted another notice under Rule 267. I demand a discussion in the House on this critical issue."

'WORSENING LAW AND ORDER'

- AAP MP Sanjay Singh filed a notice in Rajya Sabha for urgent discussion on Delhi's worsening law and order, citing rising gang crimes and extortion.
- Singh urged the Minister Amit Shah of protecting gangsters, allowing criminals to operate freely while arresting MLAs who report crimes.
- Singh highlighted bomb threats and over 1.74 lakh crimes in Delhi, including murders, robberies, and vehicle thefts, citing a failure in security.
- Despite high crime rates, Singh noted low investigation success, especially in house thefts, revealing ineffective safety measures.
- AAP MPs protested in Parliament, with Delhi CM Atishi likening the situation to 1990s Mumbai, criticizing the BJP-led government's handling of law and order.



Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Singh remarked, "Every day, there are reports of gang wars, gang rapes, murders, robberies, and extortion targeting businesspersons. Shockingly, even MLAs who have

filed multiple complaints against gangsters are being falsely arrested." He went on to claim, "Amit Shah has sent a clear signal that he supports gangsters, criminals, and mafias, effectively encouraging crime in Delhi

instead of curbing it."

He also highlighted the bomb threats in the national capital, calling it a "failure of the security system," when such threats persist in the national capital.

The recent bomb threats in Delhi in 2024 have brought to the fore fearless criminals who are not afraid of the policies of the ministry and attempt this activity from the country's Parliament to AIIMS, showing the failure of the security system," Singh said. He also said that more than 1 lakh 70 thousands of crimes have been registered by Delhi Police in the past year. "The 1,74,253 crimes registered by the Delhi police include murders (308), robbery (1,034), house thefts (5,735) and vehicle thefts (25,140).

Despite rising cases of organized crime, the investigation rate rates of house theft (26 pc) and others are extremely low," he said.

Awadh Ojha joins AAP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Well-known UPSC coach, Awadh Ojha joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the presence of party national convener Arvind Kejriwal and leader Manish Sisodia on Monday.

After joining AAP, Awadh Ojha said, "I thank Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia for giving me the opportunity to work for education by joining politics. Education is such a medium which is the soul of the family, society and nation."

"Today, at the beginning of my political innings, I want to share this with you all if I had to choose between politics and education, I would definitely choose education. By joining politics, the development of education is my best objective," said Ojha.

Earlier on Sunday, Arvind Kejriwal repeated his AAP's stand against having any type of a political tie-up in the capital for the upcoming Delhi assembly polls.

At a press conference at AAP headquarters on Sunday, Kejriwal said, "There will be no alliance in Delhi."

BJP manifesto after extensive public discussion, says Meenakshi Lekhi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

With the Delhi Assembly elections scheduled for 2025, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Meenakshi Lekhi said on Monday that the party's poll manifesto is being prepared after extensive discussions with the public.

The BJP has begun its preparations for the Delhi Assembly polls by holding various meetings over the past few days.

"The Sankalp Patra of the BJP and the manifesto are being prepared after holding discussions with the public. The BJP has issued a WhatsApp number, a hashtag, and a website to gather feedback from the public," the BJP leader told ANI.

Meenakshi Lekhi also emphasized that the party aims to address the concerns of the people of the National Capital.

"We want to address the issues of the people of Delhi. We will go among the public and also hold meetings with people at our central office. We will ask the people for their views and prepare a



next government in Delhi following the assembly elections expected in 2025.

"The BJP delivers whatever it promises. We have shown it during the eleven years of the Modi government in the BJP-ruled states," the BJP leader told ANI. Parvesh Verma further claimed, "Our government is going to be formed for the next five years in New Delhi," he added.

Meanwhile, the BJP leaders held a meeting for the upcoming Delhi assembly elections, which was attended by the Delhi BJP President, Virendra Sachdeva, and other party members.

On November 21, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) released its first list of 11 candidates for the Assembly Elections in Delhi.

The elections in Delhi are expected to be held in early 2025. However, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has yet to announce the official dates.

In the 2020 Assembly elections, the Aam Aadmi Party won 62 out of the 70 seats in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

"The BJP has issued a WhatsApp number, a hashtag, and a website to gather feedback from the public,"

manifesto," she said. Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party leader (BJP) Parvesh Verma said on Monday that the BJP-ruled states have delivered all of their promises made over the past 11 years. Verma also expressed confidence that the BJP will form the

Mandaviya slams AAP for ignoring Ayushman Bharat scheme

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday slammed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, stating that they are "busy selling liquor" instead of prioritising the health of the people in Delhi.

Addressing a press conference, Mansukh Mandaviya noted the importance of the central government's Ayushman Bharat and Ayushman Vaya Vandana scheme, saying they "should benefit the people of Delhi."

"Government of India has written and it is our request that the Delhi Govt should think about the health of the people of the national capital but they are busy selling liquor. Central Government's schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Ayushman Vaya Vandana should



benefit the people of Delhi," Mandaviya said.

Mandaviya's remark came after the Delhi High Court issued a notice to the Delhi government regarding its failure to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

On November 28, Delhi's Chief Minister Atishi expressed that the AAP government is ready to implement the scheme. However, there are contradictions between the facilities offered by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and those under Ayushman Bharat.

"The Delhi government has always been committed to providing robust health facilities. We are ready to implement the core principles of Ayushman Bharat. However, there are significant contradictions between the facilities provided by Delhi government hospitals and those under the Ayushman Yojana," she said.

She further said, "In Delhi government hospitals, everything is free. On the other hand, Ayushman Bharat imposes restrictions, such as denying benefits to those who own a refrigerator, a vehicle, or a concrete house. It also caps the financial assistance at Rs5 lakh per family. If two family members are ill simultaneously, one may not receive benefits. We do not want to compromise free medical care.

'AAP suffered consequences of working for people'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray) or Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi on Monday said that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi has suffered the consequences of working for the people. She said that Congress and AAP failed to reach a consensus to form an alliance.

"We saw it in Haryana, we have seen it in Delhi now that Congress and AAP could not come to a consensus to be able to contest on their own and are fighting this fight. We must remember that the AAP has seen the mandate of the people, yet their elected representatives were jailed on frivolous charges.



AIR IMPROVES TO POOR AQI BELOW 300 AT 273

A thin layer of smog engulfs the area of Old Yamuna Bridge (Loha Pul) as AQI remains 'poor' as per the CPCB, in New Delhi. ANI

Kejriwal, AAP MLAs flee to 'safe' seats amid backlash: Cong

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress has accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its MLAs of conceding defeat even before the Delhi Assembly election dates are announced. Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav claimed that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his ministerial team, and several AAP MLAs

have effectively admitted defeat by abandoning their current constituencies in search of safer seats.

Yadav alleged that AAP's internal assessments have painted a bleak picture, prompting Kejriwal to flee his New Delhi constituency as public sentiment has turned against him. "Kejriwal has realized that people are determined to oust the corrupt AAP government,"

Yadav said. He noted that Kejriwal encountered widespread public anger during his recent outreach efforts in various constituencies. "The so-called 'khattar imaandar' Kejriwal was so shaken by the public's reaction that he now has no choice but to abandon New Delhi," Yadav added. According to him, Kejriwal's recent "padayatra" was less about public engagement.

Threshold high in political defamation: CM Atishi to court

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, accused in a defamation case, on Monday informed a court that the threshold in political defamation cases was high as electoral parties were subjects of public discourse.

Senior advocate Ramesh Gupta, representing the CM, made the submission before Special Judge Vishal Gogne while arguing



against the summon issued to her by a magisterial court on a BJP leader's complaint.

The senior counsel argued that the complainant, Praveen Shankar Kapoor,

was not defamed by her as she made the alleged defamatory statement against the BJP.

"He (Kapoor) is not a victim of defamation. The appellant made statement against the BJP. If it is taken to be true, BJP is victim or aggrieved, can file a complaint... A political party may have lakhs of members, but all cannot file defamation complaint. In this case, the threshold is very high," he argued.

The court will hear the arguments of the complainant in the matter on December 16. On November 22, the special court stayed the proceedings in the case before the magisterial court.

BJP spokesperson Kapoor accused Atishi and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of defaming him through a purported claim that several AAP MLAs were approached by the saffron party with cash to bring down the state gov-

ernment. While the magisterial court issued summons to Atishi on May 28, it refused to summon Kejriwal as an accused in the case.

The court on July 23 granted bail to Atishi after she appeared before it in pursuant to the summons.

Atishi was reported to have claimed that 21 AAP MLAs were contacted by the BJP, which offered Rs 25 lakh to each of them, to switch over to the saffron camp.

'Delhi Chalo' march: Chaos at Delhi-Noida border, commuters bear the brunt

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI/NOIDA

Farmers from different parts of Uttar Pradesh demanding adequate compensation for their lands acquired by the government marched towards Delhi on Monday but were stopped at the Noida-Delhi border where they sat on a dharna.

The farmers said if their demands were not met within seven days, they would again march towards Delhi.

Raising slogans of "Bol Kisan, Halla Bol", the protesting farmers gathered at the Mahamaya flyover on the Dadri-Noida link road and began their 'Delhi Cha-



Kisan Ekta Sangh and All India Kisan Sabha left-wing members break the police barricade at Mahamaya flyover during their 'Delhi Chalo' march over their various demands, in Noida. ANI

lo' march around 11:30 am. Massive traffic snarls caused inconvenience to commuters crossing the

Delhi-Noida borders as police set up multiple layers of barricades and deployed heavy security to stop the

march, which coincided with Parliament's Winter Session.

Bumper-to-bumper traf-

fic was witnessed at Noida's Chilla border for several hours as the protesters, waving banners and flags of various farmer groups, crossed the initial barricades.

They were finally stopped near Dalit Prerna Sthal, around a kilometre from the Chilla border, an entry point to Delhi, where senior police officers tried to pacify them.

Traffic on the stretch resumed around 6 pm after the protesting farmers gave a week's time to fulfil their various demands, including the payment of land acquisition dues, as mandated by the Land Acquisition Act, 2013.

MASSIVE JAMS

Massive traffic snarls caused inconvenience to commuters crossing the Delhi-Noida border on Monday as police set up multiple barricades in view of the farmers' protest march towards the national capital.

A senior police officer said checking was underway at the border.

Additional Commissioner of Police (east) Sagar Singh Kalsi said, "We have made adequate arrangements in east Delhi borders and have taken all precautionary measures, including anti-riot



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam on a road near Delhi-Noida border after security was heightened in view of farmers' protest march towards the national capital, in New Delhi. PTI

equipment. We are using drones for vigilance and are also coordinating with

traffic police for smooth vehicular movement in the area."

BENGAL BJP JOINS PROTEST AT INDO-BANGLA BORDER

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

More than 1,000 monks from various parts of West Bengal gathered on Monday near the Petrapole border in North 24 Parganas to protest against attacks on minority Hindus in Bangladesh and to demand the release of detained ISKCON priest Chinmoy Krishna Das.

The demonstration was organised under the banner of the Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti, with participants arriving at the protest site, situated approximately 800 meters from the Petrapole border checkpoint, earlier in the day.

West Bengal BJP leaders, including the Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari also reached the spot and said: "A blockade is going on. This will go on for 24 hours, starting 6 am today. They should stop damaging temples, otherwise there will be a massive agitation. The 24-hour suspension of trade was just a trailer of what's going to happen next," Adhikari said, "If the attacks on Hindus and their religious establishments do

BJP JOINS PROTEST

- Over 1,000 monks protested at Petrapole border against attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh and the detention of ISKCON priest Chinmoy Krishna Das.
- BJP leaders, including Suvendu Adhikari, joined the protest, announcing a 24-hour trade blockade and warning of further actions.
- Adhikari called the Bangladesh government radical and anti-Hindu, threatening an indefinite trade embargo in 2024.
- Protesters marched to Petrapole 'Zero Point', held symbolic actions, and met officials demanding action on Hindu persecution.
- Despite protests, cargo movement remained unaffected, though border crossings dropped to 5,000-6,000 people per day.



not stop by next week, we will impose a five-day trade embargo. After the beginning of next year, we will stop trade for an indefinite period. We will see how the people there live without our potatoes and onions."

"India is not just another country. It is the world's fourth largest economy under the leadership of PM Modi," Adhikari claimed, adding, "If they dishonour our flag we will force the new sons of Rajakars (pro-Pakistan people's militia) in Bangladesh to surrender like we did in 1971 when we

brought the Pakistani military to its knees."

Calling the interim Government of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, a radical, extremist and anti-Hindu Government. Adhikari said: "They are trying to destroy temples and illegally detaining Hindu monks and saints."

Adhikari, accompanied by BJP leaders and local MLAs Swapan Majumdar, Ashok Kirtania and Arjun Singh, later marched on foot to the Petrapole 'Zero Point' where he released balloons as a symbolic gesture of protest demanding the unconditional release of the arrested Hindu monk in Bangladesh and strict Government action against the torturers of minorities. Protests were also held at the Immigration Office of the border's passenger terminal.

A delegation of protesters, led by Adhikari, later held a meeting with the officials of Land Port Authority of India at the Petrapole cross-over point. "This is not a momentary protest. We will organise similar protests at various other

land borders in Bengal like in Hili and Changrabandha. This is not a party programme. We are trying to involve Hindus from across political lines," Adhikari told reporters.

"We will form a human chain and protest to convey our message of peace to the Indian Government and the Bangladesh dispensation, demanding an immediate stop of atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh," said one of the monks at the protest site.

The demonstration was organised under the banner of the Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti, with participants arriving at the protest site

Swami Parmatmananda, president of the Bengal chapter of the Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti, said that the protests would persist at the Petrapole border "until the Bangladesh Government takes action to stop attacks on Hindus and temples."

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has also been actively involved, organising prayer meetings and kirtans at its Albert Road centre in Kolkata and its other

centres across the world, expressing solidarity with the affected community and calling for Das's release.

Despite the protests, officials reported that cargo movement at the Petrapole border remained unaffected on Monday. "On average, 400 trucks are heading to the Benapole border (Bangladesh), and around 150 trucks are entering India. Additionally, 5,000-6,000 people are crossing the border daily, though this is lower than the usual 7,000-8,000," a senior official noted.

Commodity trading across the Petrapole border remained suspended for 24 hours starting at 6 am on Monday to protest the persecution of Indians and minority Hindus on the other side of the barbed wire fence with businessmen at the border responding to a call for trade stoppage by the protesters, led mainly by Bangiya Hindu Samiti, another organisation.

Cyber fraudsters swindled Rs 125.63 cr from people of Odisha

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

Cyber fraudsters have swindled Rs 125.63 crore from people of Odisha during the last three years (2021 to 2023), Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told the state Assembly on Monday.

While replying to a question from BJD legislator Prasanta Behera in the House, Majhi said that a total of 6,368 cyber fraud cases were registered in the state and 1,388 persons have been arrested during the period. The police were able to return only Rs 2.77 crore to the victims, he said.

The Odisha police have registered 2,037 cyber fraud cases involving cheating of Rs 40.39 crore



in 2021, of which, Rs 27.56 lakh was refunded to the victims, he said.

In 2022, the cyber fraudsters duped victims to the tune of Rs 37.28 crore, of which Rs 97.30 lakh was returned to the victims. The police have registered a total of 1,983 cyber crime cases in the year, Majhi stated.

The chief minister, in his statement, said, cyber fraud

to the tune of Rs 47.94 crore was reported in 2,348 cases during 2023. Out of the total amount, Rs 1.52 crore was returned to the victims.

The official data showed that a total of 425 people were arrested in 2021, while 441 were arrested in 2022 and 522 persons were nabbed for various cyber crimes in the last year, he told the House.

India is Bhutan's pillar of support, inspiration: Bhutan's commerce minister

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Lauding India's role as a "closest partner," Bhutan's Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Employment, Lyonpo Namgyal Dorji, praised New Delhi as a pillar of support and inspiration for Thimphu. He said that the trust and shared values between the two nations make India an enabler of Bhutan's aspirations.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the 29th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit 2024 in Delhi on Monday, Dorji said, "India's role as Bhutan's closest partner is not only a pillar of support but also an inspiration. The trust, collaboration



and shared values between our two countries making India an enabler of Bhutan's aspirations. Beyond herself, India enables opportunities, facilitates connections and engagements for us. It is this spirit of collaboration and mutual growth that excites the two countries."

Dorji described the CII Partnership Summit as an "example of India's leader-

ship, its commitment to fostering innovation, inclusivity, and shared prosperity across Asia and the larger world." He also highlighted how, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged as a global leader for nations like Bhutan.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has emerged as a global leader for countries like Bhutan. India stands not only as a trusted neighbour but also as a partner in our journey of growth and transformation, offering both inspiration and...support as we pursue our aspirations," he said.

"Leveraging this partnership, Bhutan has embarked on a transformative care strategic plan to evolve into a high income, Gross National Happiness, economic central Environment Initiative," he added.

Encouraging investors to explore opportunities in Bhutan, Dorji said, "My pitch here is this for investors thriving in India or seeking opportunities in the region, the futuristic city project at Bhutan offers unparalleled potential. We invite you to visit Bhutan

and explore the possibility opportunity to partner in an initiative that seamlessly aligns profitability with purpose creating an economical design to connect high-value industries."

The 29th CII Partnership Summit brought together 61 participating countries, 30 global speakers, and 11 international ministers. The summit aims to foster productive partnerships and global cooperation, ensuring a shared vision for a sustainable and prosperous future.

Qatar's Minister of State of Foreign Trade, Ahmed Mohammed Al Sayed, emphasized his country's strong economic diversification strategy during the summit.

Karnataka IPS officer, UPSC topper, killed in road accident

TDG NETWORK
SINGRAULI (MP)

IPS officer Harsh Bardhan, who died in a road accident in Karnataka while on his way to take up his first posting, had cleared the civil services examination in his maiden attempt, sources close to his family said on Monday.

The last rites will be performed in Bihar, said the father of the 26-year-old deceased who is posted as SDM in Madhya Pradesh.

The accident occurred on Sunday evening when the tyre of the police vehicle carrying the IPS officer burst in Hassan taluk, resulting in the driver losing control at the wheel and the vehicle hitting a house and a tree, police said.

Harsh Bardhan succumbed to his injuries in a hospital.

He was a 2023-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre and hailed from Madhya Pradesh, police said.

Soon after getting news of the tragic accident, his father Akhilesh Singh rushed to Karnataka to collect the mortal remains of his son.



members have left for Karnataka to collect his mortal remains," Singh, posted as Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) in Devsar town of Singrauli district, told PTL.

The last rites will be performed in Saharsa, the home district of the officer, in Bihar as per the wishes of the family, he said.

Harsh Bardhan had cleared the civil services examination in his maiden attempt, family sources said.

The IPS officer had recently completed his four-week training at the Karnataka Police Academy in Mysuru, police said.

According to Karnataka Police, Harsh Bardhan was on his way to Hassan to join duty as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police in Holenarasipur.

Govt, oppn break impasse in Parliament; Constitution debate set for LS, RS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The government and opposition parties on Monday reached an agreement to break the impasse in Parliament with dates announced for discussions on the Constitution in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The Lower House will take up the discussion on the Constitution to mark its 75th year of adoption on December 13 and 14, and the Upper House on December 16 and 17.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, who announced the dates, expressed confidence that both Houses will function smoothly from Tuesday.

The breakthrough came at a meeting of Speaker Om Birla with floor leaders of different parties.

The opposition parties had demanded discussions in both Houses of Parliament to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly.



who attended the meeting, also echoed similar sentiments.

Asked about the opposition raising other issues such as Sambhal violence and Manipur, Rijju said a decision will be taken in accordance with the rules.

The Congress has been persistent in raising the issue of the indictment of US prosecutors of Adani Group chairperson Gautam Adani and other company officials on bribery and fraud charges. This coupled with vociferous opposition protests over matters such as the Sambhal violence and Manipur unrest have resulted in constant adjournments of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya

Sabha since the Winter Session began on November 25.

However, some other opposition parties, especially the TMC, have not attached the same priority to the Adani row and want Parliament to discuss a host of different issues, including unemployment, rise in prices and the Centre's alleged discrimination against opposition-ruled states in fund allocation.

The TMC has skipped opposition meetings to formulate the INDIA bloc's joint strategy during the Session.

A TMC source said his party cannot be there just to stamp its approval on the Congress' agenda.

The Congress and many of its allies have also been vocal

in targeting the ruling BJP for its alleged attack on the Congress under the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP on the other hand has projected the main opposition party as the principal violator of constitutional norms and spirit when it was in power, asserting that the Modi government has strengthened constitutional practices and principles during its over 10-year tenure.

Proceedings in both Houses were adjourned for yet another day on Monday amid protests by opposition members over the Adani indictment row, recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and other issues.

'No doubt Muslims feeling unsafe', says Farooq Abdullah

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) President Farooq Abdullah claimed that Muslims are feeling unsafe and stated that there is no discrimination based on religion, as guaranteed by the Constitution.

The former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir also said that the government should treat Muslims without any discrimination.

"...There is no doubt that Muslims are feeling unsafe. I will ask the govt of India to stop that. 24 crore Muslims cannot be thrown into the ocean. They (the govt) should treat Muslims equally, there is no discrimination based on religion in our constitution," Abdullah told reporters, responding to recent claims on shrines and Mosques in the country.

The NC Chief further said, "They (BJP-led Centre) should remember that. If they destroy the Constitution, where will India remain?" Meanwhile, Congress MP



Imran Masood on Monday said that the Supreme Court should take cognizance of the matter related to lower courts allowing surveys at religious places. He said that the apex court must put an end to such claims or else it would lead to anarchy in the country.

It was unfortunate that lower courts were passing such orders, the Congress MP said, adding that such decisions by the lower courts would lead to mayhem. "Supreme Court should take cognizance of this matter. The Places of Worship Act of 1991 is clear. There should be no anarchy in the country. The kind of decisions the lower courts are taking will lead to mayhem. These things will happen daily now."

RBI UNLIKELY TO CUT RATES IN UPCOMING MPC MEETING: SBI

The SBI report also predicts the first rate cut may happen in February 2025.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI


The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to keep policy rates unchanged in the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled from December 4 to December 6, according to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI).

The report highlighted that the headline inflation continues to remain at uncomfortable levels, making an immediate rate cut unlikely.

It suggested that the RBI's monetary stance should remain neutral, prioritizing growth without alter-

KEY POINTS

- Rates unchanged: RBI likely to hold rates steady in December MPC meet as inflation remains high, per SBI report.
- Rate cut in 2025: First rate cut expected in February 2025; neutral stance to support growth continues.
- Inflation focus: High inflation levels prompt cautious policy; no reaction to Q2 growth data.
- Liquidity strategy: Report suggests micro CRR tweaks, avoiding broad cuts for balanced liquidity management.



ing its policy approach drastically.

"We believe the stance should continue to be neu-

tral, supporting growth (withdrawal of accommodation removed in last policy)," it said.

The removal of the "withdrawal of accommodation" stance in the last policy meeting has already pro-

The report also predicts the first rate cut may happen in February 2025, aligning with its earlier projections outlined in its October pre-policy paper.

vided a foundation for growth support.

The report also predicts the first rate cut may happen in February 2025,

aligning with its earlier projections outlined in its October pre-policy paper.

According to the report, while the Indian economy faces incremental slowing of growth and geopolitical risks, a knee-jerk reaction such as an immediate rate cut might not be prudent.

Despite expectations of moderating inflation from November onwards, headline inflation levels are still considered high enough to warrant cautious policy-making.

"It is better that the Q2 growth numbers do not prompt a kneejerk reaction in terms of monetary impulse like a rate cut as headline inflation con-

tinues to trade at uncomfortable levels, though it is supposed to moderate from November," the report said.

The report also emphasized the need for recalibrating liquidity management strategies. It pointed out that while a reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) could serve as a potential option, the RBI has previously expressed reservations about using CRR as a broad liquidity management tool.

Instead, the report proposed a more nuanced approach, suggesting that the RBI could consider tweaking CRR requirements on specific liabilities on a mi-

cro basis and making the tool counter-cyclical. This approach could offer a more balanced strategy for managing liquidity while addressing inflation and growth concerns.

"While a cut in CRR would be a de facto option, the Central bank in the past has expressed in no unambiguous terms that the use of headline CRR as a liquidity management tool may not be the ideal path" said the report.

The upcoming MPC meeting will be closely watched for the RBI's stance and measures as it navigates the complex dynamics of inflation control and economic growth.

Government ends windfall tax on oil

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The government on Monday withdrew the windfall tax levied on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), crude products, petrol and diesel through a notification introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The withdrawal of the windfall tax is a big relief to the oil companies like Reliance and ONGC.

The tax was imposed in July 2022 to seek a share of higher revenue earned by these oil giants because of rising global crude prices through higher refining

The windfall tax used to be revised every 15 days based on international crude oil prices after it was imposed in July 2022.

margins. The removal of the tax will make these companies make higher profits on refining margins.

The Ministry of Finance notification says that the special additional excise duty (SAED), commonly known as windfall tax on the production of petroleum crude and on the export of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), motor spirit, commonly known as petrol and high spirit diesel

oil will no longer be levied. The windfall tax used to be revised every 15 days based on international crude oil prices after it was imposed in July 2022. The tax rates were reviewed every fortnight, based on the average oil price in the last two weeks.

The tax formula used to be managed by the Department of Revenue and adjusted as per the fluctuations in global oil prices.

SFIO conducts search operations at three companies

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) on Monday conducted search operations at three companies engaged in the manufacturing of electric vehicles, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) said in a release.

According to the release, these cases arise from the alleged fraudulent availing of subsidies amounting to Rs 297 crores cumulatively by all three companies under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of



Electric Vehicles (FAME) II scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).

The three companies, for claiming subsidies, had allegedly shown compliance with the applicable guidelines to the MHI, which was subsequently found to be incorrect and false.

Upon investigations by

SFIO, it is revealed that several restricted parts under the PMP guidelines were either directly or indirectly imported from China, thereby flouting the PMP guidelines under FAME-II, the release added.

During the search operations, evidence like digital

data, books, and other material has been recovered, the MCA added in the release. It added that further investigation is in progress.

The FAME II scheme was launched in the year 2019 to promote electric and hybrid vehicles in India. The FAME-II scheme and the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) guidelines stipulated the manufacturing of some key components in India for the vehicle to be eligible for a subsidy under the scheme.

SFIO is a multi-disciplinary organisation under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, consisting of experts in the fields of accountancy, forensic auditing, law, information technology, investigation, company law, capital markets, and taxation for detecting and prosecuting or recommending for prosecution white-collar crimes/frauds.

The SFIO investigates and prosecutes complex corporate frauds assigned under section 212 of the Companies Act 2013.

PRAGATI recognised by Oxford University

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Monday expressed his happiness over the recognition of PRAGATI platform in a study by the University of Oxford.

Prime Minister Modi in a social media post on X added, "Am glad that the effectiveness of PRAGATI has been recognised in the study by @OxfordSBS and @GatesFoundation."

PM Modi added, "PRAGATI represents a wonderful amalgamation of technology and governance, ensuring silos are removed and projects are completed on time. Over the years, these sessions have led to substantive benefits, which have greatly benefitted people."

The University of Oxford in its study "From Gridlock



The University of Oxford report added, "The platform symbolises India's commitment to overcoming bureaucratic inertia and fostering a Team India mindset and culture of accountability and efficiency."

to Growth How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress" praised the PRAGATI platform adding that it has reformed the delivery of infrastructure projects in the country by reducing delays in implementation.

India's digital governance platform Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) was launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Modi and has become an acronym for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation of

projects. It has transformed the way India manages its large-scale infrastructure projects and social sector programs.

The University of Oxford report added, "The platform symbolises India's commitment to overcoming bureaucratic inertia and fostering a Team India mindset and culture of accountability and efficiency."

PRAGATI has brought together diverse stakeholders from central and state governments onto a single platform and this collab-

orative approach has been instrumental in addressing some of the most complex challenges in infrastructure development, from land acquisition to inter-ministerial coordination.

The initiatives leveraged real-time data, drone feeds, and video conferencing to not only accelerate project timelines but also ensured that the benefits of development reach even the most remote corners of the country.

According to studies by the Reserve Bank of India and the National Institute of

Public Finance and Policy, for every rupee spent on infrastructure, India sees a gain of 2.5 to 3.5 rupees in GDP. This multiplier effect underscores the critical role that well-executed infrastructure projects play in driving economic growth. The report said, "The lessons from PRAGATI are particularly relevant as nations worldwide grapple with the Middle-Income Trap. The platform demonstrates that governance innovation, coupled with strategic investments in infrastructure, can create the conditions necessary for sustained economic growth and social progress.

It added, "By embracing digital tools and fostering collaboration across all levels of government, India has charted a path that other emerging economies can emulate".

Ola Electric to expand its distribution network to 4,000 stores by Dec 20

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Ola Electric, India's electric vehicle (EV) company, has announced a massive expansion of its distribution network, aiming to increase the count to 4,000 stores by December 20, 2024.

This rollout, featuring over 3,200 new outlets alongside its existing 800 stores, is one of the most extensive EV distribution expansions globally, underscoring Ola's commitment to democratizing EV adoption in India.

The expanded network will cover all pin codes in the country, making Ola Electric the largest EV distributor in India. All new stores will be equipped with co-located service

facilities, further enhancing after-sales support for customers.

Bhavish Aggarwal, Chairman & Managing Director of Ola Electric, highlighted the significance of the expansion and said, "While India is swiftly moving towards electric mobility, Ola Electric's massive network expansion will be a pivotal moment in the country's journey towards #EndICE-Age. With our wide D2C network and the touchpoints under our Network Partner Program, we will cover the entire country beyond tier-1 and tier-2 cities. It will enable our best-in-class product offerings to democratize electric mobility, adding buoyancy to the domestic EV economy."

Despite operating with a

distribution network that is only one-fifth the size of traditional two-wheeler manufacturers, Ola Electric has retained its market leadership.

The company continues to challenge established players by leveraging its direct-to-consumer (D2C) model, innovative products, and competitive pricing.

Ola Electric recently introduced its Gig and SI Z scooter range, including the Ola Gig, Gig+, SI Z, and SI Z+, with prices starting at Rs39,999.

Designed to cater to diverse customer needs, these scooters feature durable designs, removable batteries, and flexible solutions suitable for rural, semi-urban, and urban users.

Delhi Airport introduces special enclosures for smooth passenger movement

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has introduced special enclosures at all three terminals of the Indra Gandhi International Airport to enhance passenger comfort during flight delays caused by fog, weather, or technical issues.

According to GMR Aero, the initiative aims to minimize disruptions and significantly reduce the time taken to process affected passengers, ensuring a smoother travel experience.

Under relaxed government protocols, passengers whose flights are delayed by over three hours or canceled due to adverse conditions can now disembark and return to the terminal.

The enclosures, strategically located across Terminals 1, 2, and 3, will serve as dedicated zones for the smooth processing of these passengers, enabling faster re-entry into the Security



The enclosures, strategically located across Terminals 1, 2, and 3, will serve as dedicated zones for the smooth processing of these passengers, enabling faster re-entry into the Security Hold Area.

Hold Area (SHA). The enclosures are situated at bus boarding gates and select aerobridges in Terminal 3, transfer areas in Terminal 2, and bus boarding gates in Terminal 1.

Ranging in size from 250 to 450 square meters, the enclosures can accommodate between 55 and 120 passengers at a time. These spaces

are equipped to function as security screening zones, facilitating seamless re-entry into the SHA.

To further enhance the passenger experience, DIAL is working to provide essential amenities such as toilets and vending machines within the enclosures wherever feasible. Airline staff will escort passengers into the enclosures,

while CISF personnel will oversee security screening and Private Security Agency (PSA) staff will verify passengers' documents.

The enclosures will significantly cut processing times. Traditionally, disembarked passengers would be routed to arrivals and processed through domestic or international transfer areas before re-entering the terminal's secure zones.

This new system allows direct re-entry to the SHA, reducing processing time from approximately 2.5 hours to just a few minutes.

Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO-DIAL, said, "DIAL has been working to enhance passengers' experience at Delhi Airport.

By implementing this new initiative, DIAL aims to significantly reduce the time taken for the de-boarding and boarding process for passengers of flights affected by fog/weather or technical issues."

GenAI Summit 2025 announced

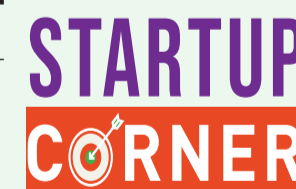
TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As 2024 concludes, the AI-driven era has industries integrating machine learning, generative AI (GenAI), and automation. What began as a minor buzz in 2020 has escalated, with startups securing funds to develop AI-based solutions—from manufacturing robotics to AI-powered enterprise applications enhancing efficiency.

Consumer-focused AI solutions have surged, with most smartphones now featuring GenAI tools central to million-dollar marketing campaigns.

After closely observing GenAI's rise over the past half-decade, last year we unveiled India's AI innovations at The GenAI Summit, coinciding with Ola Krutrim's entry into the unicorn club.

In the past 12 months, the ecosystem has grown faster than anticipated. India now



An exclusive event in Bengaluru will unite 250 top AI and tech leaders, featuring impactful discussions with industry pioneers and investors.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE GENAI SUMMIT 2025

The inaugural GenAI Summit in April 2024 featured over 30 speakers and 16 insightful sessions, shaping the trajectory of AI-powered startups and native AI companies throughout the year. Continuing Inc42's tradition of deep-diving into emerging technologies, the second edition of The GenAI Summit will examine

how startups are leveraging AI's potential after two years of exploration. This invite-only gathering will host a curated audience of 250 of India's leading AI and tech startup minds in Bengaluru. Discussions and fireside chats will feature thought leaders, influential CTOs, CEOs, cofounders of native GenAI startups, and investors driving the next wave of innovation.

SCRUB TYPHUS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION: UNTOLD STORY OF NOKLAK

OPINION

DR. ANIRUDDHA BABAR



“Scrub typhus is a ruthless reminder of the state's failure to address preventable diseases, turning neglect and indifference into a death sentence for the underserved.”

The jungles of Noklak, nestled along the Indo-Burma border, are a realm of stunning beauty and quiet despair. Hardly anyone might have heard of “Noklak,” a name that very rarely finds its way into conversations about development or policy. To some, the region may seem untouched and idyllic, but for the people who call this land home, these dense, dangerous jungles—where trails often do not exist—symbolize both survival and struggle. As I navigated this unforgiving wilderness and listened to the stories etched in every tree and stone, it became impossible to ignore the harsh realities they face. This is a place where isolation isn't just geographical—it's sys-

temic, a legacy of decades of neglect. Amid this wilderness thrives a community battling not just the elements but the indifference of a state that has overlooked their struggles. If beauty lies in adversity, then Noklak's story is one of quiet heroism, but beneath this adversity is a cry for change, for health, for justice.

Scrub typhus, a neglected tropical disease caused by *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, embodies the neglect and systemic failure experienced by Noklak. Transmitted by chigger mites thriving in the thick vegetation, the disease often goes undetected or misdiagnosed due to the lack of diagnostic facilities. This failure proves deadly, as scrub typhus progresses rapidly without proper treatment. In Noklak, where healthcare is already scarce, time is a luxury few can afford. The Khamnungan people, the local community in the region, report that the few public health centers available are largely ill-equipped, lacking sufficient staff and resources to properly diagnose or treat illnesses. Families, already struggling with poverty, cannot always afford the journey to better-equipped hospitals in Kohima, Dimapur, Guwahati or the cost of medicines and treatment, leaving them

with few options but to endure in silence.

The absence of a robust public healthcare system in Noklak has led to a dependence on external actors such as the Assam Rifles. In their regular outreach efforts, they conduct medical camps and provide basic treatments, but these efforts are stopgap measures and cannot replace a functioning, localized healthcare infrastructure. Relying on a paramilitary force for medical care underscores the glaring deficiencies in the Nagaland state's governance, which fails to prioritize the basic needs of its citizens. The people of Noklak deserve more than occasional relief—they deserve a healthcare system that is both accessible and sustainable.

This health crisis is deeply connected to the broader socio-economic challenges that Eastern Nagaland has faced for decades. Poverty, lack of education, and inadequate infrastructure trap communities in a cycle of deprivation. While the difficult terrain and jungles provide a means of livelihood through traditional practices like jhum cultivation, they also isolate the community from modern sustainable development. These forests, while offering basic sustenance, simultaneously exacerbate the region's vulnerability to diseases like scrub typhus and further isolate it from essential services.

For sixty years since Nagaland became a state, districts like Noklak—formerly part of Tuensang District—have remained neglected and left behind. Eastern Nagaland



has rarely been prioritized in state policies, with development concentrated in urban areas like Kohima, Chumoukedima and Dimapur. This disregard for remote areas has left them struggling to keep up with the rest of the state, especially when it comes to basic healthcare and infrastructure. It's not surprising, then, that the Frontier Nagaland Movement has gained serious momentum. This movement is a response to decades of systemic neglect and an urgent call for legislative, executive, and financial autonomy through the proposed Frontier Nagaland Territory. It seeks dignity and survival for a community long excluded from the nation's progress and denied the full benefits of Constitutional justice. It demands recognition for those who have been marginalized, with their needs and rights continuously overlooked by the state.

My travels through Noklak have shown me a land full of untapped potential and immense challenges. The jungles are a constant reminder of the

community's struggle—beautiful yet harsh, with layers of history and hardship. These challenges go beyond health; they are a direct result of years of systemic neglect. The people of Noklak are not seeking charity; they are demanding their rights—the right to healthcare, the right to education, and the right to a life of dignity.

Breaking the cycle of deprivation in Noklak demands more than temporary fixes. It requires a comprehensive, long-term approach that prioritizes healthcare infrastructure, economic development, and social equity. Only by addressing these systemic issues can the government begin to eradicate diseases like scrub typhus and truly uplift this marginalized region. The state government of Nagaland must move beyond occasional ill-equipped relief efforts and commit to building sustainable systems that serve the people of Noklak.

The construction of the proposed Frontier Nagaland Territory presents a valuable opportunity for the Nagaland state govern-

ment to delegate a significant portion of its policy-making responsibilities. By transferring administrative and developmental duties to the new territorial entity, the state government can reduce its governance burden, allowing for more focused and efficient management of resources and policies tailored to the unique needs of the Eastern Nagaland region. This decentralization can promote localized decision-making, enhance developmental outcomes, and address long-standing regional disparities within Nagaland.

The mysterious jungles of Noklak stand as both a reflection of the resilience of its people and a stark reminder of the neglect they have endured. These dense, untamed forests are more than just a backdrop for suffering; they are an integral part of the community's relentless fight for survival. Yet, despite the hardships they face, the people of Noklak persist, navigating the challenges of isolation and deprivation with strength. Until the state addresses the deep-rooted issues of healthcare, infrastructure, and economic development, Noklak will remain a powerful symbol of both resilience and systemic failure—a place waiting for the justice and transformation it so desperately deserves.

Dr. Aniruddha Babar, an academician, is the Founder and Director of 'Project Constitutional Justice' in Tuensang, Nagaland. This initiative is dedicated to advancing constitutional awareness, governance, and social justice.

PERSPECTIVE TRUMP'S WARNING

THERE IS NO BRICS CURRENCY ON THE HORIZON

US President-Elect Donald Trump's sudden outburst on BRICS has created much buzz. The incoming 47th President of the United States, in his unique style, has threatened the BRICS countries not to take America for a “sucker” that they could do business with it, while having their own BRICS currency, thus ditching the dollar. He threatened the imposition of 100% tariffs on BRICS countries if they adopted any such currency, which would be seen as de-dollarisation—an attempt to discard the dollar as the main mode of doing business worldwide. At one level this is what makes Donald Trump different from other US Presidents, he is not shy of exercising the power he has and has in fact already warned that he would impose 60% tariff on Chinese goods. For him, it is not just about America first, but also about America as the sole leader of the world. But the problem is that he is basing his outburst on the narrative being peddled by western experts/think-tanks and the media that BRICS is anti-West, specifically anti-US, and that a BRICS currency is in the offing.



The truth is, there is no BRICS currency on the horizon—there is no plan, no roadmap, nothing. The push for a BRICS currency is coming primarily from China and Russia, and India in particular has been opposed to any such currency, one of the reasons why a BRICS currency has not come into existence till date. India's opposition, although publicly not stated, is primarily because any BRICS currency would be driven by China, and it is China's tune that Russia is singing. While it is understandable why countries such as Russia and Iran would push for a BRICS country. They are sanctions-battered and have been looking for alternate means to carry on with trade and a BRICS currency would serve their interest since it will help them bypass the western sanctions regime. Both countries have been thrown out of the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) system, through which banks send information and instructions on money transfers, which is essential for international trade. The US has been accused of weaponising the dollar through the rampant use of sanctions, pushing many countries towards a financial abyss. This holds true for Russia and Iran in particular.

As for China, it is focused on dislodging the US as the number one world power. At present, it sees the world as bipolar, with the US and it dominating the two poles, which eventually will become unipolar, with China being the only superpower. Arguably, it is already moving towards that direction. China's move towards de-dollarisation includes steps towards increasing its gold reserves and reduce its investments in US Treasury bonds, so that its economy is insulated from any hard-hitting sanctions by the US. Meanwhile, China has been pushing for business in its own currency, especially among the BRICS-plus nations, which countries like Russia have lapped up as it takes care of its financial needs, helping it to bypass the sanctions. This is one of the reasons Moscow has been pushing New Delhi to do business with it in the Chinese yuan, instead of the Indian rupee, as it is easier to use that money specifically when trading with China, Russia's biggest trading partner. So, it is in China's and Russia's interest to have a common BRICS currency, to bypass the dollar. But it also means replacing one “hegemon” with another—the US with China—with the possibility of the Chinese Communists having major control of the international financial system, which they will eventually weaponise. Let us forget, the BRICS countries already control 32% of the world GDP, primarily because of the size of the Chinese economy. And China controlling the international financial system means the rise of authoritarianism and an attempt to reshape the world in Chinese communist characteristics, something the free world can do without.

Ironically, it is the sanctions regime of the US that has pushed many countries towards the BRICS, in a bid to insulate themselves from any future sanctions. It is because of this that China's currency has been strengthened. So instead of using threats, President Trump needs to stop weaponising the dollar, as that will eventually hurt the US the most and aid the rise of China. As for India, it needs to convey to President Trump in clear terms that it was never a part of the business of launching a BRICS currency, and that this multipolar platform still does not have its own currency is largely because of the efforts of New Delhi. President Trump also needs to understand that BRICS is not anti-West, it is just non-West, which Prime Minister Modi has been speaking of, a view reflected by Russian President Vladimir Putin too recently. As long as India is a part of that platform, BRICS will never be anti-West.

JOYEETA BASU

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: STRUGGLE FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY

OPINION

DR. ALISHA VERMA



Even after three years, significant developments in the Russia-Ukraine war continue to shape geopolitical history. Lately, Ukraine has pressed drone attacks deep into Russia, targeting logistics and military infrastructure, indicating that Kyiv is pushing for strategic advantage. Meanwhile, the winter offensive of Russia faces the issues of logistical bottlenecks and sagging morale in troops as Wagner Group affiliates are reportedly strained. Diplomatic efforts, including those by China and the UN, seek de-escalation, but with limited progress as both sides gain a decisive turn in the conflict.

BACKGROUND RECAP
The Russia-Ukraine war, which started in February

2022, has been the most significant conflict in Europe since World War II. The tensions leading to this war had roots that were centuries old but intensified when Russia launched a full-scale invasion, citing NATO expansion and the protection of Russian-speaking populations as justifications. Ukraine, supported by its Western allies, resisted very hard, and the war has been long and very devastating. The conflict has resulted in severe humanitarian crises, displacing millions and causing vast damage to infrastructure. Diplomatic efforts have failed time and again as both nations are bent on securing territorial and political advantages.

ESCALATION IN CONFLICT

In late 2023 and early 2024, the Russia-Ukraine war entered a new phase—the substantial escalations. Significant losses notwithstanding, Ukraine succeeded in the counteroffensive in the east, attaining military gains. Expanded drone warfare focused on underground infrastruc-

ture in Russia. Early winter 2024 saw Moscow face major logistical problems it could not overcome to enhance its military momentum in the newly launched winter offensive. Both sides were intransigent in their diplomatic negotiations, which went nowhere. The internationalization was also deepened by NATO's enhanced military support to Ukraine, especially in terms of long-range missile systems. There was also an intensification of humanitarian distress during this period, since the conflict had spread beyond traditional battlefields, affecting civilian populations and critical infrastructure deeply.

RESPONSES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The war has brought a polarized international response. Ukraine has received military aid, economic sanctions against Russia, and humanitarian assistance for displaced civilians from NATO and EU countries. Meanwhile, countries like China and India have encouraged diplomatic resolutions, thus avoiding alignment. Russia has been economically isolated by global sanctions, which have also put pressure on energy markets globally. The protracted violence has hindered the diplomatic efforts of the United Nations and regional actors.

IMPACT ON GLOBAL

POLITICS

The war has reshaped geopolitics of the world. NATO's expansion to the east with Sweden and Finland joining, indicates that West is stronger against Russian action. The energy markets still remain volatile, as the Europe continues to diversify away from Russian oil and gas. The fight has further strengthened China's position as a conciliator, and kept international institutions such as UN under strain. The drawn-out war underscores the emerging new power dynamics in post-Cold War era.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The humanitarian crisis from the conflict is quite telling, with more than 15 million Ukrainians internally and externally displaced, with millions as refugees in neighbouring countries in Poland. Destruction of infrastructure, lack of discrimination in bombardments, and harsh winters account for the increasing number of civilian casualties, worsening life conditions. The discomfort of the victimized people is heightened by the difficulties faced by humanitarian organizations in delivering assistance amidst continued hostilities and blocked corridors.

ECONOMIC RAMIFICATIONS

The war has seriously im-

pacted global supply networks, particularly for gasoline, fertilizer, and food. Ukraine's blockade of Black Sea ports has led to food shortages in developing countries. Russia continues to export energy to non-Western partners but is severely economically isolated as a result of sanctions. The conflict is one of the major factors that explain the current global financial trends since economies around the world have been affected by inflation, economic instability, and shifting trade patterns.

WHO IS AT FAULT IN THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR?

In all fairness, responsibility for this complicated Russia-Ukraine conflict is shared on both sides. Most concur that the primary aggression was when Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 and violated its sovereignty. Yet, those long-standing geopolitical issues include among other things, such as Russia's security worries and the expansion of NATO, that have worsened the war. Although the world condemned the actions of Russia as illegal, the larger geopolitical environment did play a role in this escalation, which included unsuccessful diplomatic attempts. Ultimately, a solution requires addressing the core problems from both sides, which involve security, sovereignty, and diplomacy.

DIPLOMATIC APPROACHES TO ENDING CONFLICT

A complex strategy that encompasses diplomatic talks and international engagement is required to address the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Respecting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, diplomatic channels should prioritize ceasefires and the defense of civilian infrastructure. Involving impartial mediators might help bridge the gap between the disputing parties and encourage effective communication.

It requires a balanced approach that incorporates both the security interests of Russia and territorial integrity of Ukraine in ending the war. Since Russia views NATO's growth as a threat, diplomacy efforts should focus on that with the consideration of the independence of Ukraine. The role of international organizations, like the UN, NATO, and the EU, must be key in building communication, instilling confidence, and establishing long-term security for both sides. A strong, amicable agreement can be achieved that addresses justifiable concerns of both Russia and Ukraine in order to offer stability for the larger European space.

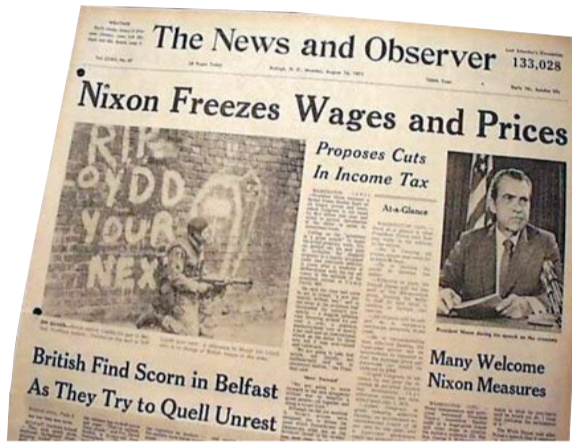
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Bretton Woods Conference delegates including U.K delegate and Commission II leader Lord John Maynard Keynes (center). Britannica

The U.S. dollar's journey to becoming the world's dominant currency is a story of historical turning points, strategic economic decisions, and geopolitical transformations. From its marginal status in the early 20th century to its central role in the post-World War II monetary system and its ongoing influence today, the dollar's rise reflects the evolution of global power dynamics and financial systems.

The story unfolds across three critical periods: the "prehistory" of the dollar before World War II, the establishment and subsequent collapse of the Bretton Woods system, and the post-Bretton Woods era, including the Jamaica monetary system. Each phase demonstrates how global crises, economic policies, and international cooperation have shaped the dollar's role.



President Nixon's Announcement (August 15, 1971): In a televised address, President Richard Nixon announced the suspension of the dollar's convertibility into gold, an event known as the "Nixon Shock." Images from this day show Nixon delivering his speech and interacting with the press. Nixon library



Swiss gold francs 1930s, Britannica

BEFORE 1944
The gold standard and the early 20th century
Before World War I, the global monetary system revolved around the gold standard, which tied currencies to a fixed amount of gold. The British pound sterling was the dominant international currency, reflecting Britain's global trade dominance and vast colonial empire. The U.S. dollar, meanwhile, was largely peripheral, with its influence limited to neighboring Canada and parts of Latin America.

The situation began to change with the advent of World War I. European powers suspended gold convertibility to finance the war, while the United States maintained the gold standard. The war marked a turning point for the U.S. economy, as it became a key supplier of food, materials, and armaments to the Allies. By 1919, the U.S. had amassed nearly two-thirds of the world's gold reserves, transitioning from a net debtor to a net creditor nation.

The interwar period and dollar's ascendancy
During the interwar years, the gold-exchange standard emerged, allowing currencies like the dollar and the

pound to serve as reserves alongside gold. However, the Great Depression and competitive devaluations destabilized the global economy. Countries abandoned the gold standard, leading to chaotic monetary conditions. By the late 1930s, the international monetary system was in disarray, and the dollar's role, though growing, was not yet cemented.

The shift from the pound to the dollar as the dominant reserve currency began in earnest during this time. As European economies faltered under the weight of the Great Depression, the U.S. dollar became increasingly attractive as a stable store of value.

THE BRETTON WOODS SYSTEM (1944-1971)

Creating a Post-War Economic Order
The devastation of World War II created an urgent need for a stable and cooperative global economic system. In July 1944, representatives from 44 Allied nations gathered in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, to design a framework for international monetary stability and post-war reconstruction. The resulting

agreements established the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The Bretton Woods system pegged currencies to the U.S. dollar, which was convertible to gold at a fixed rate of \$35 per ounce. This arrangement effectively made the dollar the world's reserve currency, as it was the only currency directly tied to gold. U.S. economic dominance—accounting for more than 50% of global industrial production by 1945—further solidified this role.

Harry Dexter White, the chief American negotiator, viewed the dollar as the cornerstone of the new system. John Maynard Keynes, representing Britain, had proposed an alternative: a supranational currency called the "bancor." However, the U.S.'s economic and political power ensured that the dollar, rather than the bancor, became the anchor of the global financial system.

The Marshall Plan and dollar liquidity

In the aftermath of the war, the Marshall Plan (1948-1951) provided over \$12 billion (approximately \$130 billion in today's terms) in economic aid to Western

HOW DOLLAR BECAME THE GLOBAL CURRENCY

The U.S. dollar's rise as the world's powerhouse currency reshaped global finance and power dynamics.



The British Hugh Dalton, one of the architects of the Bretton Woods agreements, at the first meeting of the IMF in 1947. The Kingston agreements marked the end of this era. AFP



On 29 November 1948, the US President, Harry S. Truman (left) meets with George C. Marshall, Paul Hoffmann and Averell Harriman in the Oval Office of the White House to discuss the implementation of the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe. CVCE website

Europe. These funds, distributed predominantly in dollars, facilitated the reconstruction of war-torn economies and entrenched the dollar's role in international trade.

By the 1950s, the U.S. held nearly 70% of the world's monetary gold. The dollar's supremacy was evident, with most international trade conducted in dollars and central banks holding the currency as a reserve asset.

CHALLENGES TO THE BRETTON WOODS SYSTEM

The Triffin Dilemma

Despite its initial success, the Bretton Woods system faced inherent contradictions. Economist Robert Triffin warned of the "Triffin Dilemma": the conflict between the U.S.'s domestic economic policies and its role as the issuer of the global reserve currency. To supply liquidity for global trade, the U.S. needed to run persistent balance-of-payments deficits, which eroded confidence in the dollar's value.

By the 1960s, U.S. spending on the Vietnam War and domestic programs led to rising inflation and a growing trade deficit. Nations began to doubt the

U.S.'s ability to maintain the dollar's convertibility into gold.

France's criticism and the "exorbitant privilege"

France, under President Charles de Gaulle, became one of the most vocal critics of the dollar-dominated system. De Gaulle accused the U.S. of exploiting its "exorbitant privilege" by running deficits and exporting inflation to other nations. In the mid-1960s, France converted large amounts of dollar reserves into gold, further depleting U.S. gold reserves.

Between 1957 and 1971, U.S. gold reserves fell dramatically, from \$24 billion to \$10 billion. Other nations followed France's lead, increasing pressure on the U.S. to address the system's imbalances.

THE COLLAPSE OF BRETTON WOODS

On August 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon announced the suspension of dollar convertibility into gold, a move known as the "Nixon Shock." This decision effectively ended the Bretton Woods system, leading to a period of monetary uncertainty. In 1973, major currencies transitioned to floating exchange

rates, where their values were determined by market forces rather than fixed pegs.

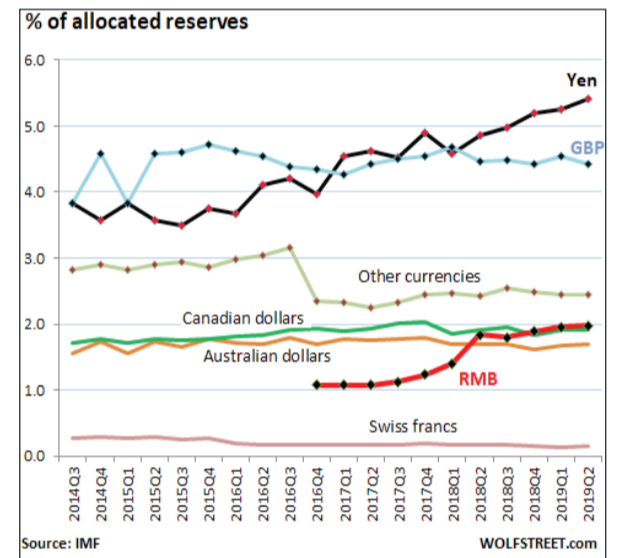
The end of the Bretton Woods system marked a turning point for the international monetary order. While the dollar was no longer backed by gold, it remained the dominant currency due to its widespread use in trade, finance, and reserves.

THE JAMAICA MONETARY SYSTEM (1976-PRESENT)

Transition to floating exchange rates

The 1976 Jamaica Accords formalized the new monetary system, legitimizing floating exchange rates and severing the link between currencies and gold. Nations were free to choose their exchange rate regimes, and gold was officially demonetized as a monetary asset.

Despite these changes, the dollar retained its preeminence. By the late 1970s, approximately 80% of global foreign exchange reserves were held in dollars. The deep liquidity of U.S. financial markets, coupled with America's economic and military power, ensured the dollar's continued dominance.



Source: IMF WOLFSTREET.COM

The dollar and global finance

The dollar's role as the global currency has provided the U.S. with significant advantages, including the ability to finance deficits by issuing debt in its own currency. This "exorbitant privilege" has allowed the U.S. to sustain high levels of consumption and investment, often at the expense of other nations.

However, reliance on the dollar has also made the global financial system vulnerable to U.S. policies. For instance, the Federal Reserve's decisions on interest rates can have far-reaching effects on emerging markets, whose debts are often denominated in dollars.

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES TO DOLLAR DOMINANCE

De-dollarization efforts

In recent years, nations like China and Russia have sought to reduce their dependence on the dollar. China has promoted the yuan as an alternative reserve currency, while both nations have increased their gold reserves. Initiatives like the BRICS currency and bilateral trade agreements in non-dollar currencies reflect growing dissatisfaction with the

dollar-centric system.

Cryptocurrencies and digital alternatives

The rise of cryptocurrencies and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) has introduced new challenges to the dollar's dominance. While these alternatives are still in their infancy, they represent potential disruptions to the traditional monetary system.

The dollar's resilience

Despite these challenges, the dollar remains deeply entrenched in global finance. As of 2023, it accounts for nearly 60% of global foreign exchange reserves. Its stability, liquidity, and widespread acceptance continue to make it the currency of choice for international trade and investment.

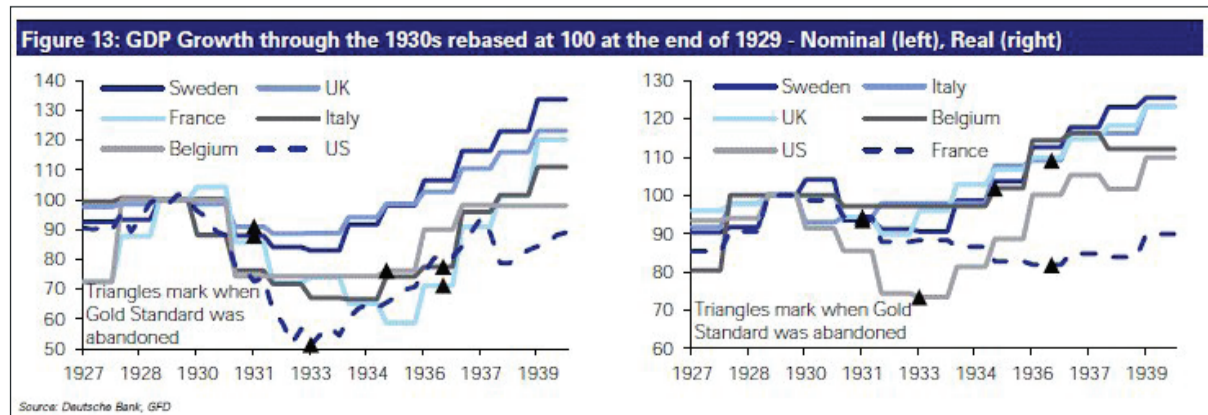
The U.S. dollar's ascent to global dominance is a testament to the interplay of historical events, economic power, and strategic policymaking. From its emergence during World War I to its institutionalization under Bretton Woods and its adaptation in the floating exchange rate era, the dollar has demonstrated remarkable resilience.

While challenges to its dominance persist, the dollar's role as the linchpin of the global financial system remains unmatched. Its story is not just one of economic triumph but also a reflection of the changing dynamics of global power and cooperation. As the world navigates new economic and technological frontiers, the dollar's place in the international monetary system will continue to be both a source of strength and a subject of debate.

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra



Bretton Woods Conference July 1944. Britannica



The Euro reminds us of the Gold Standard, where the longer the country remained on the Gold Standard the longer it took for the economy to restore their pre-1929 levels of activity. Investment Office website.

SUPREME COURT GRANTS BAIL TO SUSPENDED TRINAMOOL CONGRESS LEADER KUNTAL GHOSH IN CBI CASE OVER CASH-FOR-JOBS SCAM

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Kuntal Ghosh Versus Central Bureau Investigation, CBI observed and has granted bail to suspended Trinamool Congress youth leader Kuntal Ghosh in the cash-for-jobs recruitment scam case registered by Central Bureau Investigation, CBI.

The bench comprising of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case observed and has granted the relief considering the unlikelihood of the trial com-

pleting soon and though the chargesheet was filed in January 2024, the Special Court did not take cognisance as no documents were appended to it.

The Central Bureau Investigation, CBI is proposing to file supplementary chargesheets.

The court in the case stated that the continued incarceration of the petitioner might not be justifiable.

The bench in its order stated that, 'It being too early to foresee the conclusion of the trial in near future...The detention of petition in custody for an indefinite period will not be in conformity with well-settled principles of criminal jurisprudence.'



CONDITIONS FOR BAIL

The petitioner in the case was directed to be released on bail subject to the terms and conditions imposed by the trial court.

The Supreme Court directed that he should de-

posit his passport with the investigating agency and should not leave the State of West Bengal without the prior permission of the trial court or investigating agency.

The court stated that he shall share his mobile num-

ber with the investigating agency and to the trial court.

The counsel appearing for Central Bureau Investigation, CBI requested that the court should impose a condition that he should not hold any political office during the pendency of the proceedings.

The bench in the case stated that it cannot pass such a direction. Further, the bench directed that he should not hold any public office while the case remained pending.

It has also been clarified by the said court that the conditions for bail imposed by the High Court in the connected case registered by the Enforcement Direc-

torate will also apply in this case.

ARGUMENTS MADE BY COUNSEL:

The counsel appearing for Gosh submitted before the court that he has been granted bail in the connected Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA matter by the Calcutta High Court and sought relief by saying that there was no likelihood of trial commencing in the near future.

The counsel appearing stated that the petitioner has been under custody for over 19 months (since the arrest on February 20, 2023) and the three co-accused have got bail. On the other hand, the counsel, Addi-

tional Solicitor General, appearing for the Central Bureau Investigation, CBI opposed the petition wherein it argued that Ghosh was a part of a widespread scam and had created a fake website resembling the original website of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education. Bribes to the tune of nearly Rs.4 crores were collected from undeserving candidates to recruit them.

He in the case also stressed that Ghosh was an influential person who belongs to the party ruling the State of West Bengal and his release would result in the intimidation of the witnesses.

Add to it, the Additional Solicitor General stated that

the investigation is not yet over as the CBI is proposing to file supplementary chargesheets.

The bench headed by Justice Kant stated that, 'Last time you said you propose to examine 183 witnesses. Your investigation is not complete. We don't want to impede your investigation, but the fact remains that process is taking further time.' In the present case, Ghosh is accused of offences which relates to cheating and forgery under the Indian Penal Code, IPC and also offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The TMC suspended him in March 2023, after his arrest.

The Delhi High Court has designated names of 70 lawyers as Senior Advocates

Delhi High Court Designated 70 Lawyers As Senior Advocates

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The same being after the Delhi High Court permanent committee recommended the names of 71 lawyers for being designated as Senior Advocates after interviewing more than 300 lawyers.

The notification reads, 'Pursuant to the Resolution passed by Hon'ble the Full Court in its meeting held on November 29, 2024, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice has been pleased to designate Seventy, 70 Advocates, who are mentioned in attached Annexure-Y as 'Senior Advocate' under section 16 (2) of the Advocates' Act, 1961.

THE NAMES OF THE LAWYERS ARE AS FOLLOWS

- Mr. Abhijat
- Mr. Abhishek Malhotra
- Mr. Aditya Narain
- Mr. Ajay Arora
- Mr. Amit Chadha
- Mr. Anil Soni
- Mr. Ankait Jain
- Mr. Anupam Srivastava
- Mr. Anurag Ahluwalia
- Mr. Apoorv Kurup
- Ms. Arundhati Katju
- Dr. Aseem Chawla
- Mr. Asheesh Jain
- Mr. Ashim Vachher
- Mr. Ashish Mohan
- Mr. Avninder Singh
- Mr. Buddy Anumalasetty Ranganadhan
- Mr. Dharmesh Misra

- Ms. Diya Kapur
- Mr. Gaurav Sarin
- Mr. Gautam Narayan
- Mr. Gyanendra Kumar
- Mr. Harish V. Shankar
- Mr. Jagdeep Sharma
- Mr. Jatan Singh
- Mr. Jeevesh Nagrath
- Mr. Jitendra Sethi
- Ms. Kaadambari
- Mr. Kirtiman Singh
- Mr. Kunal Tandon
- Mr. Madhav Khurana
- Mr. Manik Dogra
- Mr. Manish Kumar Jha
- Mr. Manish Sharma
- Mr. Manu Sharma
- Mr. Mriganga Dutta
- Ms. Nandita Rao
- Mr. Pavan Narang
- Ms. Pooja Mehra Saigal
- Mr. Pradeep Kumar Bakshi

- Mr. Pragyan Pradip Sharma
- Ms. Priya Kumar
- Mr. Puneet Taneja
- Ms. Rajdipa Behura
- Mr. Rajeev Saxena
- Ms. Rashmi Chhabra
- Mr. Parvinder Chauhan
- Mr. Ravi Prakash
- Mr. Sachit Jolly
- Mr. Sai Deepak J
- Mr. Samrat Rabinder Nigam
- Mr. Sandeep Prabhakar
- Mr. Sandeep Sharma
- Mr. Sanjay Dewan
- Mr. Sanjay Sharawat
- Mr. Sanjeev Sagar
- Mr. Santosh Kumar Tripathi
- Mr. Shashank Garg
- Ms. Shyel Trehan

- Ms. Sonu Bhatnagar
- Mr. Sumeet Pushkarna
- Mr. Sumeet Verma
- Mr. Sumit Bansal
- Mr. Suryakant Singla
- Ms. Swathi Sukumar
- Ms. Tamali Wad
- Mr. Tanveer Ahmed Mir
- Mr. Uttam Datt
- Mr. Vaibhav Rajgopal Gagar
- Ms. Vibha Mahajan Seth

The Delhi High Court's permanent committee comprises of Chief Justice Manmohan, Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Justice Yashwant Varma, Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, Senior Advocate Sudhir Nandrajog and Senior Advocate Mohit Mathur.

Calcutta High Court allows protest meeting against alleged atrocities faced by 'Sanatani Hindus' in West Bengal

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Calcutta High Court in the case Sunil Harsh v State of West Bengal observed and has allowed a protest march which is to be scheduled tomorrow, against the alleged atrocities faced by 'sanatani Hindus' in West Bengal.

The bench headed by Justice Tirthankar Ghosh in the case stated that a formal order would be passed tomorrow morning after the exact details of the gathering were furnished by the organisers, but orally allowed them to go ahead with the program, and directed them to follow the instructions of the State administration if their rally stage would be set up in the middle of the road. The judge in the case also directed that the timings of the rally be reduced to between 2pm to 6pm instead of 12pm to 6:30pm.



The present petition was filed by the petitioners wherein seeking to organise a "pratiwad sabha" against the alleged atrocities, and stated that the event would be attended by 3000-3500 people, with the Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari being the chief guest on the occasion.

It was also stated before the court that although the petitioners had obtained

a NOC from the Army authorities on whose grounds the protest meeting was scheduled to be conducted, there was no response from the police authorities when approached by the petitioners for permission.

The petitioner in the plea prayed that the permission to hold the meeting be accorded to them by the High Court in line with several similar orders passed on earlier occasions.

Illegal mining near reserve forests in Coimbatore: Madras High Court summons Commissioner of Geology and Mining and SP, warns of CBI probe

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Madras High Court in the case S Muralidharan v. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Others observed and has directed the Commissioner of Geology and Mining and the Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore to appear before it and to explain as to how illegal mining had been taking place in close proximity to reserve for-

ests in Coimbatore. The special bench comprising of Justice N Satish Kumar and Justice Bharatha Chakravarthy was hearing the present matter.

The court in the case was hearing the petition filed by activist S Muralidharan for securing the elephant corridors in Coimbatore Forest division and to name the entire western ghats as special eco sensi-

tive zone and to not permit commercial establishments or residences inside the forest.

The court in the case also took note of the report of the District Judge, who upon an order of the court, had inspected the area and submitted his report on the environmental degradation that was happening in the area.

The District Judge in his report had found irregu-

larities in the functioning of the brick kilns.

The District Judge had stated that rampant sand mining was being carried out in the area with the connivance of the land-owners.

Further, the court warned that it would order a CBI probe if the State failed to take stern action against the persons engaged in illegal sand mining. The court in the case

also sought details of the investigation carried out by the State police in a case pertaining to the assault of M Siva, another litigant and a social activist.

Earlier, the court was informed that Siva was brutally beaten by a group of people and despite giving information to the police and revenue officials, no one had come to their rescue and the FIR also had not been filed.

Gujarat High Court: CID Crime which probes serious offences has been lodging FIRs in cases of civil nature 'for reasons best known' to its DGP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Gujarat High Court in the case Gayatri Developers Thro Vasubhai Chumbhai Patel & Ors. v/s State of Gujarat observed and has stated that it had come across many matters where for reasons best known to its Direct General of Police, the CID Crime—a specialised unit focussed on preventing or investigating serious offences—has been in 'recent times' registering FIRs which relates to civil disputes, particularly those involving financial transactions or property matters.

The High Court, while hearing a petition to quash a forgery FIR registered concerning a financial dispute between the partners of a firm, stayed the further investigation in the concerned FIR till December 23.

In the present case, the petition is filed to quash



and set aside the First Information Report, FIR registered by the CID Crime, Vadodara Zone Police Station, involving allegations which arose from financial and property disputes between the partners of a firm.

It has been alleged in the incident occurred between 2017 and 2019, yet the First Information Report, FIR was lodged only on September 21 this year after a significant delay of five years.

The FIR was registered

under Indian Penal Code, IPC section 406, Criminal Breach of Trust, section 409, criminal breach of trust by a public servant, banker, merchant, or agent, section 467, forgery of valuable security, wills, or authority to receive property, section 468, forgery committed for the purpose of cheating, section 471, forged document as genuine, section 120(B), criminal conspiracy.

The bench headed by Justice Sandeep Bhatt in its order observed that,

'Considering the above stated circumstances of the matter and moreover, this Court has observed in many matters that though the C.I.D. Crime is a special cell which requires to give priority to act for preventing the serious offences and also to investigate serious offences, but, in recent times, for the reasons best known to the highest ranking Officer i.e. Direct General of Police (D.G.P.), C.I.D. Crime, similar nature of FIRs are registered with various Police Station(s) of the C.I.D. Crime in the State, more particularly, for the dispute which is of civil nature involving financial transactions or property dealing and in most of the matters where even limitation to file Suit is expired.

The Counsel appearing for the Petitioner submitted that the alleged incidents occurred between 2017 and 2019, but the FIR was filed only in Septem-

ber 2024.

It has also been contended by him that the present matter involves a civil dispute between partners of a firm, being wrongly portrayed as a criminal matter after an unexplained delay of five years. Despite the complainant approaching various police authorities and filing a Special Criminal Application (For Direction to Lodge FIR) which was disposed of with directions to seek appropriate legal remedies, the FIR was eventually registered without valid justification.

The bench headed by Justice Bhatt while considering the facts and circumstances of the case noted that, 'this is a glaring example of abuse of process of law with connivance of some of the Officers who are interested in such matters.'

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on December 23, 2024.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case observed wherein the writ petition has been filed seeking to stop the execution of survey orders issued by Courts against religious structures in contravention of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991.

In the present case, the petitioners, Alok Sharma and Priya Mishra, seek a direction to restrain States from executing orders which are issued by Courts to survey religious structures to purportedly ascertain claims that they were built over structures belonging to other religions.

The petitioner in the plea seeks a direction to the States, High Courts and Trial Courts to follow the Places of Worship Act.

The petitioner also seeks a stay of the survey orders issued by the Courts in such cases.

The petitioner in the plea stated that, the petition appeals to issue instructions to all state governments and the administration of Union Territories that in order to maintain peace and harmony, they should not be in a hurry to comply with the orders of the civil court in such cases and rather such kind of cases should be brought before the High Court and



the Supreme Court so that the atmosphere in the country does not deteriorate.

Further, the plea states that the case which relates to Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Bhojshala, Sambhal Jama Masjid, Mathura Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Masjid and Gyanvapi were spoiling the communal atmosphere of the country and the Supreme Court should intervene to "put a stop to all these cases."

Earlier, an order issued by a trial court at Sambhal, UP for the survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid at Chandausi in a suit which alleged that the 16th-century monument was built over an ancient temple had triggered violence, leading to the death of four persons. A few days later, a court of Rajasthan issued notice on a suit seeking an ASI survey of Ajmer

Sharif Dargah on a claim that it was originally a Shiva temple.

The petitioner argued before the court that such litigations are barred by the Places of Worship Act which mandates that status quo should be maintained with respect to religious structures as they existed on August 15, 1947.

The Supreme Court in the case had ordered the Sambhal trial court to defer the proceedings against the mosque till the survey order was challenged in the Allahabad High Court.

The bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna appealed for peace and harmony and urged the Uttar Pradesh administration to be absolutely neutral.

The present petition has been filed through Advocate Narendra Mishra

TOP OF THE DAY



OMAN TO RECEIVE 7 LAKH INDIAN TOURISTS

MUSCAT: Oman expects over seven lakh tourists from India this year, breaking the previous year's record as the West Asian country gains popularity as a tourist destination, according to Oman government officials. In 2023, a record number of over six lakh Indian tourists visited Oman which is the highest number of outbound tourists to Oman from India. This year, the officials said the Oman government hopes to cross seven lakh Indian tourists to Oman.

ISRAEL SAYS HEZBOLLAH FIRES AT DISPUTED BORDER

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah fired into a disputed border zone on Monday, its first attack since a ceasefire took hold last week, after Lebanon accused Israel of violating the truce more than 50 times in recent days. Hezbollah said its attack was a warning to Israel over the alleged ceasefire violations. The Israeli military said two projectiles were launched toward Mount Dov, a disputed Israeli-held territory known as Shebaa Farms in Lebanon, where the borders of Lebanon, Syria, and Israel meet. Israel said the projectiles fell in open areas and no injuries were reported.



PAK GOVT FORMS TASK FORCE AGAINST 'MALICIOUS CAMPAIGN'

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government has formed a joint task force (JTF) to identify those involved in a "massive malicious campaign" against the state authorities in the wake of a recent protest by Imran Khan's party, it emerged on Monday. The development comes amid claims by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) that at least 12 party supporters died in Islamabad as a result of firing by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) when they were forcibly removed on the intervening night of November 27 and 28.

CHINA EXPANDS PRESENCE IN ANTARCTICA

BEIJING: China has opened its first overseas atmospheric monitoring station in Antarctica as it continues to firm up its presence in the icy and resource-rich southernmost continent by building research stations. Located in the Larsemann Hills in East Antarctica, the Zhongshan National Atmospheric Background Station began operating on Sunday, according to the China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

SYRIAN REBELS PUSH TOWARD HAMA AFTER TAKING ALEPPO

Development has triggered intensified counterattacks and airstrikes by Syrian and Russian forces, escalating violence in opposition-held Idlib.

AGENCIES
HAMA

Rebel forces in northwestern Syria launched a major offensive, capturing Aleppo and advancing toward Hama, marking one of the most dramatic escalations in the conflict in recent years, Al Jazeera reported on Sunday.

The development has triggered intensified counterattacks and airstrikes by Syrian and Russian forces, escalating violence in opposition-held Idlib and Aleppo while raising concerns over civilian safety and displacement. This southern push marks the fifth day of the surprise rebel assault.

Syrian government forces, led by President Bashar al-Assad, have been bolstering defenses in northern Hama, Al Jazeera reported, citing state news agency SANA. The agency stated that government troops had successfully repelled opposition fighters in the region and were resupplying forces with heavy equip-

SYRIAN RESILIENCE

- Intensified Attacks: Syrian and Russian forces launched counterattacks, escalating violence in Idlib and Aleppo.
- UN Urges Peace: Geir Pedersen warns of severe risks to civilians and international security.
- Assad's Response: President Assad vows to defend Syria's territorial integrity against rebels.
- HTS Advances: Hayat Tahrir al-Sham captures key areas, including Aleppo Industrial City and military sites.



ment and rocket launchers.

United Nations Special Envoy to Syria, Geir Pedersen, urged all parties in the conflict to pursue a political resolution immediately, warning that the escalating violence posed serious risks to civilians and could have broader regional and international implications.

"The latest developments pose severe risks to civilians and have serious implications for regional and international peace and

security," he said.

This escalation marks one of the most significant shifts in the Syrian conflict in recent years. Since 2020, front lines have largely remained unchanged, with rebel groups confined mainly to a small part of Idlib province. However, on Friday, opposition forces led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) entered Aleppo, forcing government troops to withdraw from the strategically important city of over two

million people, Al Jazeera's report added.

The rebels have since captured several key areas, including the town of Khansir, Aleppo Industrial City, the military academy, and the field artillery college.

HTS, formerly known as the al-Nusra Front and previously affiliated with al-Qaeda, has distanced itself from the group and emerged as the strongest opposition faction in northwestern Syria.

B'desh minority council slams false case against lawyers, journalists

AGENCIES
DHAKA

The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council has condemned a false and harassing case accusing 70 minority lawyers and two journalists from Chittagong of fabricated charges, including "crude bomb" explosions and car vandalism.

In an official statement on Sunday, the council said the case was filed with the ulterior motive of obstructing the sedition case brought against Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari and forcibly preventing the publication and dissemination of related news, which violates human rights and the rule of law.

The council also demanded that the Bangladeshi government and law enforcement authorities immediately withdraw the false case and take urgent steps to release the lawyers and journalists.

The case was filed on Saturday at the Kotwali police station in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, ISKCON Kolkata alleged that Bangladeshi authorities had



The council also demanded that the Bangladeshi government and law enforcement authorities immediately withdraw the false case and take urgent steps to release the lawyers and journalists.

arrested two monks, Adipurush Shyam Das and Ranganath Das Brahmachari, as well as the secretary of Chinmoy Krishna Das.

Vice President of ISKCON Kolkata Radha Raman said that the monks were arrested on Friday by the police while on their way home after meeting Chinmoy Krishna Das,

who was arrested on charges of sedition on November 25.

"On November 29, when Adipurush Shyam Das and Ranganath Das Brahmachari were returning after meeting Chinmoy Krishna Prabhu, they were arrested by the police. We are also receiving information that the secretary of Chinmoy Krishna Das has

INTERIM GOVT DEMANDS PROBE INTO AGARTALA ATTACK

DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government Monday protested a "violent demonstration" at its Assistant High Commission in Agartala by a group of people protesting against the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das and demanded a thorough investigation into the incident. India has described as "deeply regrettable" the incident of breach of the premises of the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission by protesters. Thousands of people took out a massive rally near the Bangladeshi mission in the capital city of Tripura, protesting the arrest of Das in Bangladesh as well as attacks on the Hindu community in the country.

also been arrested," Radha Raman said in a self-made video.

Millions allocated for more private bomb shelters in north

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

Israel's Ministry of Defense and the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) Home Front Command signed an agreement with the Ministry of Finance to establish about 10,000 new reinforced rooms (bomb shelters) in civilian towns within 1-5 km (up to 3 miles) from the Lebanese border, on what the Ministry described as a "self-realization" route.

At the same time that the ceasefire in Lebanon began, the engineering and construction department at the Ministry of Defense began the construction of approximately 1,700 reinforced rooms (bomb shelters) in settlements near the border.

In a ceremony at the IDF's Home Front Command Sunday morning, the Ministries of Defense, the Treasury and the IDF signed a significant acceleration of the "Northern Shield" project - the national plan to strengthen the defence components in the north of the country. An agreement in the amount of 1.2 billion Shekels (\$330 million) was signed.

As part of the agreement, the ministries of finance and defence will allocate



One of the mobile bomb shelters to be installed.

MAN HELD FOR TRAFFICKING MILITARY EQUIPMENT

JERUSALEM: The Israel Police explained that, in recent weeks, there has been an increase in the use of military vests/flack jackets as well as military-style tactical uniforms in the framework of violent crimes and terror attacks, which makes it difficult for the security forces to identify hazards in the field and puts them as well as civilians at risk. To deal with this problem, Israeli security forces operated last night against a man suspected of trafficking in weapons and military equipment. During the operation, a raid was carried out on a number of warehouses and stores used for the wide distribution of military equipment and means of warfare throughout Judea and Samaria. The suspect, a 27-year-old Palestinian, was arrested, and items were seized, including vests, knives, weapon handles, airsoft guns, and more.

875 million Shekels (\$240.9 million) to the "self-realization" route, which will allow residents living in 28 settlements at a distance of 1-5 km

from the Lebanese border to set up a medical centre in their home, through a grant of up to 132,000 Shekels (\$36,360).

China urges US to cease arming Taiwan now

AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Following the United States' decision to approve more arms sales to Taiwan, the Chinese foreign ministry called on the US to "cease all official interactions with Taiwan and stop sending erroneous signals to 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces," Taiwan News reported.

China also condemned this decision and urged the US to "immediately cease arming Taiwan." "US arms sale to Taiwan sends a wrong signal to the island's Taiwan independence forces and undermines US-China relations," Al Jazeera reported citing a China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement.

"China will closely follow the developments and take resolute and strong measures to defend our nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity," it added.

Taiwan's president has begun a tour of Taiwan's South Pacific allies, with stops in Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu,

China also condemned this decision and urged the US to "immediately cease arming Taiwan."

Guam, and Palau. The trip, which runs from November 30 to December 6, focuses on smart sustainability, sustainable democracy, and sustainable diplomacy, as per Taiwan News. "Taiwan will continue expanding partnerships and demonstrate to the world that it is not only a model of democracy but also a crucial force for global peace, stability, and prosperity," Lai said last week.

Further, China has expressed strong opposition to any official interactions between the US and Taiwan, including visits by Taiwanese leaders to the US.

The Chinese ministry has urged the US to adhere to the "One-China" principle and the three China-US joint communiques.

Israel strikes Hezbollah terrorists in church

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) reported that over the past day, its units operated in several locations in southern Lebanon to remove Hezbollah terror threats to the State of Israel that were in violation of the ceasefire conditions.

As part of these operations, on Saturday IDF troops identified several armed terrorists adjacent to a church in southern Lebanon that was actively used by the Hezbollah terrorist organization. The troops fired toward the terrorists and eliminated them.

The eliminated terrorists were operatives in the Hezbollah Khiam ground defence, anti-tank missile, and artillery units. The terrorists had fired on the Israeli forces from within the church. Following the elimination of the terrorists, the IDF forces scanned the church area and located a tunnel shaft containing weapons.

Nepal PM heads to China to discuss revised BRI pact

AGENCIES
KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Monday embarked on a five-day official visit to China as Beijing kept mum on revised proposal of BRI pact floated by the Himalayan Nation.

Leading a delegation of more than 87 members, Nepali premier Oli left for Beijing with all eyes on possible agreements to be signed in the Chinese capital.

Oli also the chairman of CPN-UML (Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist) before heading out for China had held discussion with Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and senior party officials about new text of the "BRI framework for cooperation."

The proposal was prepared by a four-member joint taskforce formed by



both the parties.

Taskforce renamed the "BRI implementation plan" to "Framework for cooperation." After approval from the two senior leaders last week, the foreign ministry had sent the text to the Chinese Embassy on Saturday itself for Beijing's consideration.

The visit of Nepali Prime Minister, scheduled from December 2-5 comes at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. During his four days' visit to China, Oli also is set to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and hold bilateral talks with Premier Li Keqiang.

Pak anti-terror court sends Imran in 14-day judicial remand

AGENCIES
RAWALPINDI

Pakistan's anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and the country's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, on a 14-day judicial remand in a New Town police station case, ARY News reported.

Imran Khan is currently in Adiala Jail after being held in New Town PS case after he was bailed in Toshakhana case, as per ARY News.

The ATC judge Amjad Ali Shah heard the plea and approved his judicial remand in New Town police station and seven other cases, as per ARY News.

The development came after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder was arrested in seven more cases related to vandalism.

The political committee of



Imran Khan is in Adiala Jail after being held in New Town PS case after he was bailed in Toshakhana case.

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) issued a statement on Sunday following an important meeting, urging full access to party founder Imran Khan due to serious concerns over his health and safety, ARY News reported. The committee stated that

Imran Khan's health had become a significant concern, with growing public anxiety surrounding his condition. It called for the immediate restoration of access to Khan's family, legal team, and party officials to ensure transparency and accountability in his treatment.

The statement also urged both the federal and Punjab governments, along with prison authorities, to provide clear and frequent updates on Khan's health status.

Further, ARY News reported that the committee appealed to the judiciary to protect Imran Khan's fundamental rights and ensure robust security measures are in place. It issued a stern warning, holding the Prime Minister, Punjab Chief Minister, and relevant state institutions accountable for any lapses in ensuring Khan's safety.

JUI-F chief calls for fresh elections in Pak

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that political stability is key to economic progress and termed new, fair elections as the solution, The Express Tribune reported.

During a visit to this part of Southern Punjab on Sunday, Fazl spoke about various issues, including the recent political turmoil, the 26th Constitutional Amendment and the registration of religious schools.

While agreeing with the premise that political stability is vital for ending the woes of people, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said, "Pakistan could not achieve political stability without holding free and fair elections," according to The Express Tribune report.

Fazl, whose party was a part of the last coalition govern-



ment formed after the ouster of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in April 2022, became displeased with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) after the elections held on February, which he called highly rigged and unfair. Meanwhile, the JUI-F came closer to the PTI, once considered as its bitter foe. Expressing his views, Fazl said that the current government has no justification to remain in power even for a single day. The Express Tribune reported.

THE GROOT



A stilt-walker dressed as a tree spirit takes part in an environmental demonstration outside the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. Campaigners are calling for the closure of the Drax power station in North Yorkshire in London, UK. Source: Leon Neal

ICC LASHES OUT AT US, RUSSIA OVER THREATS ACCUSATIONS

This marks the first time the global court of justice calls out a sitting leader of a major Western ally.

AGENCIES
THE HAGUE

The president of the International Criminal Court lashed out at the United States and Russia for interfering with its investigations, calling threats and attacks on the court "appalling".

"The court is being threatened with draconian economic sanctions by another permanent member of the Security Council as if it was a terrorist organisation," Judge Tomoko Akane, in her address to the institution's annual meeting, which opened on Monday.

Akane was referring to remarks made by US Sen. Lindsey Graham, whose Republican party will control both branches of Congress in January, and who called the court a "dangerous joke" and urged Congress to sanction its prosecutor.

"To any ally, Canada, Britain, Germany, France, if you try to help the ICC, we're going to sanction you," Graham said on Fox News.

This marks the first time the global court of justice calls out a sitting leader of a major Western ally.

Graham was angered by an announcement last month that judges had granted a request from the court's chief prosecutor Karim Khan to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin



THE CRITICISM

- **Graham's Threats:** US Senator Lindsey Graham calls ICC a "dangerous joke," threatens sanctions.
- **ICC Warrant Controversy:** Court issues arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, angering US officials.
- **Russia's Retaliation:** Moscow issues arrest warrants for ICC prosecutor Karim Khan.
- **US Sanctions:** Previous US sanctions on ICC prosecutor over Afghanistan investigation.
- **Court's Mission:** ICC prosecutes war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity.
- **Member Countries:** 124 nations are ICC members; Israel, Russia, and China are not.
- **No Enforcement Power:** ICC relies on member states for executing arrest warrants.

Netanyahu, his former defence minister and Hamas' military chief for crimes against humanity in connection with the nearly 14-month war in Gaza.

The decision has been denounced by critics of the court and given only milquetoast approval by many of its supporters, a stark contrast to the robust backing of an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin last year over war crimes in Ukraine.

Graham's threat isn't seen as just empty words. President-elect Donald Trump sanctioned the court's previous prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, with a travel ban and asset freeze for investigating American troops and intelligence officials in Afghanistan.

Akane on Monday also had harsh words for Russia. "Several elected officials are being subjected to arrest warrants from a permanent member of the Security Council," she

said. Moscow issued warrants for Khan and others in response to the investigation into Putin.

The Assembly of States Parties, which represents the ICC's 124 member countries, will convene its 23rd conference to elect committee members and approve the court's budget against a backdrop of unfavourable headlines.

The ICC was established in 2002 as the world's permanent court of last resort to prosecute individuals responsible for the most heinous atrocities — war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression.

The court only becomes involved when nations are unable or unwilling to prosecute those crimes on their territory. To date, 124 countries have signed on to the Rome Statute, which created the institution. Those who have not include Israel, Russia and China.

The ICC has no police force and relies on member states to execute arrest warrants.

US President Joe Biden called the warrants for Netanyahu and the former defence minister "outrageous" and vowed to stand with Israel. A year ago, Biden called the warrant for Putin "justified" and said the Russian president had committed war crimes. The US is not an ICC member country.

Biden pardons son Hunter despite previous pledges not to

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden has pardoned his son, Hunter, sparing the younger Biden a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convictions and reversing his past promises not to use the extraordinary powers of the presidency for the benefit of his family members.

The Democratic president had previously said he would not pardon his son or commute his sentence after his convictions in the two cases in Delaware and California. The move comes weeks before Hunter Biden was set to receive his punishment after



his trial conviction in the gun case and guilty plea on tax charges, and less than two months before President-elect Donald Trump is set to return to the White House.

It caps a long-running legal saga for the president's son, who publicly disclosed

he was under federal investigation in December 2020 — a month after Joe Biden's 2020 victory.

In June, as Hunter was facing trial in the gun case in Delaware, Biden ruled out a pardon or clemency for his son in an interview with ABC News.

TRUMP DUBS THIS AS 'MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE'

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump has responded to outgoing US President Joe Biden's decision to pardon his son Hunter who had been convicted on charges related to gun crimes and tax violations, calling it a miscarriage of Justice. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said, "Does the Pardon given by Joe to Hunter include the J-6 Hostages, who have now been imprisoned for years? Such an abuse and miscarriage of Justice!"

Trump appoints daughter's father-in-law as Middle East Affairs senior adviser

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump announced on Sunday that he would appoint Massad Boulos, a Lebanese billionaire and father-in-law of his daughter Tiffany Trump, as his senior adviser on Arab and Middle Eastern affairs. Trump described Boulos as an accomplished lawyer and a respected business leader with extensive international experience. He highlighted Boulos' long-standing support for Republican and Conservative values, as well as his instrumental role in fostering strong relationships with the Arab American community during the campaign.

"I am proud to announce



that Massad Boulos will serve as Senior Advisor to the President on Arab and Middle Eastern affairs. Massad is an accomplished lawyer and a highly respected leader in the business world, with extensive experience on the international scene. He has been a longtime proponent of Republican and Conservative values, an asset to my Campaign, and was

instrumental in building tremendous new coalitions with the Arab American Community. Massad is a dealmaker and an unwavering supporter of PEACE in the Middle East. He will be a strong advocate for the United States, and its interests, and I am pleased to have him on our team!" Trump said in a social media post on Truth Social.

Biden heads to Africa to highlight his counter to China

AGENCIES
CAPE TOWN

President Joe Biden is finally making his long-promised visit to Africa to showcase a US-backed railway project in three countries that he has pushed as a new approach in countering some of China's global influence.

Biden's first visit to the continent as president — which he left to the very end — will highlight the Lobito Corridor railway redevelopment in Zambia, Congo and Angola.

Biden starts a three-day trip to Angola on Monday. En route to Angola, he stopped off in the Atlantic Ocean island of Cape Verde off the west coast of Africa for a meeting with Prime



Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva.

The Lobito railway project aims to advance US presence in a region rich in the critical minerals used in batteries for electric vehicles, electronic devices and clean energy technologies.

That's a key field for US-China competition and China has a stranglehold on Africa's critical minerals.

The US has for years built relations in Africa through trade, security and humanitarian aid.

German Chancellor Scholz arrives in Kiev on unannounced visit

AGENCIES
BERLIN

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday arrived in Kiev on an unannounced visit as per German local media.

Scholz has arrived in Kiev for the first time in two and a half years for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, the DPA news agency reported.

Scholz arrived in Kiev on a train and his visit was not announced earlier for "security reasons," the news agency said.

"I travelled to Kyiv tonight by train through a country that has been defending itself against the Russian war of aggression for over 1,000 days," Scholz said in a post



on social media.

"I would like to make it clear here on the ground that Germany will remain Ukraine's strongest supporter in Europe."

Scholz has promised that Germany would supply weapons worth 650 million euros to Ukraine in December as per the DPA.

Incidentally, Germany is set to head into elections in 2025 and the DPA reported

that Leaders of its Green Party have been distancing themselves from Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Ukraine policy ahead of early elections expected to reshape the political landscape.

Scholz had on November 15 this year also spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin on phone, the first conversation between the two leaders in nearly two years, according to DPA.

Putin dates for India visit to be set in early 2025

AGENCIES
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has received an invitation to visit India from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the dates for his visit will be set in early 2025, Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said.

While addressing a briefing, Ushakov stated that Putin and PM Modi have an agreement to hold

meetings once a year and it is Russia's turn this time, according to Russian Embassy in India.

The diplomat stated, "Our leaders have an agreement to hold meetings once a year. This time, it's our turn." He further said, "We received Mr. Modi's invitation and we will certainly consider it positively."

Ushakov noted, "We will figure out the tentative dates early next year."



Romania's pro-Western parties win parliamentary election. Far right sees surge of support

AGENCIES
BUCHAREST

Pro-Western parties won the most votes in Romania's parliamentary election, data on Monday shows, and will look to form a coalition government as the European Union country sees a surge of support for far-right nationalists who made huge gains in the country's legislature.

The leftist Social Democratic Party topped the polls in Sunday's vote and the far-right nationalist Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR, came in second ahead of the National Liberal Party.

The reformist Save Romania Union party, orUSR, came in fourth place. Two smaller far-right nationalist parties also got enough



votes to enter parliament.

The election revealed widespread anti-establishment sentiment in the EU and NATO member country, which is due to hold a presidential runoff on December 8 between far-right populist Calin Georgescu, and Elena Lasconi of USR.

The first round plunged Romania into political turmoil and led to allegations of electoral violations and Russian interference.

united nation."

In 2020, the AUR party went from relative obscurity to gaining 9 per cent in a parliamentary vote, allowing it to enter parliament. The party — which proclaims to stand for "family, nation, faith, and freedom" — doubled its support in Sunday's vote to 18.2 per cent.

Cristian Andrei, a political consultant based in Bucharest, says the increased parliamentary seats for the far-right will make forming a majority government difficult for the pro-Western parties because they are historically opposition parties and could struggle to reach agreements.

"It's not a unified majority, it's a very fragmented one and full of hatred among the parties," he said.

Guinea: 56 people killed in stampede at soccer stadium

AGENCIES
CONAKRY

Fifty-six people were killed and several injured in a stampede at a soccer stadium in southern Guinea, following clashes between fans, Guinea's government said on Monday.

Authorities are conducting an investigation to establish those responsible for the stampede on Sunday, Communications Minister Pana Soumah said in a statement read on national television.

Among the victims are several children according to local media and a coalition of political parties.

The stampede broke out on Sunday afternoon at the stadium in the city of Nzerekore during the final of a local tournament between the



Labe and Nzerekore teams in honour of Guinea's military leader, Mamadi Doumbouya, Guinea's Prime Minister Amadou Oury Bah said on the X platform.

"During the stampede, victims were recorded," Bah said, without giving details. The regional authorities are working to restore calm in the area, he added.

Local media reported that security forces tried to use tear gas (two words) to restore calm after the chaos that followed a disputed penalty.

"This (the disputed penalty) angered supporters who threw stones.

L2 EMPURAAAN: MOHANLAL WRAPS SHOOTING OF 'LUCIFER' SEQUEL



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The shoot for superstar Mohanlal's much-awaited sequel to blockbuster 'Lucifer', titled, 'L2: Empuraan,' has finally concluded and it is now slated to release in theatres on March 27, 2025.

'L2: Empuraan' marks the third directorial of actor Prithviraj Sukumaran starring Mohanlal in the lead role.

Their first collaboration was the 2019 film 'Lucifer'.

Through an Instagram post, Mohanlal shared that 'L2:Empuraan' was shot for 14 months across eight Indian states and four countries, including the UK, USA, and UAE.

The 'Lucifer' actor expressed gratitude to the director Prithviraj and writer Murali Gopy for their creativity and visionary storytelling.

While sharing the poster of 'L2:Empuraan' on his Instagram feed, the superstar wrote, "That's a wrap for L2: Empuraan! What an incredible 14-month journey across 8 states and 4 countries, including the UK, USA, and UAE. This

film owes its magic to the brilliant direction of @the-realprithvi whose creativity elevates every frame. A big thank you to @muraligopynsta for his visionary storytelling that forms the heart of this film. A heartfelt thank you to @antonyperumbavoor for his unwavering belief in this project and to Mr Subaskaran and Lyca Productions for their invaluable support."

Mohanlal also said 'L2:Empuraan' was a 'remarkable chapter' in his acting journey which he will 'always treasure.'

"None of this would have been possible without the dedicated cast and crew, who bring this story to life. L2: Empuraan has been a remarkable chapter in my journey as an artist, one I'll always treasure. To our amazing audience, your love and support inspire us every step of the way. Stay tuned -there's so much more to come! Malayalam | Tamil | Telugu | Kannada | Hindi," he added.

The first part of the franchise received a massive response from the fans and witnessed Mohanlal as the charismatic and enigmatic Stephen Nedumpally.

TIM BURTON EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH JOHNNY DEPP



AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Filmmaker Tim Burton has expressed his certainty about working with actor Johnny Depp again, despite his reservations about sequels to some of his iconic films.

At the Marrakech International Film Festival, celebrated director Tim Burton shared his thoughts on the possibility of working with Johnny Depp again in the future, reported Deadline.

While Burton emphasized his reluctance to revisit some of his well-known works for sequels, he made it clear that he remains optimistic about future collaborations with Depp, with whom he has worked on numerous projects over the years.

"I'm sure there will be more collaborations," Burton remarked when asked about the possibility of teaming up again with the actor, who has starred in several of Burton's films, including 'Edward Scissorhands', 'Corpse Bride',

'Sweeney Todd', and 'Ed Wood.'

"I never feel like, 'Oh, I'm going to use this and that actor.' It usually has to be based on the project I'm working on. That's what film is all about. It's collaboration and bouncing ideas off the people around you," he explained, highlighting the organic nature of his directorial approach.

When discussing the idea of revisiting some of his past films, Burton clarified that certain projects are best left as they are.

"There are certain films I don't want to make a sequel to," he stated, according to Deadline.

Specifically, Burton cited 'Edward Scissorhands' and 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' as examples of films he feels should stand alone.

He explained, "I didn't want to make a sequel to Scissorhands because it felt like a one-off thing. I didn't want to have a sequel for The Nightmare Before Christmas because it also felt like a one-off thing.

PICTURE PERFECT

Ananya Panday posted pictures on her social media after winning Filmfare Best Actor (Female) - Critics Choice for 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan'. (Instagram)



VIKRANT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM ACTING: 'IT'S TIME TO RECALIBRATE AND GO BACK HOME'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

In a shocking revelation that has left his fans and the film industry in disbelief, actor Vikrant Massey has announced that he will retire from acting after 2025.

The 37-year-old actor, known for his memorable roles in '12th Fail', 'The Sabarmati Report', and 'Sector 36', shared the unexpected news through an emotional note on his Instagram account on Monday morning.

"The last few years and beyond have been phenomenal. I thank each and every one of you for your indelible support. But as I move forward, I realize it's time to recalibrate and go back home. As a Husband, Father & a Son. And also as an Actor," Vikrant wrote, leaving



many wondering about his decision to step away from the limelight.

The actor's choice to retire comes at a time when his career is at its peak. His recent film 'The Sabarmati Report' has been basking in praise

since its release. In a recent conversation with the media during the closing ceremony of the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Vikrant shared his approach to his craft.

"I always try to work responsibly. Whether it is 12th Fail, Sector 36, or The Sabarmati Report, there is always an effort to entertain people while also being part of responsible cinema," he said.

Filmfare OTT Awards: Diljit, Kareena take home top honours in film category

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The 5th edition of the Filmfare OTT Awards took place on Sunday, December 1, in Mumbai, bringing together a galaxy of stars from the world of digital entertainment.

This year's ceremony honoured outstanding web series and films, with winners across 39 categories.

The event was marked by stellar performances, heartfelt speeches, and a celebration of the rapidly evolving digital entertainment landscape.

One of the evening's biggest moments came when actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh clinched the Best Actor award for his portrayal of the legendary singer Amar Singh Chamkila in the web film 'Amar Singh Chamkila'.

Directed by Imtiaz Ali, 'Amar Singh Chamkila' presented the untold true story



of Punjab's original rockstar of the masses, who emerged from the shadows of poverty and rose to the heights of popularity in the eighties due to the sheer power of his music, angering many along the way, which led to his assassination at the young age of 27.

Diljit portrayed 'Chamkila,' the top-selling artist of his era. Parineeti essayed the role of Amar Singh

Chamkila's wife, Amarjot Kaur.

On the other hand, Kareena Kapoor Khan bagged the Best Actress award for her performance in 'Jaane Jaan'.

Helmed by Sujoy Ghosh, the film is based in Kalimpong and is the official adaptation of the bestselling novel 'Devotion of Suspect X' by Keigo Higashino. Maya (Kareena Kapoor

Khan), Naren (Jaideep Ahlawat) and Karan (Vijay Varma) navigate through a web of emotions and unforeseen circumstances as they cover up and uncover clues in a bid to outwit each other.

Meanwhile, the ceremony was attended by several notable figures, including actors, directors, and technical experts from the OTT industry.

Filmfare OTT Awards 2024: Full list of winners in web series category

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The 5th edition of the Filmfare OTT Awards, in Mumbai, celebrated the very best of web series and films across 39 categories.

The ceremony held on December 1 was a glittering affair, attended by top celebrities, directors, and technical experts from the world of digital entertainment.

Alongside the evening's nominations, which were revealed earlier in the day, the awards recognized outstanding performances, writing, and direction in the OTT space.

Among the big winners



in the web series category, Rajkumar Rao stood out, winning the Best Actor, Series (Male) - Comedy for his role in 'Guns and Gulaabs'.

Gagan Dev Riar also re-

ceived recognition for his stellar performance in 'Scam 2003: The Telgi Story', taking home the Best Actor, Series (Male) - Drama award.

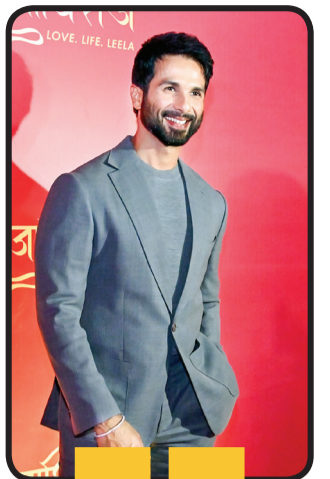
In the female acting categories, Best Actress in a Comedy Series went to Geetanjali Kulkarni for 'Gullak' Season 4, while Best Actress in a Drama Series was awarded to Manisha Koirala for her powerful performance in 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'.

Other notable winners included Faisal Malik, who was honoured as Best Supporting Actor, Series (Male) - Comedy for 'Panchayat' Season 3, and R. Madhavan, who won Best Supporting Actor, Series (Male) - Drama for 'The Railway Men'.

BRAIN PICKING



I don't think there's anybody in this world who should be required to make you feel good about yourself. Be happy on your own.



— SHAHID KAPOOR
(Indian Actor)

TRAILER OF SECOND SEASON OF 'BANDISH BANDITS' OUT NOW



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The wait is finally over! Trailer of the second season of 'Bandish Bandits' has been unveiled now.

The musical drama brings back Ritwik Bhowmik and Shreya Chaudhry as Radhe and Tamanna, along with Sheeba Chaddha, Atul Kulkarni, Rajesh Tailang, and Kunaal Roy Kapur. Season two also features brand new characters played by Divya Dutta, Rohan Gurbaxani, and Yashaswini Dayama in pivotal roles.

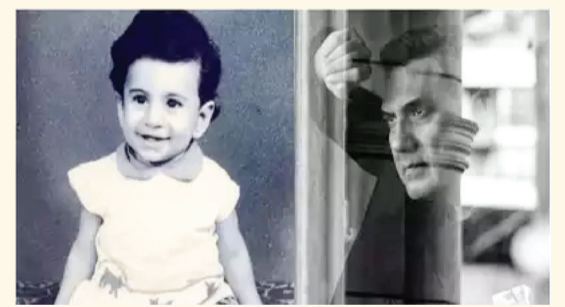
The second season has been created by Amritpal Singh Bindra and Anand Tiwari. Anand Tiwari who has co-written the series alongside Atmika Didwania and Karan Singh Tyagi.

Continuing its journey

from season one, the second season sees "Radhe and the Rathod family work towards preserving their musical heritage in the wake of Pandit ji's passing. While Tamanna has embarked on her own journey at a prestigious music school. The season culminates in the India Band Championship, where Radhe and Tamanna's bands compete against each other. Their relationship is marked by both passion and conflict, as they navigate their individual ambitions and the weight of their family's legacy," as per a press note.

On what audience can expect from the show, creator and director, Anand Tiwari said, "Bandish Bandits is a story that has deeply resonated with me and will always be close to my heart.

BOMAN IRANI DROPS HIS CHILDHOOD PICTURE ON 65TH BIRTHDAY



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Boman Irani celebrates his 65th birthday on Monday. On this special occasion, the actor shared his childhood picture on social media, humorously admitting that he still has "the mind of a 9-year-old."

Posting a nostalgic before-and-after photo on Instagram, Boman Irani shared a monochrome photo of his younger self alongside a recent photograph.

As the 'Munna Bhai MBBS' actor turns 65, Boman Irani expressed his gratitude for all the love and support he has received from people across the world. Reflecting on his journey over the years, the actor in his heartfelt caption wrote:

"As I look back at this

kid...While I still have the mind of a 9 year old, this 65 year old can't help but be amazed at the years gone by. Grateful for all the experiences, (blunders included) and wonder how I became eligible for so much love from across the universe, even from people I may never have met. All I can say is thank you and bless my lucky stars!" Actor Anupam Kher also took to social media to wish Boman on his birthday. He wrote, "Happy Birthday my friend. You are the bestest. Love and prayers always."

Earlier, on this special occasion, Boman's son, actor Kayoze Irani, took to Instagram to share heartfelt memories of their time. Kayoze shared a series of throwback photos and videos that capture the essence of their close-knit family bond.

COPD AND THE WINTER BLUES: WHY COLD WEATHER CAN WORSEN SYMPTOMS

DR. DAVINDER KUNDRA

Cold air during winter can affect a person's respiratory health and often worsen existing lung problems like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). This condition damages the airways present in the lungs, often leading to inflammation and blockage of airflow that makes it difficult to breathe. It is caused by exposure to harmful substances through active smoking, air pollution, smog, dust, fumes, asthma, or genetics.

How does one recognize the hidden signs of COPD?

Being a progressive disease, its symptoms do not appear until the condition has grown severe; however, some individuals might face a few symptoms that can last up to days or weeks and worsen over time, making it difficult to perform daily activities and affecting the quality of life. It includes:

Troubled breathing or shortness of breath

Wheezing sound while breathing
Pain in chest and heaviness
Losing weight
Swelling in legs and feet
Cold, cough, and common flu

SYMPTOM	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
Shortness of Breath	Unexplained breathlessness during mild activities or at rest.	Narrowed airways and reduced lung function.
Chronic Cough	Persistent cough that may produce mucus, especially in the morning.	Airway inflammation and mucus buildup.
Frequent Respiratory Infections	Repeated colds, flu, or bronchitis.	Impaired immune response in airways.
Fatigue	Persistent tiredness or lack of energy, often overlooked as aging.	Reduced oxygen levels in the blood.
Wheezing	High-pitched whistling sound when breathing, especially during exhalation.	Airway obstruction.
Unintended Weight Loss	Gradual weight loss without trying, particularly in later stages.	Increased effort in breathing uses more energy.
Swelling in Ankles, Feet, or Legs	Fluid retention due to poor oxygenation affecting circulation.	Strain on the heart (cor pulmonale).
Morning Headaches	Headache upon waking due to low oxygen levels overnight.	Accumulation of carbon dioxide.
Chest Tightness	Feeling of pressure or discomfort in the chest.	Inflamed or obstructed airways.
Bluish Fingertips or Lips (Cyanosis)	Discoloration due to reduced oxygen levels in the blood.	Poor blood oxygenation.
Mood Changes	Irritability, depression, or anxiety, often linked to chronic illness.	Psychological impact of reduced lung capacity.
Difficulty Sleeping	Restlessness or sleep disturbances caused by breathing discomfort.	Breathing irregularities and oxygen levels.

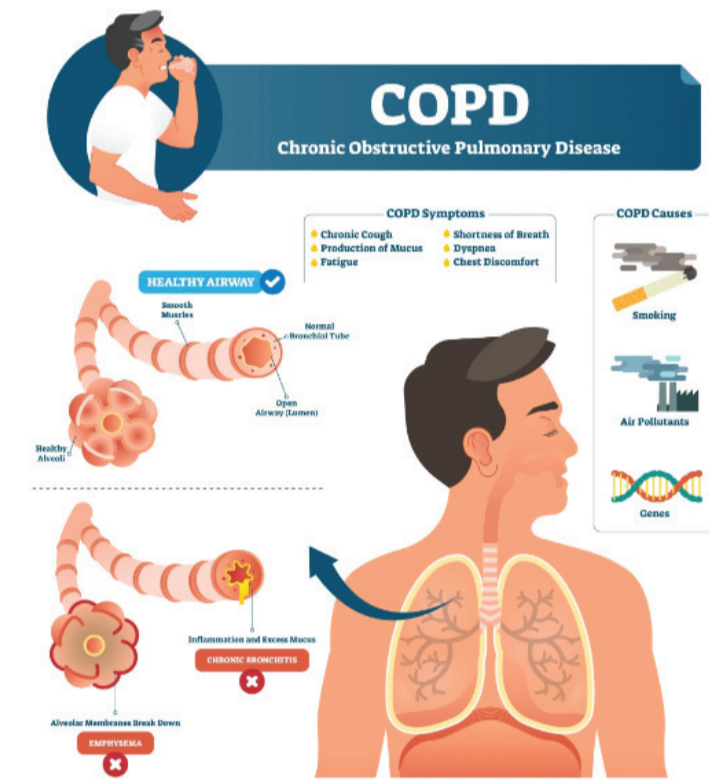
WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN COPD AND WINTER BLUES?

As winters are approaching, so are the worsening of respiratory conditions. Temperature and weather conditions, being the two major triggers of COPD, can worsen its symptoms. During this time, the immune system is weak, and it is easier to catch respiratory infections like a cold, cough, flu, pneumonia, or bronchitis. For people suffering from COPD, even a small exposure to such a virus can flare up its symptoms. Moreover, limited sunlight exposure in winter may lead to low vitamin D levels and a drop in mood, creating a cycle where physical discomfort and emotional distress feed into each other. Patients with COPD are more prone to feeling the effects of reduced mobility and social isolation during winter, further contributing to the "blues."

HOW TO MANAGE COPD?

With no permanent cure for COPD, it becomes essential to manage its symptoms to provide relief and provide a good quality of life. While the winter months can bring greater challenges, there are several strategies to manage this condition:

Avoid smoking cigarettes and



vaping: This is a critical step in preventing and managing COPD as tobacco smoke and vaping aerosols comprise of harmful chemicals that irritate and damage the airways and lung tissue, leading to inflammation and reduced lung function.

Keep yourself warm: Wearing warm clothes with proper layering and covering the mouth and nose

while going outside can help in avoiding risk. Apart from this, it is equally important to avoid sudden changes in temperature levels by avoiding the quick transition from a cold outdoor to a warm indoor space.

Regular exercise: To generate natural heat, it is important to indulge in physical activities to keep the lungs healthy, boost stamina, and

reduce symptoms of COPD.

Eating healthy and staying hydrated: A balanced diet is essential to provide the body with nutrients and proteins that support the immune system. Drinking plenty of water can help thicken the mucus, making it easier to breathe.

Getting vaccinated: Individuals with COPD are advised to get the flu vaccine to avoid serious complications and reduced lung function. Also, adhere to prescribed inhalers and medications.

Monitor Indoor Air Quality: Use air purifiers to reduce pollutants and keep humidity levels balanced to avoid respiratory irritants.

Early intervention is the key to managing COPD, as with time it can become irreversible. Treatment options available for this lung condition include medication and oxygen therapy for short- and long-term relief from breathing issues caused in severe cases. Apart from that, lifestyle modifications and pulmonary rehabilitation can significantly help in managing its symptoms and providing relief. It is important to visit a doctor who can create a treatment plan based on the patient's specific condition to help manage the symptoms in the best possible way.

The author is the Consultant of Pulmonology at Manipal Hospital Dwarka, New Delhi.

Relapsed paediatric leukaemia and role of bone marrow transplant



DR. SATYENDRA KATEWA

Leukaemia happens to be the most common type of cancer in children, accounting for about 30% of all paediatric cancers. Relapsed paediatric leukaemia can be a challenging time for children suffering from the disease, and their families. Relapsed Leukaemia is the second most common cancer in children. The good news is, bone marrow transplant (BMT) offers hope to many families, playing a pivotal role for children suffering from a relapse.

However, the harsh reality is that despite remarkable progress in recent times, there remains the possibility of a relapse, especially in the first three to five years, in cases of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) and acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). When acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) returns, the symptoms are similar to when the disease first occurred. Reportedly, around 15 and 20 percent of children who are in remission may face a relapse. In this case, lymphocyte stem cells turn into immature white blood cells or lymphoblasts that crowd the bone marrow, leaving little room for healthy platelets, as well as white and red blood cells. These abnormal cells also cannot fight infection, thus concerning immunity.

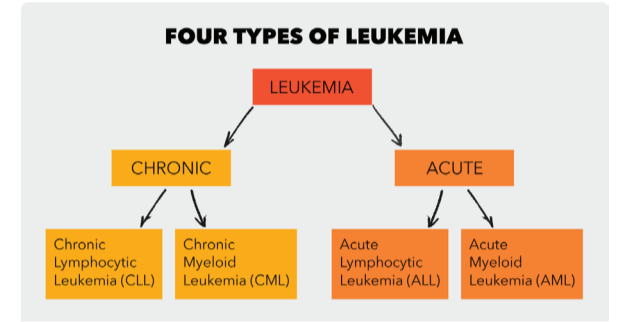
A relapse could occur due to various reasons, such as residual cancer cells that have evaded the effects of chemotherapy and may regrow, while specific genetic mutations are believed to also make the patient more susceptible, making them resistant to the medication over time. The symptoms, as with newly diagnosed ALL, include the incidence of anaemia, pain in bones and around joints, bruising or red spots on the skin, fever, recurring infections, ab-

dominal pain, swollen lymph nodes and difficulty breathing. For a definitive diagnosis of paediatric relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, the doctor may conduct several tests to determine the way ahead, which may include a complete blood count, bone marrow aspiration and biopsy, lumbar puncture, X-ray, chromosomal analysis and a sophisticated flow-cytometry analysis.

The treatment protocol itself may be more intensive than the first time around, and may undergo reinduction therapy involving chemotherapy, besides stem cell (bone marrow) transplantation. The treatment is dependent on several factors, such as the location of relapse, for example, the bone marrow, brain or testes or combined; the duration between diag-

nosis and relapse; the type of ALL, etc.

Moreover, graft-versus-



host disease (GVHD), rejection and infection are three of the most severe risks associated with bone marrow transplant.

Encouragingly, advances in immunosuppressive therapies and infection control have significantly reduced the incidence and severity of these complications, making BMT a safer option for paediatric patients.

However, bone marrow transplants come with their own set of challenges, calling for support from medical professionals and families. These can include intensive care and a high risk of infections, besides the psychological impact on young patients. Long-term follow-up is essential, as children navigate the journey. It is crucial for parents and caregivers to be fully informed and supported throughout this journey.

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The author is the Director of Blood & Marrow Transplant & Cellular Therapies, heading Paediatric Haemato-Oncology at SHALBY Sanar International Hospitals, Gurugram.

The power of nutraceuticals: Enhancing neuroprotection in Parkinson's



FOOD IS MEDICINE

DR. ANISH DESAI



Parkinson's disease (PD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by the loss of dopaminergic neurons in the brain, resulting in symptoms, such as tremors, rigidity, and bradykinesia. While traditional treatments such as dopamine replacement therapy and medications targeting motor symptoms are widely used, there is growing interest in the role of nutraceuticals in managing and potentially slowing the progression of Parkinson's disease.

Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10): Found in foods like fatty fish, organ meats, and whole grains; also available as supplements. CoQ10 plays a crucial role in mitochondrial energy production and acts as an antioxidant. It helps to protect dopaminergic neurons by reducing oxidative stress and preventing mitochondrial dysfunction, both of which are major contributors to PD progression.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Present in fatty fish (salmon, mackerel), walnuts, flaxseeds, and fish oil supplements. Omega-3s have anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective properties. They enhance membrane fluidity and reduce neuroinflammation, which may help protect neurons in PD.

Vitamin E: Found in nuts, seeds, spinach, and sunflower oil. As a potent antioxidant, vitamin E neutralizes free radicals, prevents oxidative stress, and protects neuronal integrity. This may slow the progression of neurodegeneration in PD patients.

Polyphenols are found in green tea, berries, grapes, and dark chocolate. Polyphenols such as epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) from green tea have antioxidant properties.

These compounds reduce oxidative stress and inhibit neurotoxic processes.

Resveratrol: Found in grapes, blueberries, and peanuts. It exerts antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects that may protect neurons from PD-associated damage.

Vitamin D: Present in fatty fish, fortified dairy products, and obtained through sunlight exposure. Vitamin D regulates calcium homeostasis and has anti-inflammatory effects. It promotes neuronal survival and reduces neuroinflammation, potentially supporting brain health in patients with PD.

Probiotics: Found in fermented foods, such as yoghurt, kefir, and sauerkraut. Probiotics improve gut health and reduce systemic inflammation. Since the gut-brain axis plays a role in PD pathology, probiotics may indirectly support neuronal health.

Nutraceuticals offer a complementary approach to managing Parkinson's disease by addressing underlying mechanisms such as oxidative stress, inflammation, and mitochondrial dysfunction. While they cannot replace traditional treatments, incorporating nutraceuticals into a comprehensive care plan may provide additional neuroprotection and improve quality of life. Consult a healthcare provider before starting any new supplement, especially for conditions such as PD.

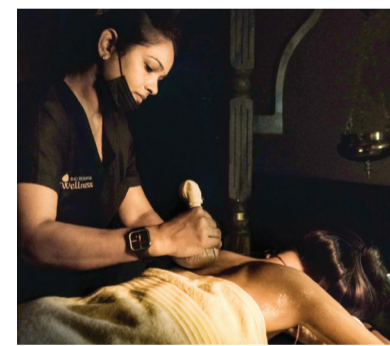
A personal journey to holistic healing

TDG NETWORK

Imagine stepping into a serene oasis in the heart of New Delhi, where your well-being is the sole focus. At Bio Resurge Wellness personalized care is more than a service—it's a transformative experience.

From the moment you arrive, the promise of holistic healing begins with a consultation with the center's Ayurvedic experts. Their approach is deeply personal, crafting customized wellness plans that cater to your specific needs and lifestyle.

The therapies themselves are nothing short of remarkable. Take Shirodhara, for instance—a deeply soothing treatment where warm herbal oil is poured over your forehead in a steady stream. The effect is immediate, melting away stress and leaving your mind clear



and calm. Then there's Abhyangam, a luxurious full-body massage that stimulates circulation and detoxifies the body, leaving you in a state of deep relaxation. For those battling sinus issues or mental fog, Nasya offers relief, clearing nasal passages and sharpening focus. Meanwhile, treatments like Elakizhi and Podikizhi, which use warm herbal poultices, provide much-

needed relief for muscle pain and stiffness. And in today's digital age, the Netra Tharpanam eye therapy feels like a blessing—soothing tired, strained eyes and improving vision. With every treatment tailored to restore balance and vitality, it's an experience that lingers long after you leave.

"True healing comes from a balanced approach to body, mind, and spirit," says Co-Founder Sonal Rathi.

Echoing this, Shaloo Aeren emphasizes their mission to integrate Ayurveda with modern science, empowering individuals to lead healthier, more vibrant lives. Beyond therapies, Bio Resurge Wellness offers a curated range of Ayurvedic products, spanning health care, skincare, and hair care, crafted with natural, sustainable ingredients.

Website: <https://bioresurge.in>

"Eradicating the stigma surrounding an AIDS diagnosis is pivotal for improving health outcomes and fostering a supportive society. Stigma silences voices, delays treatment, and perpetuates isolation, further increasing the mental and physical health challenges. By promoting awareness, empathy, and education, we can replace fear with understanding, enabling individuals to seek timely care without judgment. Mental health support plays a crucial role in this journey, helping those affected to navigate their emotions, build resilience, and reclaim their lives. Together, we must dismantle the barriers of stigma to ensure that every individual receives the dignity, care, and acceptance they deserve."

— Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder & Director, Manasthali Wellness



WHY DO WE CHANT SHANTI MANTRA 3 TIMES?

Spiritual Significance of Chanting the Shanti Mantra Three Times



JYOTSNAA G BANSAL

Peace is something everyone longs for, whether it is in our personal lives or the world around us. Peace is not silence. One can remain in silence and yet be not peaceful. We are peaceful when there is no turmoil inside us. And unless we are peaceful, we cannot be happy.

Peace gives clarity of thoughts, stability of mind, detachment, maturity and right understanding. When you expect from others you are on a wanting mode which disturbs peace of mind. Peace also means freedom from anxiety. Doing good to others, dedicating yourself to a higher cause, serving others considering them as your own self gives you an elevated feeling which results in peace of mind.

In Vedic traditions, peace is not just a state of calm but a balance in every aspect of life. Bhagavad Gita

clearly states that when there is no peace, there can be no happiness. Vedic teachings highlight the need for harmony within ourselves and in the world around us. Among these teachings, the Shanti Mantra holds a unique place.

Shanti Mantra is the simplest and most universal mantra of peace - "Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti"

Chanting "Om Shanti" three times is a simple yet powerful practice, which carries deep spiritual meaning. The threefold chanting of "Shanti" is not done for emphasis, but because each chant addresses a different level of suffering and seeks to bring harmony. Understanding this mantra helps us appreciate its timeless power and purpose. Let us understand its deep meaning and power.

The Four Levels of Peace Vedic teachings present peace as a holistic concept & the chanting of the Shanti Mantra three times can be done in various contexts as follows:

Body, Mind and Soul: The chanting of the peace mantra "Om Shanti" three times represents balance in these three aspects. It calms the body, mind and soul, ensuring peace within.

The first chant of "Shanti" purifies the body and frees it from sufferings, diseases and discomforts.



The body is thus refreshed.

The second chant frees the mind from its negative emotions, worries and stress, leading to an incomparable sense of peace & calm in the mind.

The third chant elevates the soul, leading to spiritual growth and harmony. Therefore, chanting the Shanti Mantra three times is essential to establish balance and peace in the Body, Mind and Soul.

Self, Family, Friends and the World: Peace starts with oneself, extends to loved ones and ultimately embraces the entire world. Therefore, the Shanti Mantra typically prays for the peace of all beings in the universe.

Past, Present and Future: The mantra also signifies healing and harmony across time. It is chanted thrice to make the past,

present and future peaceful. It brings peace to memories, current challenges and future uncertainties.

Physical, Natural and Spiritual Realms: It also brings calm to the physical, natural and spiritual realms.

Physical Peace (Adibhautika): Seeks harmony in the material world, addressing disruptions like conflicts and interpersonal challenges. We cannot control these disruptions entirely. Therefore, we pray to God to protect us from them.

Natural Peace (Adidivika): Calls for alignment with natural forces, protecting against natural calamities and external disturbances which we cannot control directly. Thus, we seek peace from the Almighty to protect us from disturbances beyond our control.



Spiritual Peace (Adhyatmika): Focuses on inner tranquility and self-awareness. It seeks peace in our inner self, thoughts and emotions. Ego, lust, jealousy, anger, sorrow and hate can destroy our peace. Thus, the third chanting of "Shanti" is done, praying to God for peace on the spiritual path or against internal obstacles. This leads to self-contentment, self-knowledge and self-realization.

CONCLUSION

Chanting the universal mantra "Om Shanti Shanti Shanti" provides a Spiritual, Natural and Personal approach towards peace. It reminds us of the need for balance in all aspects of life and peace in our internal, external and natural environments.

Just as it is necessary to

take a specific medicine according to the instructions on the label for it to be effective, it is essential to follow the teachings of our Vedic scriptures as instructed for individual as well as Universal peace. Let us embrace the wisdom of the Vedas to promote peace & harmony in the body, mind, soul and beyond by chanting the simplest and most universal mantra of peace.

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti
Disclaimer: Information & the views expressed in this article reflect the author's personal understanding, learning and interpretation.

Jyotsna G Bansal is a Reiki Grandmaster, Author, Numerologist, Researcher, Counselor, Crystals & Spiritual Guide, Dowsing & Switchwords Practitioner.

HOW CAN A SPOON TASTE THE SOUP?



MYSTIC MUSING

RAJESH M. IYER

Buddha saw Anand meditating and smiled. The smile carried multiple meanings. One that showcased brotherly affection. After all, Anand was his cousin, and Buddha had known him since birth. Second, it acknowledged Anand's steadfastness. Despite the clan's disapproval, Anand had followed Buddha and stayed with him all these years.

Buddha remembered the time Anand met him after his realisation. Buddha's aura was enough to convince Anand of his future path. Anand also requested permission to stay with Buddha at all times. However, Buddha dissuaded him, 'Proximity won't help in your spiritual pursuits.' Only after years in the sangh would Anand become Buddha's constant companion.



With time, Anand started making sense of Buddha's words as to why being near the master alone wasn't enough in his quest. Over the years, while Anand was a witness to almost every event in Buddha's life, the eventual destination still seemed like a distant mirage. He had seen innumerable disciples—Sariputta, Maudgalyayan, Mahakassap, Subhuti, to name a few—cross the threshold to attain nirvana. And he wasn't sure how far away he was from what he sought. Anand, though, still clutched on to the hope that constantly observing Buddha from close quarters would somehow benefit him. However, with age, Anand became restless and often wondered as to why the final spiritual step eluded him.

A similar thought crossed a disciple's mind who was sitting near Buddha that day. As a spiritual aspirant, the disciple was curious. He wanted to know from Buddha as to why Anand—despite living like his shadow for so long—did not attain enlightenment. With a tinge of disappointment in his voice, Buddha replied, 'How can a spoon taste the soup?'

The parable is significant in understanding a vital aspect of our spiritual journey, or, for that matter, any worldly pursuit. If you're unresponsive and unresponsive to the teachings of life, you won't learn anything. Remember that books, institutes, teachers, masters, gurus, deities, and places of worship are all fine, but they come with their limitations. You may spend a lifetime and find them pointing at and even propelling you towards your eventual destination, whatever name you may give it. However, you must know that none of them can achieve your goal—be it spiritual or mundane. They can only assist. A spoon can never taste the soup, even when kept in the bowl for eternity. Remember that only you can achieve your goal.

If you're unresponsive and unresponsive, you won't learn anything. Books, institutes, masters, gurus, deities, and places of worship are all fine. They can propel you towards your destination. However, none of them can achieve your goal. Only you can do it.

Morning rituals: A path to business success



ANKUR MAHESHWARY

In today's fast-paced business world, success is often equated with long hours, relentless hustle, and constant stress. However, a more sustainable and effective approach lies in cultivating a balanced and mindful lifestyle. One powerful tool to achieve this is a morning ritual incorporating spirituality and meditation.

THE POWER OF MORNING RITUALS

A morning ritual, a consistent routine performed each morning, sets the tone for the day. When infused with spiritual practices and meditation, this ritual can

significantly impact both personal and professional life.

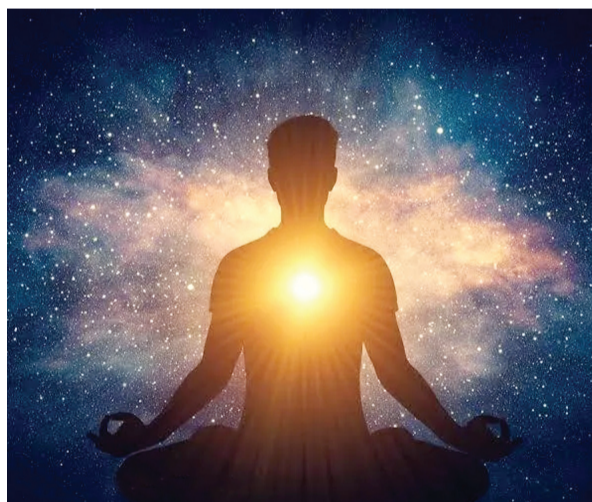
SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: NURTURING THE INNER SELF

Spiritual practices, such as prayer, chanting, or simply quiet reflection, connect us to something greater than ourselves. They provide a sense of purpose, grounding us in our values and beliefs. This inner connection fosters a positive mindset, essential for overcoming challenges and making sound decisions.

MEDITATION: CALMING THE MIND

Meditation, a cornerstone of many spiritual practices, involves training the mind to focus and redirect thoughts. Regular meditation can:

- Enhance Focus:** By calming the mind, meditation improves concentration, allowing for greater productivity and efficiency.
- Reduce Stress:** It helps alleviate stress and anxiety,



which can hinder decision-making and creativity.

Boost Creativity: A calm and focused mind is more receptive to innovative

ideas.

Improve Emotional Intelligence: Meditation can enhance empathy, understanding, and effective communication.

er perspective.

HOW MORNING RITUALS BENEFIT BUSINESS GOALS

A well-structured morning ritual can directly contribute to business success:

Increased Productivity: A calm and focused mind can significantly boost productivity.

Improved Decision-Making: Meditation can enhance clarity and intuition, leading to better decision-making.

Enhanced Leadership: A spiritually grounded leader inspires trust, loyalty, and motivation.

Stronger Relationships: Meditation can improve interpersonal skills, leading to stronger relationships with colleagues, clients, and partners.

Resilience to Stress: By cultivating inner peace, you become more resilient to stress and setbacks.

Long-Term Vision: Spiritual practices help you connect with your long-term goals and maintain a broad-

er perspective.

CREATING YOUR MORNING RITUAL

To create an effective morning ritual, consider the following steps:

- Set Your Intention:** Start by setting a clear intention for the day.
- Practice Mindfulness:** Begin with a few minutes of mindfulness meditation.
- Engage in Spiritual Practice:** Choose a spiritual practice that resonates with you, such as prayer, chanting, or journaling.
- Physical Activity:** Incorporate physical activity like yoga or a brisk walk to energize your body and mind.
- Healthy Breakfast:** Fuel your body with a nutritious breakfast.

By consistently practicing a morning ritual, you can unlock your full potential, achieve greater success, and live a more fulfilling life. Remember, it's not about perfection but about progress.

The author is the Founder of Masti Zone.

The way to lasting happiness



SANT RAJINDER SINGH JI MAHARAJ

We all seek a life of happiness and joy. Yet, the challenges and difficulties of life cause us to question if such a life is even possible. All faiths of the world exhort us to know God and to recognise God if we want to

find lasting peace, joy and happiness.

But how can we know God? God is limitless and infinite. The infinite cannot be contained in the finite and as such, we cannot give God a form that can be experienced through our physical senses. This search for the infinite leads us to the teachings of the saints and mystics, all of whom first experienced God for themselves and then taught the way Godward to the people of their times. We can learn a lot from their teachings documented in books. However, no book can teach us how to love God. This leaves us wondering - was God only attainable by those who lived in the times



of these great saints and mystics?

God is available to all of us. Saints and Spiritual Masters have come in all times and

ages to guide the people of their times back to God.

When our yearning to find God is sincere, God paves the way for us to come to the

living Spiritual Master of the times. Under the guidance of the living Spiritual Master, we learn that God is a Power and that this Power

Lasting happiness can be ours in this very lifetime when we connect with this Power of God within. What is needed is for us to withdraw our attention from the distractions of the outer world and focus it on the bliss within. We become what we focus our attention on.

has two primal manifestations - Light and Sound. The Light and Sound current are reverberating within us and when we connect with this current, through meditation, we connect with God.

Lasting happiness can be ours in this very lifetime

when we connect with this Power of God within. What is needed is for us to withdraw our attention from the distractions of the outer world and focus it on the bliss within. We become what we focus our attention on. When we focus our attention on the outer world,

we become imbued in the colours of the outer world and our happiness is tied to the state of our physical, mental and emotional well-being. Pain in the body brings us pain. However, when we focus on the inner spiritual worlds, we become imbued in the colours of the Divine, filled with joy and bliss.

Lasting happiness does not need to remain elusive. We can choose to lead a life of happiness by focusing our attention in the right arena. All that is needed is for us to still our body and mind and journey into the inner regions through meditation. When we connect with God's love, we tap into the Ocean of all joy.

BGT: TEAM INDIA DEPARTS FROM CANBERRA FOR ADELAIDE TEST

While leaving, Rohit and Mohammed Siraj were seen taking selfies with the fans who were waiting outside the team hotel in Canberra.

AGENCIES
ADELAIDE [AUSTRALIA]

After taking part in the two-day warm-up match against Prime Minister's XI, Rohit Sharma-led Team India on Monday departed from Canberra for the Adelaide Test, which will be starting from December 6.

Earlier on Sunday in the warm-up match, a four-wicket haul by pacer Harshit Rana, along with commanding knocks from Shubman Gill, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Yashasvi Jaiswal, helped India secure a five-wicket win against Australia's Prime Ministers' XI at Canberra's Manuka Oval.

While leaving, skipper Rohit and star India pacer Mohammed Siraj were seen taking selfies with the fans who were waiting outside the team hotel in Canberra.

Top batter Shubman Gill and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar were also captured leaving the team hotel for Adelaide along with other players.

In the first Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India staged a stunning comeback from a series whitewash against New Zealand at home, defeating Australia by 295 runs in Perth despite being bowled out for a mere 150 runs in their first innings.

In the first Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India won the toss and opted to bat first. However,



Skipper Rohit Sharma along with Team India departs from Canberra. ANI

Jasprit Bumrah starred for India with figures of 5/30 in 18 overs, while debutant Harshit Rana impressed with 3/48.

they were dismissed for just 150 runs, with Nitish Kumar Reddy (41 off 59 balls, six fours and a six) and Rishabh Pant (37 off 78 balls, three fours and a six) playing crucial knocks and adding a vital 48-run partnership for the sixth wicket.

Josh Hazlewood (4/29) was the standout bowler for Australia, with Pat Cummins, Mitchell Marsh, and Mitchell Starc claiming two wickets each. Australia's reply was even worse, as they were reduced to 79/9 before Mitchell Starc (26) and Alex Carey (21) took the total to 104, giving India a slender lead of 46 runs. Jasprit Bum-

rah starred for India with figures of 5/30 in 18 overs, while debutant Harshit Rana impressed with 3/48.

In their second innings, India amassed a massive lead. KL Rahul (77 off 176 balls, five fours) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (161 off 297 balls, 15 fours and three sixes) put up a 201-run opening partnership. Despite losing quick wickets, an unbeaten 100 by Virat Kohli (143 balls, eight fours and two sixes), supported by Washington Sundar (29 off 94 balls, one six) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (38* off 27 balls, three fours and two sixes), propelled India

to 487/6 declared, setting Australia a daunting target of 534 runs. Nathan Lyon (2/96) was the best bowler for Australia, with Cummins, Starc, and Hazlewood taking one wicket each.

At stumps on Day 3, Australia were 12/3, with Bumrah taking two wickets and Mohammed Siraj one. On Day 4, despite valiant efforts from Travis Head (89 off 101 balls, eight fours) and Mitchell Marsh (47 off 67 balls, three fours and two sixes), Australia were bowled out for 238, giving India a resounding 295-run victory.

Bumrah (3/42) and Siraj (3/51) led the bowling in the second innings, while Washington Sundar took two wickets, and Nitish Kumar Reddy and Harshit Rana picked one each.

'Batters want to hold their own,' says Travis Head

AGENCIES
ADELAIDE

Australian batter Travis Head on Monday said that the sides' batsmen are looking to hold their own against India's attack going into the second Test at Adelaide, reported Fox Cricket.

"We hold high expectations for both sides and it's a very individualised sport," Head was quoted as saying by Fox Cricket.

"The batters want to hold their own. We know how good our bowlers have been for us in the past, and they've gotten us out of trouble a lot," he added, as quoted by Fox Cricket.

The Australian batsman also denied any reports of a possible divide in the squad

that is trailing India in this series.

"That can be put to bed," Head said, as quoted by Fox Cricket.

"This team's been together for three to four years... the guys get along really well," he added.

"Definitely no divide," Head asserted.

Head's comments are aimed at quelling any rumours of discord within the team, emphasizing the unity and mutual respect that has characterized the squad over the past few years.

Earlier, Josh Hazlewood raised eyebrows when he responded to a question about Australia's approach to the fourth-innings run chase after India set a record target.

"You probably have to ask

one of the batters that question," Hazlewood remarked, prompting speculation about a possible divide within the team, as quoted by Fox Cricket.

Australian cricket legend Adam Gilchrist and former England captain Michael Vaughan speculated that Hazlewood's remarks indicated a fracture in the playing group. However, Head laughed off such theories while addressing reporters at Adelaide Oval on Monday afternoon.

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150 runs in their first innings.

In the first Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India won the toss and opted to bat first. However, they were dismissed for just 150 runs, with Nitish Kumar Reddy (41 off 59 balls, six fours and a six) and Rishabh Pant (37 off 78 balls, three fours and a six) playing crucial knocks and adding a vital 48-run partnership for the sixth wicket.

Josh Hazlewood (4/29) was the standout bowler for Australia, with Pat Cummins, Mitchell Marsh, and Mitchell Starc claiming two wickets each. Australia's reply was even worse, as they were reduced to 79/9 before Mitchell Starc (26) and Alex Carey (21) took the total to 104, giving India a slender lead of 46 runs.

IPL: Bethell excited to link up with 'King Kohli' at RCB

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

England's young star Jacob Bethell is looking forward to playing alongside Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and India stalwart Virat Kohli in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season.

Bethell became RCB's latest acquisition in the recent IPL 2025 mega auction for Rs 2.6 crore. The 21-year-old attracted bids from Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings but both franchises failed to overcome RCB's resolve.

Bethell will link up with his England teammates Phil Salt and Liam Living-



stone at RCB but it is Virat he is most excited to rub shoulders with. "It's a bit of a given, isn't it? "Virat! He's a great of the game so... King Kohli," Bethell said, with a wry smile, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

We have found the right mix: Hardik on MI's picks for IPL

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Skipper Hardik Pandya on Monday reflected on Mumbai Indians' (MI) picks from the recently concluded Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 mega-auction and said that they have found the "right mix" of players.

In a video shared on the MI's official social media handle, Hardik Pandya said that auction dynamics are always tricky since a franchise has to create a whole team.

"The auction dynamics are always tricky. You know when you are watching it live, it is very exciting and the emotions are always up and down because



you want this player but sometimes you just lose. It's very important to not be very so emotional and in the end, we have to create a whole team," Pandya was quoted in a release from MI media team.

Hardik was in close contact with the coaching staff about the players he wanted and felt that the team had the perfect mix of youth and experience.

Jayden shines with record spell as West Indies dominate B'desh

AGENCIES
KINGSTON [JAMAICA]

West Indies pacer Jayden Seales achieved a remarkable feat with his four-wicket haul on Day 02 of the 2nd Test against Bangladesh on Monday at Sabina Park in Kingston.

Seales scripted his name on the record book as he delivered the best economical spell in men's Test cricket since 1978. He achieved the milestone against Bangladesh in the 2nd Test.

The Caribbean bowler picked up four wickets and gave just five runs in his 16-over spell. The 23-year-old had an economy rate of 0.30, which is considered the best figure a bowler achieved in Test cricket since 1978.

Earlier in 2015, India pacer Umesh Yadav held



Seales scripted his name on the record book as he delivered the best economical spell in men's Test cricket since 1978.

the top place on the chart with a figure of 3/9 with an economy rate of 0.42.

Coming to the match, Bangladesh won the toss and opted to bat against the Caribbeans in the second Test.

Shadman Islam (64 runs from 137 balls, 5 fours and 1 six) and skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz (36 runs from 75 balls, 2 fours) were the only top batters for the tourists and they propelled Bangladesh to 164 in the first inning. Shahadat Hossain Dipu (22 runs from 89 balls, 2 fours) assisted the other two batters to add some runs on the scoreboard.

The rest of the Bangladesh batters crumbled in front of the West Indies bowling attack.

Jayden Seales led the Caribbean bowling attack as he picked up four wickets and gave just four runs. Shamar Joseph too had a good spell in the second Test as he bagged three wickets.

Meanwhile, Kemar Roach took two wickets and Alzarri Joseph picked one wicket in their respective spells.

Premier League: Liverpool secures commanding victory over Manchester City

AGENCIES
LIVERPOOL

In a match that showcased Liverpool's dominance, Mohamed Salah and Cody Gakpo led the Reds to a 2-0 victory over Manchester City, significantly distancing themselves from their Premier League title rivals, as per Goal.com.

Liverpool started the game with relentless energy, putting immense pressure on City's defense and consistently testing goalkeeper Stefan Ortega. Virgil van Dijk came close to opening the scoring in the 12th minute, but his header struck the post and bounced to safety. Van Dijk was a formidable presence throughout, particularly during set pieces, and his duel with Erling Haaland highlighted his



commanding performance.

Liverpool's breakthrough came shortly after, with Salah delivering a precise pass that allowed Gakpo to tap the ball into the net. Gakpo was instrumental in stretching City's defense and displayed impressive pace and posi-

Despite City growing into the game and managing just one shot on goal compared to Liverpool's ten in the first half, the visitors struggled to create significant opportunities.

tioning, contributing significantly to Liverpool's attacking prowess.

City began to find their footing after the first 20 minutes, but Liverpool continued to threaten. Trent Alexander-Arnold nearly doubled the lead with a powerful shot that glanced off the post. Al-

ten in the first half, the visitors struggled to create significant opportunities. Liverpool had a chance to seal the victory earlier when Salah was through on goal, but the Egyptian uncharacteristically fired over the crossbar.

The game was finally put to bed in the 78th minute when Salah converted a penalty, awarded after Luis Diaz was fouled by Ortega. This goal came as a redemption for Salah, who had previously missed a penalty against Real Madrid.

This victory propels Liverpool nine points clear of second-placed Arsenal and eleven points ahead of defending champions Manchester City, solidifying their position at the top of the Premier League table.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Saurashtra, Karnataka dominate; Punjab, Andhra stay in contention

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Saurashtra posted a mammoth total of 266 for 6, the second-highest score in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy history, to secure a commanding 78-run victory over Group B leaders Baroda. This triumph, their fourth in five matches, propelled Saurashtra to second place in the standings, with Baroda, Saurashtra, and Gujarat only separated by net run rate, as per ESPNcricinfo.

Harvik Desai, the wicket-keeper, set the tone for Saurashtra's innings with a blistering 76 off 39 balls. Opener Tarang Goel con-



tributed a rapid 40 off just 15 deliveries, and Jay Gohil added an explosive 53 from 18 balls at No. 6. Baroda, missing the influential Hardik Pandya, struggled to contain Saurashtra's onslaught.

In their chase, Baroda faltered early, reduced to 29

for 3 within the powerplay. Despite a late effort to salvage their net run rate, they finished at 188 for 8, maintaining their position at the top of the table.

Karnataka, led by a fierce opening spell from Vasuki Koushik, dismantled Tamil Nadu's batting lineup in Indore. Utilizing the early morning conditions, Koushik took three wickets in his first two overs, leaving Tamil Nadu reeling at 7 for 4. They were eventually bowled out for a meagre 90 runs.

Manish Pandey anchored Karnataka's chase with an unbeaten 42, leading his team to victory in just 11.3 overs. This win, in what

was effectively a knockout match, eliminated Tamil Nadu, who had dominated the tournament in recent years with back-to-back titles in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Punjab kept their slim knockout hopes alive with a narrow seven-run win over Hyderabad. After a nail-biting Super Over victory against Mizoram two nights prior, Punjab's latest triumph was powered by standout performances from Naman Dhir and Ramandeep Singh.

Punjab posted 196 for 6, with contributions from Anmolpreet Singh (60) and a quickfire 39 not out from Ramandeep Singh off just 11 balls.

India thrashes Korea 8-1 in Men's Junior Asia Cup

AGENCIES
MUSCAT

The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team played their last Pool A match of the Men's Junior Asia Cup against Korea on Sunday in Muscat and registered an 8-1 win.

As per a release from Hockey India, Arajjeet Singh Hundal (3', 37'), Arshdeep Singh (9', 44', 60'), Gurjot Singh (11'), Rosan Kujur (27') and Rohit (30') found the back of the net in the game for India. While Taehyeon Kim (18') scored the only goal for Korea.

With this victory, India will advance to the semi-final on December 3, where they will have to face Malaysia.

India started the game



strong, using a mix of short passes and long arials to dominate possession. Within three minutes, they secured a penalty corner. A misrtrap led to the ball being passed to an unmarked Arajjeet Singh Hundal, whose first-time shot blazed past Korean goalkeeper Sookyo Kim, scoring the first goal.

India maintained their momentum, consistently creating circle entries. With six minutes left in the first quarter, a series of quick passes between Arajjeet, Manmeet Singh, and Arshdeep Singh set up Arshdeep for an easy tap-in, making it 2-0. Shortly after, Gurjot Singh capitalized on a rebound from a

Dilraj Singh shot to bring the score to 3-0.

In the second quarter, India's passing was even sharper. However, against the run of play, a long aerial from Korea's Donggeon Kim found Taehyeon Kim, who caught the Indian defence off guard and scored. Korea's defence grew more combative, resisting India's advances.

In response, India rotated the ball around the flanks, searching for openings. Soon, Arajjeet cut in from the left wing and set up Rosan Kujur, who picked out the top right corner with a powerful flick, bringing the score to 4-1. As the first half drew to a close, Rohit executed a fierce drag flick from a penalty corner, making it 5-1 for India.