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IN BRIEF



Oppn. rejoicing as nation faces crises, says Modi

BHILDI (GUJARAT)
PM Narendra Modi on Friday vowed to serve the people of India till his last breath. He accused the Opposition of rejoicing when the country faces a crisis. » Page 11

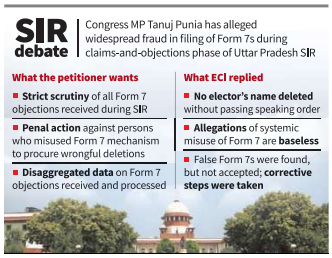
Delhi-NCR: curbs on construction from Nov. 5-20

NEW DELHI
Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Friday announced a ban on construction and demolition activities in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) from November 5 to 20, with exemptions for projects of national importance. » Page 2

SC seeks report from ECI on Form 7 misuse charge

Election Commission says it did not accept any Form 7s filed in violation of norms in U.P.; election officials took prompt corrective steps, it says after Cong. MP alleges widespread fraud during SIR

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



The Election Commission of India (ECI) told the Supreme Court on Friday that though it found "false" Form 7s for deletion of voters during the Uttar Pradesh Special Intensive Revision (SIR), none of them were accepted.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, for the ECI, said corrective measures were taken promptly on discovery of such "false" forms. Authorities had rejected Form 7s filed in violation of norms, the ECI said.

The ECI was responding to allegations levelled in a petition filed by Congress leader and Barabanki MP Tanuj Punia, represented by senior advocate Salman Khurshid and advocate Shariq Ahmed, about widespread misuse and fraud in connection with bulk filing of Form 7s during the claims-and-objections phase of the Uttar Pradesh SIR.

Mr. Ahmed questioned the ECI's claim that false Form 7s were stopped at the gates. He said the court must subject this claim to judicial scrutiny. Counsel argued that it was exactly the lack of any corrective measures in the Uttar Pradesh SIR that "emboldened" the filing of bulk Form 7s in Karnataka and Telangana.

"Of the 32 Form 7s in the Hata Assembly constituency in Uttar Pradesh, two were signed by the booth-level officer. All these forms pertained to deletion of voters belonging to one community," counsel submitted. The court asked Mr. Ahmed to submit a note with details and additional information, if any, on the issue.

"Let the EC look into these issues, take necessary action and file a compliance report," the court observed.

The Uttar Pradesh SIR process ended in April. Over two crore voters were removed from the rolls.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

ECI's appeals against over 16 lakh cleared voters in Bengal raise legal questions

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

A little over 16 lakh electors in West Bengal whose names had been cleared by judicial officers after being flagged for logical discrepancies during the West Bengal SIR had found themselves back in the crosshairs when the Election Commission of India (ECI) filed appeals against the inclusion of their names.

These electors would have voted in the Assembly poll in April because their names appeared on the supplementary lists published before the election.

But the officials who filed appeals against the inclusion of the 16.10 lakh voters may not have had the authority to do so under the Representation of the People Act.

According to the Act, the CEO/DEO/ERO/AERO are the authorities with respect to electoral rolls.


According to Representation of the People Act, the CEO/DEO/ERO/AERO are the authorities.

In its affidavit filed before the Supreme Court on October 26, the ECI said the appeals were not brought to its notice earlier and that a communication dated October 22, 2026, was received from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, stating that its officials had filed the appeals in their capacity as authorities under the Act. It said the "officers had the authority to file the appeals as per the orders of this Hon'ble (Supreme) Court".

Though the ECI, in the affidavit, mentioned that the only authorities vis-à-vis electoral rolls recognised under the Act are the "CEO/DEOs/EROs/AEROs", it did not state categorically that the appeals against inclusions were filed by these authorised officials, and mentioned them as "officers of the office of CEO West Bengal".

The filing of appeals against voters cleared by judicial officers was one of the questions raised by Election Commissioners S. S. Sandhu and Vivek Joshi in their file notings. Opposition parties in West Bengal have called for the scrapping of these appeals and sought a judicial probe into the matter.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10



'BAD WEATHER'
Six killed in helicopter crash in Uttarakhand
NEWS » PAGE 10



Census: door-to-door enumeration from Jan. 25 to Feb. 28

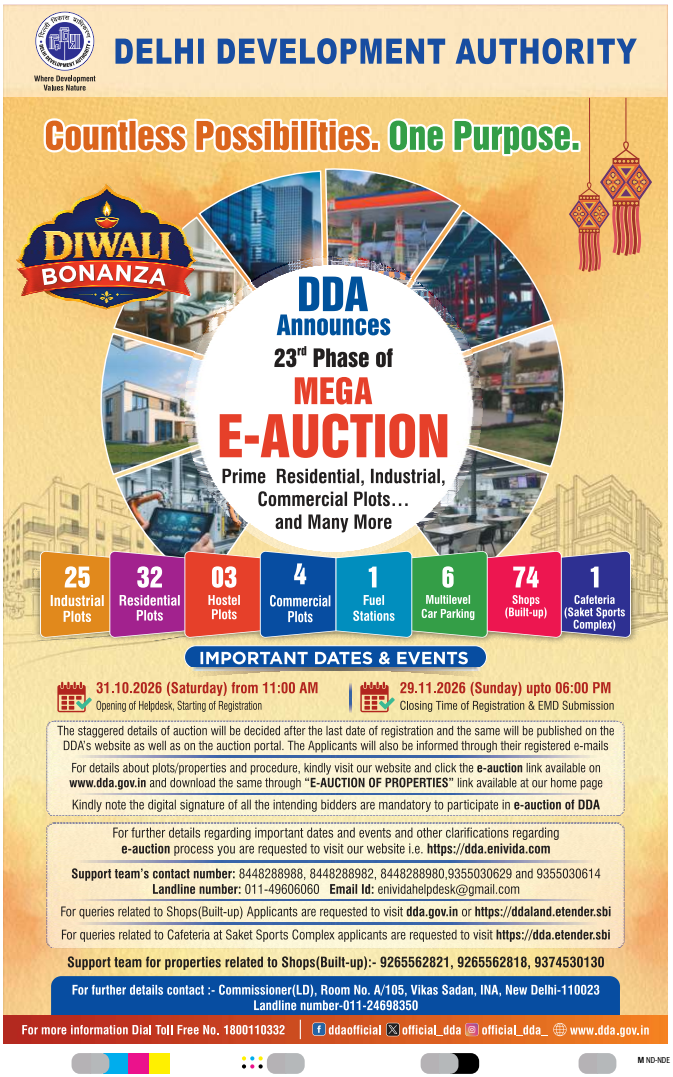
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Population Enumeration, the second phase of Census 2027, will commence on January 10, 2027 across the country with the opening of the online self-enumeration window, according to a notification. Door-to-door enumeration will begin on January 25 and end on February 28.

During the door-to-door enumeration, enumerators will ask a set of 40 questions, including 13 new ones pertaining to caste (other than Scheduled Tribe/Scheduled Caste), religion, place and date of birth of both parents, number of bank accounts, spouse's name, nationality, digital literacy, permanent residential address, place of COVID-19 vaccination, passport number, driving licence availability, and mobile, Aadhaar and voter ID numbers, if available.

The exercise was completed in Ladakh and the snow-affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand by September 30. In Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand, and Punjab, the exercise will be held earlier than the rest of the country – from November 16, 2026.

In these poll-bound States, the door-to-door enumeration will begin on December 1, 2026, and end on January 5, 2027.



India made 'remarkable progress' in reducing poverty, says World Bank

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India has over the last decade made "remarkable progress" in reducing poverty across both monetary and non-monetary dimensions, the World Bank said in a new report, adding that the country saw one of the fastest reductions in poverty in the world.

"Between 2011 and 2023, the share of the population living below the Lower Middle-Income Country line ($4.2/day) fell from 57.7% to 16.1%, lifting an estimated 496 million people out of poverty, while extreme poverty ($3.00/day) declined from 27.1% to 2.6%," the World Bank said in its October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief for India released on Friday.


Extreme poverty declined from 27.1% to 2.6%, the report said.

Further, it stated that it projected poverty to continue declining, "albeit more gradually". "On the non-monetary dimensions, as measured by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's (OPHI) Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), poverty fell sharply from 53.8% in 2005-06 to 16.4% in 2019-21, with the World Bank MPI measure at 15.5% in 2022-23," it stated.

"Wage disparities, however, remain pronounced, as median earnings among the top 10% of workers were about 13 times those of the bottom 10% in 2023," the report said. "Poverty has also become increasingly concentrated geographically," it added. "While living standards improved across most States, households in a contiguous belt stretching from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal account for 57% of India's poor population."

It also noted that, between 2017 and 2023, employment increased by about 134 million people, nearly twice the growth of the working-age population, with much of the gain driven by rural women entering paid work and raising the number of earners per household. "However, youth unemployment rose from 14.6% to 15.9% between the two quarters [QI FY2026 and QI FY2027], particularly among rural young women," the World Bank report highlighted.

FM hails findings

"The World Bank identifies strong consumption growth, rising employment – especially among women – and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies, as major drivers," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

INBRIEF



Working to make city infra accessible to all, says CM

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated the 'Diwali Bazaar 2026' at the Blind Relief Association premises on Friday. Ms. Gupta said her government is working continuously to make the national capital's infrastructure accessible to all and ensure that persons with disabilities lead a life of dignity, according to an official statement from the Chief Minister's Office. The seven-day market will run till November 5 and feature more than 250 stalls, the statement added. The Chief Minister also visited 'Cafe Mast', run by visually impaired youth associated with the Blind Relief Association.

Govt. orders magisterial probe into Oct. 7 building collapse

Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood on Friday ordered a magisterial inquiry into the building collapse in Seemapuri on October 7, which claimed five lives, including two children. The North East Delhi District Magistrate will conduct the probe. "No guilty person or official will be spared. Our immediate priority is to support the affected families, and our long-term goal is to enforce strict structural safety rules so that such an accident never happens again in Delhi," said the Minister. As per a preliminary probe, the collapse was caused by the use of heavy machinery in the adjacent buildings.

Man sets house ablaze; fire officer hurt in cylinder blast

A 30-year-old man allegedly set his house on fire in Jahangirpuri on Friday, triggering a blaze in which an LPG cylinder exploded and an Assistant Fire Officer sustained 25% burns, said the police. Bharat, who lived with his mother, Raj Rani, allegedly started the fire on the ground floor of their three-storey house. His mother was present. During firefighting operations, the cylinder exploded, injuring Ankit, 32, an Assistant Fire Officer with the Delhi Fire Services, who suffered burns to his face, hair and hands. He was taken to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital and later referred to AIIMS. An FIR has been registered against Bharat, said the police.

BLOs to record reasons for removing names of eligible voters

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in Delhi have been asked to record why eligible electors were earlier marked absent, shifted, dead or duplicate (ASDD), and why those traced during re-verification are unwilling to submit Form 6 to get their names back on the rolls as new voters, *The Hindu* has learnt.

The instructions come amid the ongoing re-verification of 47.56 lakh names dropped from the draft roll published on August 31 after being placed in the ASDD categories.

Fourth deadline change

On Thursday, the Election Commission of India (ECI) pushed the deadline for publishing Delhi's final electoral roll to December 22, marking the fourth such revision.

As per the revised schedule, the deadline for filing claims and objections has been extended by 26 days, from October 30 to November 25, giving eligible electors more time to seek inclusion in the final roll during the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) drive. The disposal of claims and objections will have to be completed by December 15.

New column

A new 'Remarks' column has been added to the BLO mobile application to record details of the re-verification exercise.

This field will be used to record why an elector was placed in the ASDD categories during the enumeration phase, whether the person was found residing at the registered address and, if eligible, why the person was reluctant to submit Form 6.

The column will also be used to record cases in which an elector is found at the registered address but has already enrolled in another constituency.

BLOs have been provided with the ASDD lists, along with the corresponding addresses, and instructed to conduct door-to-door visits to verify the voters' details. They have also been asked to maintain records of the number of visits made, electors found eligible, Form 6 applications filed and reasons for not filing the form.

Oct. 2 order

The instructions follow the ECI's October 2 order for a special drive to include eligible voters whose names were not included in the draft rolls in States where the SIR exercise has been completed.

The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer's directions to BLOs for re-verification were issued nearly a week after the poll panel announced the drive.

The draft electoral roll published on August 31 contained the names of 97.5 lakh electors, down from around 1.45 crore before the rolls were frozen for the SIR on June 16.

Since August 31, poll officials in the Capital have received 2.79 lakh applications seeking inclusion in the electoral roll. An additional 22,707 applications have been filed either objecting to the inclusion of names or seeking deletion of existing entries.

Govt. imposes construction curbs, 50% work from home in Delhi-NCR from Nov. 5-20

Restrictions timed to mitigate pollution load from burning of firecrackers, crop residue, says Union Minister; ban to apply on public infrastructure works; waiver for projects of national importance

Nikhil M Babu
NEW DELHI

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Friday announced a ban on construction and demolition activities in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) from November 5 to 20, with exemptions for projects of national importance.

"This is the peak time [for air pollution], and the CAQM has conducted a scientific study on this. The ban will apply to dust-generating demolition and outdoor civil construction activities," Mr. Yadav said.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) issued an order on Friday night, directing the governments in Delhi-NCR to enforce the restrictions.

Projects related to the Railways, metro services, airports, inter-State bus terminals, hospitals, water supply and sanitation, national security and defence have been exempted, the order stated.



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav at a pollution monitoring facility. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The prohibition will also apply to public infrastructure projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, electricity transmission lines, pipelines and telecommunication projects, it added.

The CAQM also directed the Delhi government and authorities in five high vehicle-density districts – Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar – to ensure that government and private offices operate with no more than 50% of their staff attending physically, while the remaining employees work from home during the same period. The order exempted industrial establishments and essential services where such an arrangement is not feasible.

Festive season curbs

A senior official told *The Hindu* that the measures were being taken in view of Deepavali on November 8, when firecracker emissions are expected to add to the pollution load.

"Stubble burning emissions are also expected to peak around the same time, with paddy harvesting under way," the official added.

In June, the Delhi government issued a ban on dust-generating demolition and construction activities from November 1 to January 31.

Pollution control centre

During the day, Mr. Yadav also visited a newly developed Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at the CAQM headquarters to monitor measures to curb air pollution. "The ICCC is a single-window digital centre that integrates various data streams. It also integrates data from 111 CAAQMS [continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations] operational in Delhi-NCR, over 2,300 industries, more than 3,200 active construction sites and traffic congestion hotspots," an official statement read.

Vehicular restrictions begin tomorrow; HC Bar seeks exemption

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Bar Association on Friday urged Delhi High Court Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre to seek an exemption for judicial officers, advocates and court staff from the restrictions on the entry of non-BS-VI vehicles into Delhi, which will come into force on November 1.

'High housing cost'

The association said its members "cater to the essential service of dispensation of justice" and that many members of the legal fraternity, including judges and court staff, live in other parts of the NCR due to Delhi's high housing costs.

From November 1 to January 31, restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan will bar the entry of non-BS-VI vehicles registered outside Delhi. Only BS-VI-complaint vehicles with valid PUC certificates, CNG vehicles and e-vehicles will be allowed while trucks will be diverted via expressways.



Many residents from nearby cities said the curbs will affect their daily commute. FILE PHOTO

Many commuters said the curbs would affect their daily travel. "I live in Noida and work in Connaught Place. I'll have to take public transport or rely on others for commute now," said Manoj Verma, a marketing professional.

The move will hit drivers' livelihoods, said Sanjay Samrat, president of the Delhi Taxi and Tourist Transporters' Association, which has urged Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to withdraw the proposed curbs, saying the restrictions will affect their earnings during the festive season.

(With inputs from Soibam Rocky Singh)

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The deadline for submission of bids is 5 November 2026, 11 AM.

An additional tax of 6% of the purchase price shall be payable by the successful bidder. The successful bidder shall also be responsible for all applicable vehicle registration charges and related fees payable to the competent local authorities.

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Inspections may be arranged from Monday to Friday, excluding weekends, subject to prior confirmation

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No. KKRTC/CO/COSP/08 /2026-27 Dated: 30.10.2026

TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

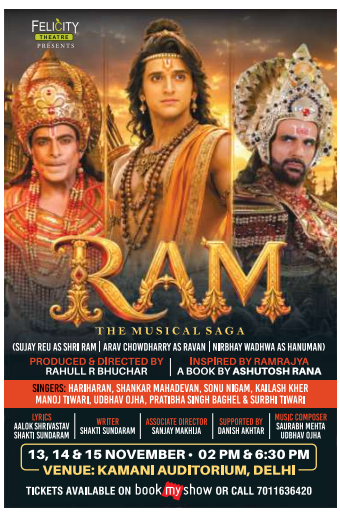
Tenders through kpp portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply of following items.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Tender Nomenclature	Estimate Value (Rs.)	Last date for submission of tender
1	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0207/CALL-2	Procurement of Head Lamp Assemblies and Accessories	4.02 Crores	30.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
2	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0235	Procurement of Radiator Assembly and cores	3.56 Crores	30.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
3	KKRTC/2024-25/ IND0111/CALL-6	Procurement of NRC Engine Spares	2.83 Crores	30.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
4	KKRTC/2024-25/ IND0103/CALL-5	Procurement of Engine Valves, Guides and Inserts	1.71 Crores	16.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
5	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0237	Procurement of Malleable Components	1.69 Crores	16.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
6	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0236	Procurement of Shackle pin and bushes	0.39 Crores	16.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
7	KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0187/CALL-2	Procurement of Vinyl Coated Fabric	2.96 Crores	30.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
8	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0224/CALL-4	Procurement of Automotive Bulbs	0.39 Crores	16.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
9	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0238	Procurement of Aluminum Sheets and Extructions	1.24 Crores	16.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
10	KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0228	Procurement of CC camera, DVR, TFT Hard Disk, Monitor for BS-6 Vehicles	1.15 Crores	30.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
11	KKRTC/2025-26/ SE6336/CALL-4	Selection of a Vendor for Deployment and Maintenance of ASI-140 compliant Vehicle Location Tracking(VLT) Device with Emergency Button(s) on Rental basis	4.20 Crores	30.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs
12	KKRTC/2026-27/ SE9545	Engaging an Agency for providing HPV Drivers to Divisions of KKRTC on Contract Basis	6.34 Crores	30.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal-home to cospnekrtc@gmail.com** or **support@eprochelpdesk.com** for further information if required. Further, any addendum /corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.

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(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/630/KSMC&A/2026-27



BJP to stage stir on Sunday

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The BJP will take out a protest march on Sunday in Hari Nagar area over the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. "The Sikh community wants the Congress to apologise for the massacre of Sikhs," said Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra.

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Name of the Work: Formation of Industrial Layout, including construction of Roads, RCC Side drains, Cross Dainages, Retaining Wall & HDPE Dual Water Supply pipeline at Sector-1 in Dobaspet Industrial Area, 7th Phase, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **17.11.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Engineer in Chief, KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3406/SMCL/2026-27

Jamia to resume offline classes from Nov. 10; mid-term exams from Nov. 16

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI


Students of Jamia Millia Islamia celebrating on the campus during their victory march on Friday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Jamia Millia Islamia will resume offline classes from November 10 after students called off their 18-day protest on Thursday night, with the university announcing a timeline to restore the students' union, a university order said on Friday.

The university will also hold the second mid-term examinations offline from November 16 to 21.

The order, issued by Registrar Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, supersedes earlier notices and office orders dated October 24, 26 and 28. The university directed all Deans, Heads of Departments and Directors to ensure the smooth conduct of offline classes and examinations and maintain students' attendance and other records regularly.

The decision comes amid a prolonged stand-off between the university administration and students over restoring the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union (JMISU), which triggered a protest and hunger strike on October 12.

In another development, more than 2,000 teaching and non-teaching employees of the university attended a thanksgiving programme on Friday at 3.30 p.m. on the lawns of the Ansari Auditorium. They thanked the administration for resolving the two-decade-long impasse over students' union elections, according to a university statement.

The employees hailed the October 29 order approving the implementation of the JMISU Constitution, describing it as a result of the administration's efforts to resolve the issue through dialogue. They acknowledged the support and guidance the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Home Affairs provided over the past two weeks, the university said.

However, the teaching staff demanded strict action against those responsible for allegedly writing anti-national graffiti and slogans on university walls and vandalising gates and other infrastructure, the university said.

Farm fires on rise in Punjab as 194 cases reported in a day

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH


A farmer burning stubble on the outskirts of Amritsar. FILE PHOTO

The number of farm fire incidents in Punjab has nearly doubled in the past week, with a single-day increase of 194 cases, bringing the cumulative total to 1,007. Of these incidents, 672 were reported from three districts –Tarn Taran, Amritsar, and Ferozepur.

According to official data, Punjab recorded 542 farm fire incidents between September 15 and October 23 this year. As of October 28, the total number of incidents was 813, and with the recent spike of 194 on October 29, the total has now reached 1,007, the data showed.

Of the 1,007 farm fire incidents, Tarn Taran accounted for a major chunk of these at 397 cases, followed by Amritsar at 171 and Ferozepur at 104. So far, fines totalling over ₹17 lakh have been imposed in 349 cases of stubble burning, with over ₹13 lakh already recovered. Additionally, 246 FIRs have been registered related to stubble burning incidents.

6-year-old injured in alleged assault by boy at school

Press Trust of India
PANCHKULA

A six-year-old girl was allegedly assaulted by an eight-year-old boy inside a classroom at a school here, leaving her critically injured and hospitalised at PGIMER in Chandigarh, police said on Friday.

The incident took place on October 28, a senior police official said.

Spotlight
Read longform articles from our regional editions

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Timings
DELHI

SATURDAY, OCT. 31		
RISE	06:32	SET 17:37
RISE	22:28	SET 11:58
SUNDAY, NOV. 01		
RISE	06:33	SET 17:37
RISE	23:36	SET 12:47
MONDAY, NOV. 02		
RISE	06:33	SET 17:36
RISE	00:00	SET 13:28

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	21	17
Safdarjang	21	15
Palam	21	15

Delhi Palam Today
26°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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Four dead, two hurt in Delhi factory blaze

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Four persons were killed in a fire that broke out at a shoe factory in Delhi's Mangolpuri Industrial Area on Friday, the police said.

The incident took place around 9.30 p.m. at B-293/294, Mangolpuri Industrial Area, Phase-I, said a senior officer, adding that police and firefighters reached the location immediately and started rescue operations.

The Delhi Fire Services said it sent around 20 water tenders to the site to douse the blaze.

Six persons were found unconscious inside the factory, and all were immediately shifted to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Mangolpuri for treatment, the officer added.

Rescue operation

Of the six, four were declared dead on arrival while the remaining are under treatment.

"Search and rescue operation is still going on. Appropriate legal action is being taken as per law," the officer said.

High turnout in Rajasthan panchayat polls

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Heavy polling was recorded in the second phase of village panchayat elections for Sarpanch and Ward Panch in 22 districts of Rajasthan on Friday. While 45 Sarpanches were earlier elected unopposed, as many as 3,626 village panchayats went to polls and 1.06 crore voters exercised their franchise.

The highest voter turnout was recorded at 84.37% in Jaipur district's Rampura Dabri.

36th ANNIVERSARY



Pranams at the lotus feet
of my beloved Guru
Padma Bhushan awardee, Sangita Kalanidhi
Dr. M.L. VASANTHAKUMARI
Smt. SUDHA RAGUNATHAN





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INBRIEF



Tamil Nadu relaxes age limit for joining State govt. services

The Tamil Nadu government on Friday enhanced the upper age limit for direct recruitment to various categories of government services by five years on an order issued by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay. An official release said the relaxation follows demands from candidates appearing for competitive examinations. It will be in addition to the age concessions available to candidates of the Backward Classes, the Backward Classes-Muslims, the Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Caste-Arunthathiyar, the Scheduled Tribes, and destitute widows, it said.

No links with online attacks on Mammootty: CPI(M) leader

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has no links with the online attacks on actor Mammootty, said party State secretary M.V. Govindan. He added that "the party is for a healthy dialogue with everyone." Addressing a press conference on Friday, he was responding to the attack on the actor from allegedly Left-leaning cyber handles after DYFI, SFI leaders met the actor recently. He described Mr. Mammootty as an internationally renowned Malayalam actor whose recognition as an artiste is of great significance.

Amit Shah promises UCC in Uttar Pradesh if BJP retains power in 2027

Union Home Minister exudes confidence that party will get a 'massive majority' in the upcoming Assembly election in the State; challenges Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav to a debate on SIR

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be implemented in Uttar Pradesh if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wins the 2027 Assembly election.

Urging party workers to work towards winning the poll, he said, "The Uniform Civil Code has been implemented in several States. Uttar Pradesh will be next. Make a BJP government and we will implement the UCC here."

Mr. Shah, who was addressing the BJP's State executive meeting, said the BJP will get a "massive majority". "The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is firmly rooted; no one can dislodge it. Our party is once again going to form the government in U.P. with a massive majority."

Mr. Shah challenged Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav to a debate on the special intensive revision (SIR), but said they just want to "create a ruckus".

"I challenge both you [Mr. Gandhi] and Akhilesh Yadav right here and now. The BJP is fully prepared to discuss this [SIR] in Parliament. We have nothing to hide. Let us convene a special session of Parliament, but they have no intention of speaking there. They refuse to let Parliament function. Instead, they just create a ruckus," he said.

Hailing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr. Shah said, "I want to praise the Chief Minister. Under his leadership, the government has provided strict governance and freed Uttar Pradesh from the mafia."

Hitting out at the SP, the Union Home Minister said, "Today is October 30. On this day in 1990, then U.P. Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav ordered firing on Ram devotees. How can you [SP] talk about forming a government after opening fire on Ram devotees?"


Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing a BJP working committee meeting in Lucknow on Friday. ANI

HC restores non-veg food ban in Somnath hours after single judge struck it down

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

Hours after a single judge of the Gujarat High Court struck down a ban on the sale of non-vegetarian food in the vicinity of the famous Somnath temple, a two-member High Court Bench stayed her ruling on Friday.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Nirzar Desai stayed the judgment of Justice Nisha Thakore following an urgent appeal moved by the Gujarat government, and directed that the Collector's notification banning the sale of non-veg food will continue for now.

The Division Bench will hear the matter next on December 26.

Earlier in the day, Justice Thakore allowed petitions filed by the owners of hotels and restaurants operating near the Somnath temple in Gir Somnath district and set aside the notification.

The Collector's order prohibits the sale of non-vegetarian food along designated pilgrimage routes.

The government immediately filed an appeal before the Bench headed by Chief Justice Pathak, which stayed the single judge's order late in the evening.


Somnath temple in Gujarat

The notification dated August 10, 2026 restricting the "preparation, storage and sale" of non-vegetarian food within a 500-metre radius of the Somnath temple along with six specifically identified roads connecting important religious destinations in the area that form part of the sacred Somnath pilgrimage circuit would continue, the Bench said.

Hotel and restaurant owners contended in the petition that the restrictions infringed their fundamental right to carry on lawful business and earn their livelihood.

AAP's first list of candidates for Punjab election today; Akalis roll out poll promises

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party will announce the first list of candidates for the upcoming Punjab Assembly election on Saturday, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said after a meeting to discuss preparations with party national convener Arvind Kejriwal and State in-charge Manish Sisodia.

Punjab AAP president Aman Arora and State Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema also attended the meeting through video conferencing

Mr. Mann said that a list of candidates was sent to the political affairs committee (PAC) after the meeting, and on Saturday, after a communication with the PAC, the list will be announced.

The elections are due in early 2027, with polling expected around February-March. The Election Commission is yet to announce the polling schedule.


CM Bhagwant Mann

Meanwhile, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Friday said if the party comes to power after the Assembly poll, his government would provide power to the industrial sector at ₹5 per unit, besides creating a new department by the name of 'Build Punjab' to provide time-bound clearances to builders.

Mr. Badal was speaking at an interaction with the trade and industry representatives in Patiala. He said industries have become unviable in Punjab due to high power rates of ₹10-12 per unit. "Besides bringing down these rates, we would allow industrialists to install their own solar power plants which would bring down their power rates to ₹1.50 per unit," he said.

'New department'

The former Chief Minister announced that like the 'Invest Punjab' established by the previous Akali Dal government to ensure time bound clearances for new investments, a 'Build Punjab' department would be also be established. "The department will be liable to issue all permissions to builders within one month," he said.

(With inputs from PTI)

HC asks Maharashtra govt. to pay ₹2 lakh to activist for illegal arrest

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has held the arrest of activist Arun Ferreira in September 2011 on charges of being a member of a Naxal group as illegal and ordered the Maharashtra government to pay him ₹2 lakh as compensation.

Mr. Ferreira is also an accused in the 2018 Bhima Koregaon case. He is presently out on bail in the case.

In its October 27 judgment, the Nagpur Bench of Justices Urmila Joshi-Phalke and Raj Wakode came down heavily on the police for branding Mr. Ferreira as absconding in the case even though he was in jail since 2007.

The court said his arrest in 2011, just as he walked out of the Nagpur prison after being acquitted in all pending cases against him at the time, violated constitutional safeguards.


Arun Ferreira

The High Court, in its order, said the police violated Mr. Ferreira's fundamental rights under Articles 21 (right to liberty) and 22 (protection against arrest and detention) of the Constitution.

When the police, whose primary responsibility is to protect the law, violate it, then punishment for such violation has to be proportionately stringent so as to have deterrent effect and instil confidence in society, the court said.

U.P. CM prioritised his home turf over 2 Varanasi seats in MLC elections, says Akhilesh

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday accused Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of securing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s victory in the Gorakhpur-Faizabad division Teachers' Constituency at the cost of the two Legislative Council seats in the Varanasi region. "Let Kashi drown, but our Gorakhpur business must not stop," the senior Opposition leader remarked.

Mr. Adityanath has been a five-term MP from Gorakhpur and currently represents the Gorakhpur (Urban) constituency in the Assembly. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is currently in his third term as the Lok Sabha member from Varanasi.

As per the final tally, declared on Thursday afternoon, of the 11 U.P. Legislative Council seats that went to the polls on October 23, the BJP won six while the SP emerged victorious in five, including two seats in Varanasi. The SP raised its tally from the previous MLC polls by two.


SP chief Akhilesh Yadav addressing a press conference in Lucknow on Friday. PTI

'Money vs people'

Addressing a media briefing at the party headquarters after meeting the party candidates, including the five winners, the SP chief said Mr. Adityanath was busy "prioritising and protecting his home turf" over his party's prospects elsewhere. Citing the geographical spread of 11 constituencies, the former CM said the BJP had lost in 50 districts and cities.

"Legislative Council election results are just the beginning. BJP's performance has turned out to be a flop show despite the way they misused power to win the elections. It has sent a message to the public. The BJP bagged six seats through deceit while the Samajwadi Party won on a public mandate. The BJP has financial muscle while we are competing against it through the power of the masses," he said.

Claiming that women had voted against ruling party candidates in large numbers, Mr. Yadav said that the election results will strengthen democracy.

New research in Rajasthan connects tribal astronomy with Indian knowledge system

Mohammed Iqbal
JODHPUR

Comets, considered to be heavenly mops, clean up the rubbish, while meteors are the souls of ancestors who move across the worlds and show the Milky Way, which turns into a "river of the universe" and reflects the landscapes on earth. These are some of the symbolic values attached to celestial bodies by tribal communities.

An innovative exploration into the field of tribal astronomy here has connected it with the Indian knowledge system while examining how tribal communities understand the sky, stars, seasons, and natural cycles. The study has been combined with observation of indigenous agricultural practices and rituals in western Rajasthan.

A team of researchers in the School of Liberal Arts at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur has sought to study the knowledge of astronomy among tribals not merely as cultural heritage but as a potential resource for addressing contemporary challenges in environmental conservation, climate change, and rural livelihoods.

The researchers have for the first time given systematic shape to tribal astronomy and developed a glossary of astronomical knowledge used by tribal communities in a bid to connect their concepts of celestial objects and cosmic phenomena with contemporary research perspective. Development sociologist Bhaskar Kumar Kakati, working as an assistant professor in the School of Liberal Arts, told *The Hindu* that the team adopted an interdisciplinary approach for a structured survey of sources and material from the Indian knowledge system and the tribal cosmologies and calendrical practices. "This comparative framework helped us find continuity and divergence in the larger astronomical traditions," he said.





Researchers from the School of Liberal Arts at IIT Jodhpur interacting with tribal women at Nandiya Kalan village; a wall (right) at 'Nakashtra Vatika' in the village giving details of plants with star constellations and zodiac signs. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The tribal communities covered during the exploration included Bhil, Meena, Banjara, Gond, Kolam and Korku. The methods of knowledge preservation in the tribal systems were found to have similarities with the observation bases of Sanskrit traditions formulated through abstraction, geometry and mathematical formalisation.

"Even though the tribal astronomical information is not expressed in formal mathematical notation, it is based on the cautious observation and environmental precision," Mr. Kakati said. The researchers found that the tribals had devised profound ways of integrating their cosmic knowledge with the local terrain and vegetation.

Time reckoning

The knowledge comprises elements such as time reckoning using the moon, predicting seasons based on observing the stars, responding to eclipses through rituals, and planting and harvesting based on the cycles of the skies.

The study, with the emphasis on celestial cartographies documenting tribal astronomy in the context of ancient text, has been submitted to the Union Education Ministry's Indian Knowledge Systems Division. Mr. Kakati said the research, in which 28 students were involved, incorporated celestial phenomena into agriculture and pastoral life for the first time.

Based on the findings, IIT-Jodhpur researchers have worked with the residents of Nandiya Kalan village, situated 60 km from the city, for developing a 'Nakshatra Vatika' on a tract of degraded community land. About 1,000 trees have been planted in the nursery with the community participation.

Team members Navjot Singh Rathore and Prakash Daiya said the initiative had laid emphasis on conservation of medicinal plants and biodiversity for revival of the fragile ecosystem. "Nakshatra Vatika categorises plants such as jamun, gular, peepal, khejri, jasmine and banyan with the star constellations and zodiac signs," Mr. Rathore said. According to the researchers, the first-ever documentation of tribal astronomy would help preserve oral histories, ritual practices, symbolic interpretations and ecological beliefs before their erosion by socio-cultural changes.

Mr. Kakati said the exploration would also facilitate cross-cultural comparison between tribal observation systems and the classical Sanskrit computational astronomy.

'Solutions for future'

By bringing knowledge from the tribal communities residing in remote villages into a dialogue with scientific research and technology, the researchers at IIT-Jodhpur have sought to explore environmentally sustainable and socially relevant solutions. "Tribals and villagers can be partners in developing solutions for the future, rather than remaining just as beneficiaries," Mr. Kakati said.

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CJP co-convener Saurav Das

Plea seeks probe into CJP leader's nationality

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday ordered notice to the Centre on a public interest litigation (PIL) petition, which sought a direction to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to probe the nationality of Saurav Das, co-convener of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP).

The First Division Bench of Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arul Murugan also ordered notice to Mr. Das on the PIL petition filed by R. Ganesh Kumar, a businessman from Chennai.

In an affidavit filed through his counsel B. Jagannath, the PIL petitioner alleged that "the actual name of Mr. Das was Yogesh Sharma" and that he has "roots in Nepal". The litigant accused the CJP leader of having concealed those details to "fraudulently" obtain an Aadhaar card, passport, and voter ID in India. He claimed that the material facts had been deliberately suppressed.

Deliberate manipulation in Kerala PSC exam, say police

The State Crime Branch alleged that the irregularities in the KPSC exam were carried out with the knowledge of officials, including a former KPSC Deputy Secretary and an Additional Secretary

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A remand report filed by the Kerala Police Crime Branch has alleged deliberate manipulation in the Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC) examination conducted for the State Planning Board.

Such allegations have been detailed in the remand report of P. Satheesh, a former Deputy Secretary of the KPSC, who was arrested in connection with the case.

According to the report, the irregularities were purportedly carried out with the knowledge of officials, including Mr. Satheesh and another officer, R. Hari, an Additional Secretary, who is absconding.



The SIT has issued notice to KPSC secretary to appear for questioning, plans to question 10 more members. FILE PHOTO

The police allege that 10 questions were intentionally excluded from the evaluation and that the online evaluation camp was closed without restoring those questions. The investigators suspect that the questions were deliberately withheld because their evaluation could have changed the ranking of candidates and prevented certain favoured persons from securing appointments.

Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has issued notice to KPSC Secretary Saju George to appear for questioning on Saturday. The Controller of Examinations will also be summoned to seek clarification on the alleged involvement of KPSC Chairperson M.R. Baiju and the accused officials in the case.

Notices will be issued to 10 KPSC members directing them to appear for questioning. The investigation team has sought to clarify alleged inconsistencies in the statements given by Mr. Baiju during questioning a few days ago.

He reportedly maintained that the commission had not committed any errors in the Planning Board examination and that the irregularities resulted from technical errors committed by officials.

Police conduct searches at Bengaluru central prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Police on Friday conducted searches at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru following several complaints.

The search, led by M. Narayana, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronics City Division, continued for several hours with nearly 150 police personnel deployed to search all barracks in the prison.

The Electronics City Police said no banned items were found in the barracks of the undertrial prisoners or convicts. The search comes in the wake of multiple First Information Reports (FIR) registered by the prison officials over the last two months after several banned items were found inside the prison.

HC seeks report on Pakistan-born son of Indian deported after Pahalgam attack

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Friday sought the status of the case of Aasim Sajjad aka Fardin Sajjad, who was deported to Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack, and later the court directed his "retrieval" to join the parents.

Justice Rahul Bharati directed Senior Additional Advocate General (AAG) Monika Kohli "to apprise this court about the latest inputs available".

Next hearing on Nov. 2

Referring to the judgment passed on March 25 this year, the court said, "It [judgment] was meant to procure Mr. Sajjad, who has been shifted to Pakistan but has been directed to be retrieved to join the parental company."

The court directed the AAG to "apprise the court" on the next date of hearing on November 2.

Earlier this year, the court had instructed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to retrieve the Pakistan-born son of an Indian, who was deported after the Pahalgam attack from J&K to Pakistan.

According to the father, Sajjad Ahmed, 43, his 18-year-old son was issued a 'Leave India Notice' in April 2025, even as he was "pursuing his application for extension of long-term visa". The court had directed the MHA to consider and grant citizenship against the application filed by him under Section 5 (1) (d) of Citizenship Act, 1955.

"Being an Indian citizen, this court is of the considered opinion that having regard to the sacrosanct human values and rights, the court must step in to pass certain directions," the court held then.

Mr. Ahmed, a resident of Rajouri's Budhal, had gone to Pakistan on a valid passport in 2005 to meet his relatives. During his stay, Ahmed married Shabnum Kouser, a resident of Pakistan's Gujranwala, who delivered a baby in 2006 there. The Indian father returned to India in 2007 and would apply for extension of visa on yearly basis on marriage grounds. In 2013, the wife of Ahmed died "due to a fatal illness". The minor son was granted the extension of visa till 2015.

According to the family's plea, the father moved several applications through proper channels before the competent authority for seeking declaration of his son as a citizen of India, "but neither the son had been declared as citizen of India nor visa extended in his favour". The father alleged his son was "taken forcibly in a police van and deported to Pakistan via Wagah border".

Scores of Pakistan-born citizens, married to citizens of J&K, were deported from the Union Territory after the Pahalgam attack, which left 26 civilians dead.

SC declines plea to extend Keralam SIR deadline

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday found it unnecessary to formally extend the deadline for the re-verification of the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Keralam, saying the exercise of correcting electoral records and inclusion of voters is a "continuing process".

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, however, permitted petitioners to submit details of individuals who were unable to file enumeration forms within the prescribed deadline.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has agreed to examine such representations and submit a report to the court.

During the hearing, advocate G. Prakash, appearing for CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan, submitted that several people had been unable to complete the enumeration process due to shortage of time. The counsel urged the Bench to direct the ECI to extend the deadline.

The ECI was directed to examine requests regarding left-out voters and submit a report to the court

"The SIR may be extended. The verification time may be extended, it is scheduled to end today. There were over 24 lakh names excluded in the SIR process," Mr. Prakash submitted.

Responding to the submission, the CJI said the petitioners could identify individuals who had been left out and bring their cases to the ECI's notice.

"There is no need to extend time because it is a continuous process... Find out wherever you feel there are persons who should still be given a chance or opportunity. Bring it to their [ECI] notice by way of representation. We will tell them to examine it, and we will keep it pending," the CJI said.

Representing the ECI, senior advocate D.S. Naidu initially termed the petitions infructuous as elections in Keralam were over. But the Bench allowed the petitioners an opportunity to furnish details of persons who could not return their enumeration forms in time.

The ECI was directed to consider their representations and place a report before the court.

Naidu announces relief for families hit by cyclone

T. Appala Naidu
MOGALTHURU

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said the government was working to restore essential services and provide assistance to people who suffered losses due to Cyclone Arnab. He said a preliminary report has been submitted to the Centre stating that the cyclone has inflicted damage worth ₹4,600 crore to the State.

Mr. Naidu announced ₹5 lakh ex gratia to the families of those who died during the cyclone and ₹25,000 input subsidy per hectare for damaged crops. This is apart from the crop insurance entitlement. He announced ₹18,000 per hectare of aquaculture ponds, ₹10,000 per damaged house and ₹25,000 for handloom equipment.

The Coconut Board will be roped in to revive damaged coconut trees, he said. In West Godavari district alone, 12,500 trees, mostly coconut trees, collapsed. "Compensation ranging from ₹9,000 to ₹25,000 will be given for damaged boats based on the loss of nets," Mr. Naidu said.

Speaking to reporters after inspecting areas hit by Cyclone Arnab in West Godavari district, he said that power restoration work for domestic connections will be completed by Sunday.

(With inputs from PTI)

Earthen glow


Gearing up: A potter making earthen lamps at Pottery Town in Bengaluru, Karnataka, ahead of Deepavali. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

Three arrested for selling 83 accounts to cyberfraudsters

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Three persons, a 24-year-old man among them, were arrested by the Telangana Police for procuring mule bank accounts and selling them to cyberfraudsters for ₹20,000 to ₹25,000 each. The police allegedly identified 83 such accounts opened through their network across Hyderabad.


Police said the 83 accounts saw transactions worth ₹10 crore.

The accused were residents of Hussaini Alam area in Hyderabad. Two alleged associates in Rajasthan, are yet to be apprehended. The gang procured bank accounts with the help of local persons and handed over the account kits to Vijay and Babu Lal through courier.

Investigators found that 11 of the 83 accounts were used for 14 cyberfraud transactions across the country. The 83 accounts received about ₹10.05 crore through such transactions, the police said.

Hyderabad man held for altering Aadhaar, PAN cards

A 36-year-old was arrested for altering Aadhaar and PAN cards by changing photographs, dates of birth, names, addresses and other details in Pahadishareef, Hyderabad. The accused, Ch. Mahadev, ran a photocopy centre. He installed online software to make unauthorised changes to identity documents and carried out the activity.

Women cannot be barred from toddy shop jobs, says Kerala HC

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has struck down a provision of the Kerala Abkari rules which prohibited employing women in toddy shops.

The court recently held that the provision violated the constitutional rights to life and equality, to carry on any trade, and the right against discrimination.

Justice P. Gopinath reiterated a Supreme Court observation that although the State was obligated to ensure that women were protected from harassment and must have a safe environment at work, this responsibility could not be achieved by prohibiting women from working in whatever industry they chose.

Sophy, a Thrissur native, had approached the High Court aggrieved by the denial of employment solely on account of a provision in the Kerala Abkari Shops Disposal Rules, 2002, prohibiting employment of women in any capacity in a toddy shop.

State's contention

She argued that initially, the Rules prohibited the employment in foreign liquor shops as well, and that the High Court had struck down the portion relating to such shops. A similar rule in the Foreign Liquor Rules, 1953 had also been struck down by the High Court, she stated.

The State contended that the rule was intended to protect women from being exploited in workplaces. It pointed out that toddy shops were often situated in very remote places and that the rule intended to ensure their safety and well-being. The State cited a Supreme Court order stating that men and women could not be treated as equals in all occupations, since the requirement of a particular employment, the sensitivities of either sex, the peculiarities of different social sectors and the handicaps of either sex may warrant differential treatment.

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अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना
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Government of Odisha
Higher Education Department
ON BOARDING OF GREEN PASSAGE SCHEME IN THE ODISHA STATE SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL (OSSP):
INVITATION FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS
The Green Passage Scheme has been onboarded in the Odisha State Scholarship Portal (scholarship.odisha.gov.in). Eligible students are requested to apply online only, as per the timeline below:

Level	Timeline
Student level	02.11.2026 to 23.11.2026
Institute level	05.11.2026 to 30.11.2026
DCPO level	10.12.2026 to 14.12.2026

The detailed guidelines of the Green Passage Scheme may be seen at - https://dhe.odisha.gov.in/en/schemes-&-scholarship/green-passage-scheme/resolutions/guideline/resolution.
Sd/-
Joint Secretary to Government
Higher Education Department
11001/392/2627
OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0080

Beyond gullibility

Bank measures can only limit damage from 'digital arrest' scams

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's exasperation, during the Supreme Court's hearing on October 29 on the "digital arrest" scams, that people still fall for such scams despite abundant warnings and orders from the Court is understandable. About ₹800 crore has been lost to these scams this year even after recoveries, a hefty sum from the savings of individual victims. But this is not merely about gullibility. Scammers posing as CBI or police officers succeed because their victims, older citizens in particular, defer to or fear law enforcement. When Indian police are widely seen as high-handed towards ordinary citizens and as serving only the powerful, the threat of an "arrest" over a video call cannot be that implausible for many. That said, the Court's pressing of the Reserve Bank of India to finalise its KYC Amendment Directions, 2026, which require banks to flag suspected mule accounts and put temporary debit holds on them, is welcome. CBI investigations have shown that mule accounts are central to scammers laundering their proceeds after duping victims and that bank staff have, in some cases, helped open them. With the availability of complete transaction histories and AI tools, banks can now spot anomalous transactions faster. The Attorney-General's assurance that the directions will be in force by December 31 is also welcome. The Court's insistence that banks compensate victims addresses an issue with the RBI's zero-liability provisions. Its 2017 circular covers only unauthorised transactions, leaving victims who were coerced into making transfers without any recourse.

Yet, full compensation for the victims whenever banks are found wanting in due diligence must be implemented with care as this might force banks to flag far more than the actual mule accounts. Already the RBI directions cast a wide net. Any transaction of ₹1,000 or more that is 'unusual' for an account holder's declared profile, or linked to a reported account, can be held for up to 60 days, and longer if directed by the police. In cases where small traders and Jan Dhan account holders have unknowingly received transfers from mule accounts, freezing their accounts for two months or more is a disproportionate penalty. Also, the Court's suggestion that unusual transactions must be automatically reported to the police and physically verified raises privacy concerns. These measures must ensure that genuine account holders are not penalised for bank failures. Many of these scams are run from compounds using trafficked Indians in conflict-ridden parts of Myanmar and in Cambodia and Laos where they have thrived due to some degree of official patronage. India must use its clout to pressure these regimes.

Suboptimal outcomes

Social security concerns of unorganised sector workers remain

One year after the implementation of the Code on Social Security, the Union Labour Ministry has constituted the National Social Security Boards for Unorganised Workers and Gig and Platform Workers. The constitution of the boards, though delayed, is a welcome step. However, the highly centralised nature of this mechanism may hinder its optimal outcomes. By design, the Union Government controls both the Boards: they will be chaired by Union Minister for Labour Mansukh Mandaviya. The Board for Unorganised Sector Workers will have 40 members, nominated by the Union Government. They include seven members representing unorganised sector workers and seven members representing employers of the unorganised sector. Similarly, the Board for the welfare of gig and platform workers will have 22 members with five representatives each from the aggregators and the workers. But they have no significant representation of Central Trade Unions from the Opposition side or from the State Governments ruled by the Opposition. Labour is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and both the States and the Union must work together to improve the living standards of workers.

The International Labour Organization defines social security as the 'protection that a society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health care and to guarantee income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner'. The Union Government claims that the country's social security coverage has increased from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025, which is around 94 crore citizens. However, it is apparent that the unorganised and gig and platform workers, who make up more than 92% of the country's total workforce, are far from enjoying any social security under this definition. Almost two decades ago, the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, headed by economist Arjun Sengupta, recommended a slew of measures to improve the social security of workers in the informal sector. The issues raised by the panel still remain unaddressed. A report prepared by Justice V. Gopala Gowda for the Keralam Government in March this year flagged certain anti-federal and anti-worker characteristics in the Social Security Code and suggested amendments. The Union Government should take the trade unions and the State Governments on board while creating new systems and mechanisms to address the social security concerns of the vast majority of workers.

Can India and China coexist peacefully?



M.K. Narayanan

Former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The state of relations between China and India today can best be described as managed coexistence. The moot question is whether they can, or cannot, exist peacefully in the coming decades. This issue arises because every 'patrolling deviation' is regarded as a 'face-off', endangering peace and tranquillity and in the process, Sino-Indian relations. Consequently, though not at war, even managed coexistence is proving problematic. No obvious reasons exist for the two ancient civilisations to be in conflict, notwithstanding certain border disagreements.

The 1962 Sino-Indian conflict, it might be argued, was an outcome of Mao's 'hubris' in the wake of his disastrous 'Great Leap Forward', though historians also adduce several other reasons for it. Ever since the conflict, the border in the Ladakh region has remained a serious bone of contention between the two countries. For India, Mao's perfidy after years of '*Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai*' meant that China could not be trusted, and the loss of territory in both Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh became a permanent sore. However, it still does not wholly explain why feelings remain so embittered to this day.

Commentators today are prone to highlight the impact of the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Chinese and Indian patrols (which resulted in the loss of 20 Indian soldiers) for the continuing tensions between the two countries. But the distance that exists between the two civilisations cannot be quite explained by this singular event. The time has, perhaps, come to demystify the reasons for this so that India and China can take their appointed place in the comity of nations.

An ancient divide?

Ladakh's improperly delineated terrain is often brought up as one major reason that is preventing a solution between the two nations. Similar reasons are attributed by so-called experts to explain tensions in the Arunachal Pradesh sector, where the true villain, perhaps, is as much the McMahon Line, as are the Chinese, for leaving behind an improperly demarcated border.

Recent history is replete with the many steps taken by the two countries during periods of thaw. However, nothing quite approximates to the one initiated by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who, in 1988, took the initiative to visit China and meet up with leaders such as Deng Xiaoping, achieving a new watershed in relations between India and China. This has, unfortunately, been subsequently frittered away by leaders on both sides, but remains a beacon of light to this day, on how to offset tensions and improve state-to-state relations. The spin-off from the discussions enabled the border question to be discussed separately, often sidestepping bureaucratic hurdles and so-called military confidence building measures.

> While India and China need to sort out many issues, it would be a mistake for India to look upon China as a threat to its very existence

Ever since there have been many 'way stations' in the conflict between the two countries. Many of the current initiatives are, however, beginning to look like a 'zero sum game'. No doubt, extraneous aspects such as the U.S.-sponsored QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) initiative have also contributed to the perseverance of the stalemate. Moreover, Chinese strategists, who often tend to be obtuse in their thinking, believe that India's involvement in U.S. plans are a ploy to contain China. As a result, they see no reason to take steps to improve relations with India.

The moot question, though, is whether India has reasons to fear China. Notwithstanding the much touted remarks of Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, "that the old rules-based order is dead and that new coalitions of the willing need to be constituted to protect the interests of many countries", it would be egregious to think that this applies to India-China relations. While India and China need to sort out many issues, it would be a mistake for India to look upon China as a threat to its very existence, even though China might well visualise India, in course of time, as a challenge to its pre-eminence in certain fields. Instead of pursuing a negative trajectory, it would seem the phrase recently popularised following discussions between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump that 'building a constructive relationship of strategic stability' applies as much to Sino-Indian relations as to Sino-U.S. relations. Nevertheless, India would do well to contend with the reality – as the *Economist* mentioned – that "even as China produces more research about India, it seems to understand it less".

Another aspect is, how well does India – or for that matter the rest of the world – understand the true extent of China's military strength, and its ability to win wars of the present and those of the future. India is by no means an ally of China, but it is far-fetched to believe that India is its real opponent, one with whom a conflict is inevitable or imminent. Any conflict with India would set China back several years, and derail its 2049 target of becoming *numero uno* in the world. India, for its part, also has no inclination to embark on a conflict with China. This, therefore, should clearly rule out direct conflict as a means to settle disputes between them. Messages would, however, have to go out to the military and border guards of both countries to ensure that instances such as the one that took place in the Galwan Valley in 2020 do not recur. In any event, neither country enjoys an edge in the disputed areas in the high Himalayas, and avoidance of inadvertent action is, hence, essential.

Understanding China is essential

It is also essential to dispel the myth of China's military edge which is often flagged by political entities and military experts. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), more so the latter, have made major advances to fight future wars, but are not yet world-class. The very fact that China has refrained from embarking on a war to reclaim Taiwan also indicates the degree of realism that pervades the Chinese military. China's accretion of long range missiles and submarines, and related surveillance systems, as also its impressive amphibious ability notwithstanding, India is more than a match for China's capabilities in the high Himalayas. It is a myth perpetuated by interest groups that the threat posed by China to India is a grave one.

One does need to read China right, and avoid anything that might bring forth a response that India had not intended. It is important, hence, to better understand China's intentions. It would also be a gross mistake to regard China as ready to test India's strength to degrade its position in the world. China knows when to bend, as was seen when under President Hu Jintao in 2005, China signed an Agreement with India to foster a long-term constructive and cooperative partnership. Article I of this Agreement stated that neither side shall use or threaten to use force against the other, and Article VII observed that in reaching a boundary settlement, the two sides shall "safeguard the due interests of their settled populations in the border areas".

It needs to be kept in mind that China's national identity is not as cohesive as one is led to think. Understanding the frailties of the 'Qing Dynasty' and the elasticity of the Dynasty's boundaries are a key primer for all nations that have to deal with China; all the more so for India. Misreading China would cost India dearly, for there is nothing in the history of the two that suggests that they have to be permanently at war. India can, today, coexist peacefully with China, and China with India.

How AI is transforming U.S. military industrial complex



Shashank Ranjan

Indian Army veteran (Colonel), currently teaching at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana

The core of the U.S. Military Industrial Complex (MIC) is shifting from traditional hardware manufacturers to algorithm and AI companies which will lead to an obvious fallout across the global defence industrial base. Three interlocking attributes to this shift are the inversion of war economics, the restructuring of procurement and capital logic, and the "software-defined" transformation of the military technology stack. This shift was formally sanctified on September 29, 2026, when U.S. President Donald Trump convened the CEOs of the world's most powerful AI companies to sign the White House Accord on Super Intelligence – a voluntary framework that symbolically integrated AI firms into the national security architecture.

The military implications of this Accord are unmissable. Moreover, substantive developments had already occurred months earlier in the military domain. In May 2026, the U.S. Department of War announced agreements with eight AI companies – SpaceX, OpenAI, Google, Nvidia, Reflection, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, and Oracle – to deploy their capabilities on classified networks at impact levels 6 and 7; the highest classification tiers for sensitive military operations.

Drivers of the shift

The traditional MIC has operated on a 'few but exquisite' logic', which is that multi-billion dollar platforms will ensure deterrence from other parties as they would be technologically overpowered. This logic has, however, been exposed as economically unsustainable and fragile. In recent conflicts, the U.S. and allied defences were compelled to expend expensive interceptors against cheap drones.

The Pentagon's response has been a dramatic funding shift. The Defence Autonomous Warfare Group (DAWG), which absorbed the stalled Biden-era Replicator Initiative (rapidly fielding thousands of low-cost, uncrewed autonomous systems across multiple domains) saw its budget projections jump from $225.9 million in FY26 to $54.6 billion in the upcoming FY27.

> The core of the MIC has shifted from the factory to the server due to the arithmetic of cost-imposition, the venture-velocity logic of capital, and the architectural revolution of software-defined warfare

If war economics created demand, capital markets provided the supply-side solution. The traditional MIC relied on "cost-plus" contracts, incentivising risk aversion and prolonged timelines. The new players or the neo-primes, which are software companies such as Palantir, SpaceX, Anduril etc., employ fixed-price contracts, absorbing upfront costs and trading on-time delivery for higher margins. The combined enterprise value of the neo-primes exceeds the value of the 'Big Three' companies (Lockheed Martin, RTX, and Northrop Grumman) by three times, despite revenues nearly eight times smaller.

The explanation lies in procurement reform. In March 2026, the Army awarded Anduril a 10-year, $20 billion enterprise contract that consolidated more than 120 separate procurement actions into one acquisition component. The U.S. Army has signed 14 such enterprise contracts in eight months, replacing 118 individual contracts – an 88% reduction in contract volume. Programs that took seven years to award now move in months. Palantir's Maven Smart System was formally designated an 'official program' with locked in long-term funding, which was the first time a Silicon Valley company has been directly embedded into the defence budgetary skeleton.

The May 2026 agreements by Pentagon with AI companies laid out the functional layers of the algorithmic military stack. The algorithm and the layered-model constitute the brain which include OpenAI (multilingual intelligence analysis), Google (satellite imagery target recognition), and Reflection AI (autonomous combat agents). The compute layer is provided by Nvidia's military-grade GPU clusters. The cloud services layer is built by Microsoft, Amazon, and Oracle. The communications layer is by SpaceX's Starlink and Starshield while Palantir and Anduril serve as strategic hubs and frontline execution terminals (edge AI, drone swarms, counter-drone systems). The core thesis of "software-defined warfare" is that codes and not platforms have become the decisive differentiator. A warship's systems can become smarter overnight through a single download, and drones can switch from reconnaissance to electronic attack by loading a different software.

Traditional contractors however, have not disappeared. Lockheed, RTX, and Northrop still receive the vast majority of defence budget dollars and spend far more on lobbying. However, the symbolic indicators have reversed: capital market valuations now reflect investors' judgment about the future shape of the MIC.

Concern about vulnerabilities

In breaking with traditional contractors, the Pentagon may create new dependencies – Palantir's battlefield systems and SpaceX's launch capabilities could become the new single points of failure. More fundamentally, the speed of commercial AI iteration creates a verification gap. As AI companies deploy at commercial velocity, the Pentagon's test and evaluation system, designed around static hardware, may not be enough. Certain programmes are still difficult to be validated. The vulnerability can be serious in the eventuality of unvalidated software-defined weapons failing due to a cyberattack.

The core of the MIC has shifted from the factory to the server due to the arithmetic of cost-imposition, the venture-velocity logic of capital, and the architectural revolution of software-defined warfare. Victory in future wars may now depend on algorithms, data, and code.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Banks not liable

This is with reference to the article titled 'SC seeks compensation for digital arrest scam victims' (October 30). Time and again, the RBI and the State and Central governments have been continuously debunking 'digital arrests' which is non-existent in the legal system. The scammers who carry out these heists generally concentrate on trapping senior citizens who can be expected to panic on receiving calls from those masquerading as police inspectors or even the CBI. Banks or other institutions can hardly be saddled with the responsibility of compensating those who have been cheated as online payments are directly paid by the victims and the banks have no role in effecting these payments

C.V. Aravind
Bengaluru

Right step

The proposal by the Supreme Court to make banks liable to compensate victims of digital arrest, as financial institutions failed to exercise due diligence to prevent fraudulent transactions, is a step in the right direction. This cyber fraud is among the biggest financial frauds affecting the Indian economy involving thousands of crores of rupees. The Supreme Court needs to be lauded for taking *suo motu* cognisance of the matter and seeking compensation for the victims.

Thomas Palocaren
Vellore

Privacy no excuse

I refer to the Editorial titled "Open to probe" published on October 30. The weaponisation of privacy to thwart transparency by a state that has no qualms about surveilling is ironic. Far too often, powerful interests have dragged media houses or individual journalists to court in frivolous cases that fall apart eventually, but drain the time and the resources of the defendants. It is not difficult to see how politicians and big business houses could similarly abuse the DPDP (Digital Personal Data Protection) Act to target or threaten journalists and their organisations over investigative reporting. Journalism in India and around the world is already under deep economic and structural pressures.

S.S.Paul
West Bengal

Gross oversight

By clearly pointing out fault lines in the process of conducting the SIR of electoral rolls, the Supreme Court has taken the bull by its horns and lambasted the Election Commission for its gross lack of oversight and concern for the plight of the voters deprived of their voting rights for no fault of theirs (referring to Editorial titled 'Deemed ineligible' on October 30). This should assuage the grievance of the Opposition against the ECI and its CEC Gyanesh Kumar in particular.

Ravi Mathur
Noida

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

GROUND ZERO



Seventeen remand prisoners fled from Theni district jail and were apprehended in 42 hours. KARTHIKEYAN G.

The great escape from Theni jail

On October 26, a group of 17 remand prisoners hatched a plan to escape from the Theni district jail under the cover of darkness. All of them were apprehended within 42 hours in a massive search operation involving various Tamil Nadu police teams and drones. But the jailbreak has raised larger questions about prison overcrowding, staff shortages, security, and the need for reform, reports **L. Srikrishna**

On the afternoon of October 26, Prasanth alias Linga Prasanth, a 25-year-old differently abled remand prisoner in the Theni district jail of Tamil Nadu, was frustrated. Though he had obtained bail, he had not been able to get a surety bond.

To comfort him, his friends began plotting an escape. Investigators said Silambarasan, another remand prisoner, suggested feigning an epileptic seizure as part of the plan. After hours of discussion, all the 17 inmates of Prasanth's cell agreed to stage the drama. At around 10.30 p.m., a few of them raised the alarm, claiming that one of them was having an epileptic seizure.

This immediately alerted the jail personnel. When the jail warden, Madan Mohan, stepped into the crowded cell, the 17 inmates overpowered and assaulted him. Severely injured, Mohan could do little to stop them from escaping.

The 17 inmates were all remand prisoners – that is, held in custody by a court order while waiting for their trial, court appearance, or sentencing. Most of them were accused of offences such as theft, possession of ganja, and property-related crimes. Most of them were between the ages of 20 and 25. They hailed from different districts of Tamil Nadu, including Theni, Madurai, Salem, Kanniyakumari, and Dindigul.



Fleeing the cell, they reached the main gate of the district jail. A constable, Thangapandi, saw them running out. Investigators said that he had sensed that he would be in trouble if he fought them, as the prisoners had picked up some objects from the kitchen to attack anyone along the way. Thangapandi simply handed over the keys of the main gate to them. Unlocking the gates, the group fled under the cover of darkness, perhaps unaware that they were part of Tamil Nadu's largest jailbreak in decades.

The hunt

The moment Theni Superintendent of Police Pradeep Gowtham was informed about the jail break, he alerted his senior officers, he said. The officers formed teams. Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, and Special Sub-Inspectors were assigned various tasks, including alerting village heads in the surrounding areas.

Inspector General of Police (South Zone) Vijayendra Bidari said the police launched systematic combing operations, given the heavily forested and mountainous terrain surrounding the jail. They did not know which direction the escapees had gone, so they decided to seal the border districts between Thekkampatti, where the jail is located in Theni district, and Varusanadu, a hillock adjacent to the jail.

"We alerted the Keralam police, and their check posts too came under intensified surveillance," Bidari said. For additional boots on ground, they also roped in a team from neighbouring Dindigul district, which was led by its SP S. Jeyakumar, Bidari adds.

> The drone footage helped us scan large swathes of the forest and pinpoint the escapees' locations
>
> **VIJAYENDRA BIDARI**
> Inspector General of Police (South Zone)

The police shared the photos and details of all the escaped prisoners with one another over WhatsApp and also made them public. They covered all the railway tracks and stations and also placed airports on alert. They began conducting checks in Madurai airport – the closest and the largest major airport located near Theni – from the early hours of October 27.

A few young SIs and policemen, chosen for their communication skills and familiarity with the terrain, were deployed in the forest. As part of the combing operation, the police also placed the houses of some escapees who had friends in Theni district under surveillance.

On October 27, convinced that the escapees were hiding in the forest, the police decided to deploy three high-definition drones to track them down. Five Special Task Force teams, trained in jungle combing operations, were pressed into service. Four teams from the Tamil Nadu Special Police were positioned at vantage locations. "The drone footage helped us scan large swathes of the forest and pinpoint the escapees' locations," said Bidari.

Their efforts and strategy soon paid off. The breakthrough came when eight of the escapees were spotted and apprehended before sunset. When 13 of the 17 escapees were apprehended by the end of the day, their confessions revealed that all but three of them had taken refuge in the forest and were planning to emerge during the day, investigators say. The remaining four were apprehended the next day at two different locations. "The entire operation lasted 42 hours," Bidari said.

Beyond security

The district jail, situated on the foothills of a vast mountainous terrain along the Thekkampatti village in Andipatti block of Theni district, was inaugurated in 2019. It can house about 200 inmates. However, on the night of October 26, it had 334 inmates, according to the jail staff. The staff added that of the sanctioned strength of 33, there were only six of them on duty at the time of the incident.



The police searching for the 17 prisoners who escaped from the district jail. KARTHIKEYAN G.

Mohan, who was attacked by the prisoners and is undergoing treatment at the Theni Government Medical College and Hospital, said he rushed into the cell when he heard a cry for help at around 9.45 p.m. "My first thought was: no one should die in custody. But the situation turned out to be different," he said.

He recalled how the inmates covered his face with a bedsheet. "They locked me inside and escaped. They had assaulted me, so I had blood all over my clothes. Still, I blew the whistle to alert the guard at the main gate." The alarm was out of order and the lighting in the premises poor, which enabled the prisoners to flee easily, investigators said.

According to investigators, one of the escapees said that as the 17 inmates were fleeing, they spotted a police vehicle approaching the jail. Thinking that the police had come to catch them, they panicked. However, the vehicle was only bringing another accused to be lodged in the district jail.

The police in the vehicle also said they were stumped seeing inmates coming out of jail. Before they or the escapees could fully grasp what was happening, the prisoners had run away.

Silambarasan, who has a physical disability, allegedly told the police he could not get far from the prison. While fleeing, he stepped on thorny bushes and was unable to run any further. He remained there for several hours before being caught by the search team.

Bidari said the police were surprised when the drone pinpointed the location of eight escapees hiding deep inside the forest using GPS coordinates. The escapees, who police said were well hidden and beyond the police's reach, were shocked to see police personnel waiting outside their hideout, he said. "Technology made this possible," Bidari added.

During interrogation, many of the escapees told the police that they had not eaten anything for the last 35 hours or so. A senior officer in Uthamapalayam sub-division in Theni district said that except two escapees – Thirupathi and Meenakshi Sundaram, who were brothers – the rest did not even drink water.

Thirupathi and Sundaram had somehow managed to access a mobile phone and inform their family members about their escape. The police also alleged that a video, purportedly recorded by Thirupathi and Sundaram's mother, had gone viral on social media. In it, they said she had alleged that the police were planning to stage an encounter and kill her two sons. She appealed to the Tamil Nadu government to save them, adding that her daughter-in-law was due to deliver a baby the following month and that the family was in deep distress.

Need for prison reform

Speaking of the shortage of manpower in the Theni jail, a senior officer at the Tamil Nadu Prisons Department in Chennai said, "This is a problem not only in district jails, but also in Central prisons." He admitted that prisons were housing 80-100% more inmates than their sanctioned capacity, leading to severe overcrowding.

Dr. C. Ramasubramanian, a senior psychiatrist from Madurai, is associated with Magizhchi (meaning 'happiness'), a psycho-social support and mental well-being programme conducted for police personnel. He said the government's responsibility went beyond strengthening prison security and deploying adequate staff, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, jail wardens, and cooks. "A majority of the prisons act as punishment centres rather than correction centres. What motivated the 17 inmates to escape? That should be thoroughly examined. Whether the escape was driven by psychological factors or other reasons, it should serve as an eye-opener for the government and prison authorities, prompting them to examine the issue more closely," he said.

Though prisons had psychologists, the question was whether they were adequately trained to deal with offenders, he said. Dr. Ramasubramanian said the State government should introduce training programmes for prison officials along the lines of Magizhchi.

He said prison authorities should also maintain dossiers on inmates. Occasional offenders and habitual offenders should never be housed in the same cell, he said, warning that mixing the two could have dangerous consequences.

Prisoners should be monitored closely and continuously, both physically and psychologically, he said. "When a person walks out of prison, he should feel transformed and be able to reintegrate into society, rather than turn aggressive."

The Director-General of Police (Head of Police Force), Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, said, "With all 17 escapees swiftly apprehended, the next step is to strengthen prison infrastructure and increase staff strength. We will also enhance security systems."

Even though the combing operation ended on a successful note, the Tamil Nadu government shifted the Director General of Police (Prisons) Sandeep Rai Rathore and posted senior Indian Police Service officer K. Shankar in his place on October 29.

Former DGP S.R. Jangid said that it was good news that the police teams had apprehended all the 17 accused who had escaped. "The government should devise a plan in such a way that not only is security strengthened in prisons, but the number of security personnel too is enhanced," he said. "Jails should not be overcrowded. It may lead to other complications. There is plenty of technology available and the government should aid such sensitive departments to make use of it in larger public interest," Jangid added.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Vishnu Priya told the media on October 29 that all the 17 accused would be sent to different prisons in Tamil Nadu, including Salem, Palayamkottai, Cuddalore, and Madurai.

A political row

Reacting to the incident, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president and former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said that the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government's performance had been "exposed" through the incident.

"Following Breaking Bad, Prison Break has now begun in Tamil Nadu too!" he said in a post on X, asking how such a large number of inmates could escape despite improved security arrangements and surveillance systems. He said the escape of the 17 inmates evoked memories of one of the biggest jailbreaks in Tamil Nadu in 1995 (when 43 militants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam escaped from a special camp in the Vellore Fort after digging a 153-foot-long tunnel). Stalin also said the Theni incident came soon after the escape of two prisoners from Puzhal prison, raising questions over prison security.

The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), the other major Opposition party, also criticised the government. Its leader, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, said murders, attempted murders, and cases registered under the POCSO Act had become routine in the State. "This shows that the common person is not safe in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay did not issue a statement addressing the incident.

srikrishna.l@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

SC seeks ECI report on Form 7 misuse charge

Mr. Khurshid and Mr. Ahmed said the issue raised in the Barabanki MP's application needed to be taken up without any further delay as the process for State Assembly elections may commence as early as in December 2026 or early January next year.

Mr. Punia's plea detailed that "numerous" Form 7 applications were generated and submitted with incomplete or false particulars of the objector, invalid identifying details, forged signatures, and, in several instances, in the names of persons who had subsequently denied filing any such objections. It also alleged that booth-level officers (BLOs) received pre-filled Form 7 applications seeking deletion of multiple electors, including electors who had already been verified during the SIR process.

The Barabanki MP said these instances had raised "serious apprehensions regarding the integrity of the objection mechanism". He has sought initiation of penal action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and other applicable provisions of law, against persons found to have made false declarations, filed fraudulent objections, impersonated objectors, or otherwise misused the Form 7 mechanism to procure wrongful deletions from the electoral rolls.

Mr. Naidu's submissions in the Supreme Court echo an affidavit filed by the Election Commission in September, in which it referred to multiple reports received from electoral officials on the ground about attempts to submit Form 7 in bulk to BLOs. These included the instance in Hata Assembly constituency, when a person only identified as 'Yogendra' "involuntarily" left on the table of the BLO Form 7s to delete 32 voters. The man, 'Yogendra', remains untraceable.

Again, the EC affidavit said a report from the Electoral Registration Officer of Khalilabad narrated an attempt to submit F7s in bulk to the BLO. "However, owing to its bulk quantity, the forms were not accepted," the EC said. The poll body said the incident prompted it to "categorically direct" BLOs not to digitise any Form without proper checking, and not to accept Form 7s in bulk.

The affidavit said media reports led to an inquiry in Sakaldiha, where officials unearthed false Form 7s which were neither issued by the BLO concerned nor filed as per procedure.

Form 7s for deletion of voter names are obtained from the District Election Officers, Voter Registration Centres, BLOs or the voter service portal. An applicant has to submit Form 7, duly filled and signed, with EPIC and phone number, either personally to the BLO or online.

The affidavit said Form 7s were also found inside "envelopes at the residences of certain BLOs". "Upon due enquiry, the persons in whose names the Form 7s were purportedly filed, denied submitting them. They further stated that the Forms were false," the EC said.

ECI's pleas against cleared voters raise legal questions

According to Congress leader Prasenjit Bose, one of the petitioners in the West Bengal SIR case in the top court, these "officers of the office of the CEO" who have filed appeals against inclusion in the Appellate Tribunals cannot have any authority under the Act since the Tribunals were created by the Supreme Court in April 2026 and the Act says nothing about any tribunal.

On Thursday, the Congress, in a memorandum submitted to the CEO of West Bengal, demanded that the appeals against inclusion filed by the ECI be cancelled, as they violated the Act. It demanded an IT audit to disclose the date, time and process of filing these appeals.

The Appellate Tribunals were formed during the Supreme Court's supervision of the SIR. Judicial officers, drawn from a list the Calcutta High Court sent at the Supreme Court's direction, are adjudicating roughly 60 lakh "doubtful and pending" cases. On March 10, the apex court had directed that a separate appellate body be set up so that people could challenge those officers' decisions.

Out of the roughly 60 lakh "doubtful" cases, the 700 judicial officers cleared and restored 32,77,360 voters to the electoral rolls. The remaining 27.23 lakh were rejected, of which 22 lakh appealed to the tribunals.

6 dead in Uttarakhand chopper crash

Five pilgrims from Karnataka and a pilot from Delhi killed as helicopter from Badrinath crashes; Congress alleges government negligence and poor safety measures; govt. grounds entire chopper fleet operated by Trans Bharat Aviation; DGCA, AAIB officials to reach Dehradun as part of the probe

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A helicopter carrying six persons crashed near Joshimath in Uttarakhand on Friday, killing all occupants, including the pilot. Preliminary reports suggest that bad weather may have caused the accident. Five of the victims were pilgrims from Karnataka.

Chamoli District Magistrate Gaurav Kumar said the helicopter, operated by private firm Trans Bharat Aviation, was flying from Badrinath to the Sahastradhara helipad in Dehradun when it crashed around 1.45 p.m.

"The wreckage was located near an Army camp above Chai village. An Army team reached the spot and confirmed the fatalities," Mr. Kumar said.

Those killed were Captain Himanshu Sabharwal from Delhi, and five pilgrims - Prathapa Bachihalliy, V.B. Shankar Gowda, Sudhir K., S.S. Nataraja, and Arun Salunke.



Tragic loss: Wreckage of a private helicopter operated by Trans Bharat Aviation after it crashed into a hillside near Chai village in the Joshimath area of Chamoli district, Uttarakhand on Friday. PTI

Prateek Jain, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA), said the entire fleet of helicopters operated by Trans Bharat Aviation had been grounded as a precautionary measure. He added that the region had been experiencing snowfall and rain over the preceding few days, but helicopter operations were permitted only when weather conditions were favourable.

"Officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) are likely to reach Dehradun to assess the incident. A comprehensive probe will be undertaken to establish the circumstances that led to the accident. The findings will subsequently guide authorities in deciding whether shuttle and charter services can resume or continue operations for the rest of the season," he said.

CM orders probe

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in the accident. Mr. Dhami has also directed the officials concerned to conduct a detailed investigation. He also instructed the district administration to provide every possible assistance to the affected families.

Uttarakhand Congress senior vice-president Suryakant Dhasmana blamed alleged government negligence and questioned the aviation safety measures, particularly on the Char Dham pilgrimage routes. In a statement, he said 13 people died in five helicopter-related incidents in Uttarakhand over a 45-day period in 2025.

Mr. Dhasmana also cited accident data indicating that four of the eight helicopter accidents recorded in the Char Dham sector between 2015 and 2025 occurred in 2025.

Sorties were allowed despite orange alert and CMO advice to regulate tourists, says activist

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Friday's helicopter crash on the Badrinath-Dehradun route, which killed six people, including the pilot, has brought Uttarakhand's helicopter safety regulations under fresh scrutiny, particularly the decision to allow flights despite weather warnings issued for the region.

Activist Anoop Nautiyal said the tragedy was particularly disturbing as weather warnings had been issued in advance. An orange alert (for heavy to very heavy rainfall and snowfall) had been issued for five districts, including Chamoli.

"A press release issued at 5.44 p.m. on October 29, following a meeting chaired by Disaster Management Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman, had called for heightened vigilance and directed that passengers be moved to safe locations in the event of deteriorating weather," Mr. Nautiyal said.

He said the Chief Minister's Office had also reiterated these concerns in a communication issued at 8.01 a.m. on October 30, advising authorities to regulate tourist movement in high-altitude areas in view of the orange alert.

"Despite these warnings, helicopter sorties reportedly continued. This raises questions about who authorised the flights, whether the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) enforced the necessary restrictions and why commercial operations were allowed to continue under potentially unsafe conditions," he said.

Latest crash comes after a series of helicopter accidents during Char Dham Yatra last year

The latest crash comes after a series of helicopter accidents during the 2025 Char Dham Yatra. A crash between Kharsali and Jhala on May 8, 2025 killed six people, while an Aryan Aviation helicopter crashed near Gaurikund on June 15, 2025 killing seven. Five helicopter incidents were reported within just 45 days.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)'s probe into the June 2025 crash cited rapidly descending clouds, loss of visual reference, the decision to continue along the route, and the pilot's limited experience in the Kedarnath valley as contributing factors.

In July 2025, the Ministry of Civil Aviation told Parliament that Uttarakhand accounted for more than half of the 12 helicopter accidents reported nationwide since 2020.

Responding to Mr. Nautiyal's allegations that weather warnings had been ignored, Prateek Jain, the Chief Executive Officer of UCADA, said the agency was following all prescribed safety norms.

"At the time the helicopter crashed, the weather was clear. Two sorties took off before it and two after it, and all of them landed safely," he said.

Naveen Singh, who undertook the Kedarnath Yatra by helicopter this year, questioned whether the corrective measures announced after last year's accidents had been effectively implemented.

Union Labour Ministry sets up social security Boards for unorganised, gig, platform workers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Labour Ministry on Friday notified the constitution of the National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers with 40 members, and the National Social Security Board for Gig & Platform Workers with 22 members.

Union Minister for Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya is the chairman of both Boards, which have representatives from the Central and State governments, prominent aggregator companies, employers, civil society organisations, workers' unions, and associations representing gig and platform workers. Union Labour Secretary is the vice-chairman of the Boards.

The mandate of the Boards is to design, monitor and recommend targeted welfare schemes for gig and platform workers and traditional unorganised workers.

The Boards will meet at least thrice a year, and the Union government will prescribe rules of procedure for them.

The functions of the Boards include recommending suitable schemes for different sections of unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers; advising the Union government on the administration of the Social Security Code; monitoring social welfare schemes for unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers; reviewing the record-keeping functions performed at the State level; reviewing the expenditure from the fund and account; and undertaking other functions assigned to it by the Union government from time to time.



The Boards will design and monitor schemes for workers.

The Labour Department officers of NDA-ruled Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat are members of the Boards.

Representatives of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Laghu Udyog Bharati, aggregator companies such as Eternal Group (formerly known as Zomato Ltd.), Swiggy Ltd., Zepto Ltd., Urban Company and Rapido, Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute and Dattopant Thengadi Board for Workers Education and Development are also members.

"Established under the statutory framework of the Code on Social Security, these Boards mark a historic shift by integrating digital gig and platform professionals into India's formal welfare architecture," the Labour Ministry said in a statement.

However, All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said the constitution of the boards is heavily tilted towards the Union Government, and it is filled with pro-BJP unions and employers' organisations.

SC tells Centre to take steps to stop misuse of court feeds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to formulate measures against the commercial exploitation of live-streamed judicial proceedings in violation of earlier court orders.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant recorded Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta's submission that suggestions from various High Courts and other stakeholders had already been received and forwarded to the Ministry.

Mr. Mehta submitted that the Ministry would consider the suggestions and respond in a few days. He sought listing of the plea for further consideration after the Deepavali vacation.

He also flagged violations of earlier orders and urged the court to consider directing the removal of material uploaded in breach of its restrictions. The court had recently passed orders banning the unauthorised use and circulation of live-streamed judicial proceedings on digital platforms.

"Necessary measures for taking action against those who fail to comply with the directions will also be incorporated in the policy regime," the court observed.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan suggested that every clip released by the court should carry a verifiable digital signature or watermark to distinguish genuine footage from manipulated versions.

17 NC MLAs issue ultimatum to party chief over 'coterie culture'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

At least 17 legislators from the ruling National Conference (NC) on Friday held a four-hour meeting in Srinagar and issued a 15-day ultimatum to party president Farooq Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah to address issues, including "unilateral decisions" and "coterie culture".

The meeting, which started around 3 p.m. and ended at 6 p.m., was held at the residence of NC legislator Qaiser Jamsheed Lone in Srinagar's Friends Colony. Senior NC leaders, including Mubarak Gul, Nazir Gurezi, and Abdul Majeed Larmi, were among those in attendance. An Independent legislator, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, from the Thanamandi constituency, also attended.

The rebellion within the party came three days after party vice-president and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expanded the Cabinet, increasing the number of ministers from six to nine. Since then, many legislators have publicly expressed their anger and demanded their inclusion. They included Mr. Gul, Mr. Gurezi and Mr. Larmi. Around a dozen NC legislators boycotted a dinner hosted by party president Farooq Abdullah after the Cabinet expansion.

An NC legislator told *The Hindu* that a joint resolution was passed at the meet and would be shared with the party leadership.

SC appoints Justice Desai as mediator in KG basin gas dispute

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday appointed former apex court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai as sole mediator in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin gas migration dispute between Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), along with its consortium partners, and the Union government. A Special Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi was informed by Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, that a viable solution could not be arrived at among the parties. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi appeared for RIL, and agreed to the suggestion made by the Bench. The court said the dispute was "very complex", and would require the expertise of someone like Justice Desai, who was well-versed in commercial matters.

M.P. Cong. seeks clarity on Puri's Epstein 'link'; slams RS candidacy

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress on Friday slammed the nomination of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate for the Rajya Sabha by-election in the State, seeking a "clear answer" on Mr. Puri's meetings and communications with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein as referenced in the files released in the United States.

At a press conference in Bhopal, M.P. Congress president Jitu Patwari said: "What were the actual circumstances of these meetings? Did they occur solely as part of an official delegation – as previously claimed – or do the circumstances depicted in photographs suggest a different story? The BJP and Mr. Puri must provide a factual response to these questions."

Mr. Patwari announced that the party will stage protests at the district and block levels against the nomination.

Mr. Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, was announced as the BJP candidate on October 29 to replace former Union Minister L. Murugan who resigned from his Rajya Sabha seat earlier this month. The bypoll is scheduled for November 12.

Mr. Patwari also alleged that "Mr. Murugan, a Dalit leader, was forced to resign" to make way for Mr. Puri's continuation in the Union Cabinet.

INDIA bloc's 'public impeachment' of CEC postponed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties also plan to hold a *Chalo Dilli* march tomorrow

The "public impeachment" of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar by the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) has been postponed by a day to Saturday because of rain, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said on Friday.

Mr. Gandhi said the Opposition parties would hold a *Chalo Dilli* march from the Minto Road-Connaught Place junction in central Delhi to Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, where the INDIA bloc would hold a rally against alleged vote *chori* (theft) through the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and press for the CEC's resignation.

"By consensus we have decided to postpone today's [Friday's] programme to tomorrow [Saturday] at the same time," Mr. Gandhi said at a joint press conference with INDIA bloc leaders outside Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence at 10 Rajaji Marg. The 'public impeachment' would now be held at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday.

"Both programmes are about the demolition of democracy by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and CEC Gyanesh Kumar and his crew," Mr. Gandhi alleged.

'Huge anger, pain'

He accused the Home Minister of trying to prevent people from reaching Delhi for the November 1 rally. "Our party people and common people are being stopped. You watch what happens at Ramlila Maidan and you will understand what is happening in the country. There is huge anger and pain because millions are being disenfranchised," the Congress MP said.

Mr. Gandhi said anyone who wanted to protect the Constitution was welcome to join the march and rally. In a message on Thursday, he had urged people, including student groups irrespective of their political affiliations, to participate, asserting that the BJP would not have the "guts" to use its usual tactics to stop them.

Sources said Left leaders, including John Brittas (CPI-M), P. Sandosh Kumar (CPI), and N.K. Premachandran (RSP), had suggested postponing the impeachment programme post Deepavali but other parties did not agree to it.

Opposition rejoices when nation faces crises: Modi

Prime Minister accuses it of trying to create chaos across the country to defame him, alleges people were being led to believe cooking gas will no longer be available due to West Asia conflict

Press Trust of India
BHILDI (GUJARAT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday vowed to serve the people of India till his last breath, an assertion coming days after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's "Modi *ka baap bhi jayega*" (Modi's father will also be defeated) remark that triggered a political storm.

He accused the Opposition of rejoicing when the country faces a crisis and spreading panic over the availability of fertilizers and cooking gas amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Mr. Modi said farmers, youth and women were working towards building a developed India, but lamented that some people were uncomfortable with the country's progress.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre (BBBRC) at Bhildi town in Gujarat's Banaskantha district besides launching and laying the foundation stones for development projects estimated at ₹14,000 crore.

"*Jeevan ke antim kshan tak janta ki seva mein hi juta rahunga* (I will continue to serve the people until my last breath)," Mr. Modi said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a public meeting during the launch of development projects in Gujarat on Friday. VIJAY SONEJI

The Prime Minister released the 24th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme, which provides ₹6,000 per year in income support to eligible farmers.

Without taking any names, he said, "There are those who wish to see the country in distress – they actually derive pleasure when the nation faces hardship. Whenever a crisis befalls the country, they find joy in it."

Referring to the conflict in the Gulf region, which is critical to India's energy security and serves as a key source of fertilizer imports, Mr. Modi said that while the country was united in addressing the situation arising out of the war, some people were spreading rumours and creating panic among people.

'Opposition sowed fear'

"They sowed fear among farmers, claiming fertilizers would become unavailable. They created artificial queues and created a sense of panic," he said.

The Prime Minister accused the Opposition of trying to create chaos across the country to defame him, alleging people were being led to believe that cooking gas would no longer be available due to the conflict which started in February-end.

"They also tried to frighten women, claiming that cooking gas would no longer be available and asking, 'How will you cook your meals? How will your children go to school?' Their plan was to incite chaos across the country, all in an attempt to defame Modi," he told the gathering.

"I had promised that Modi would stand firmly by your side. And look – even though the conflict continues, Modi has ensured that there is no shortage of fertilizers for our farmers," he said.

Mr. Modi, addressing the farmers, said global fertilizer prices and the costs of chemicals required to manufacture them had surged due to the war, but the government had ensured that the additional burden did not fall on cultivators.

"Globally, a bag of urea costs as much as ₹3,000, yet Indian farmers receive it for less than ₹300. The government took this entire burden on itself to ensure the bag reaches you (farmers) at just ₹300," he said.

Similarly, while the global price of a bag of diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer had crossed ₹5,000, Indian farmers were receiving it for ₹1,350, he added.

Rahul flags IDBI Bank sale; Finance Minister hits back

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Friday questioned the government's decision to sell a majority stake in IDBI Bank to Canadian firm Fairfax Financial Holdings, prompting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to respond by accusing the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government of treating banks and financial institutions as "personal entities".

In an open letter to IDBI Bank employees, Mr. Gandhi expressed solidarity with their opposition to the proposed sale, arguing that public banks were not assets to be sold but "tools to build the nation". He said the bank had turned profitable through the efforts of its employees, earning over ₹9,000 crore last year after incurring losses seven years ago.

He recalled that the government had assured Parliament in 2003 that it would retain at least a 50% ownership of IDBI. "That promise may not be written into law, but a promise made to Parliament is a promise made to the people of India," he said.

The government has approved the sale of a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank to Fairfax for about ₹53,000 crore.



Rahul Gandhi

The Opposition leader questioned how employees and depositors would be protected under private ownership.

Responding to his criticism, Ms. Sitharaman alleged that the Congress-led government had pressured bank employees to extend loans to politically connected business groups, bypassing prudent lending norms. Citing the removal of SBI Chairman R.K. Talwar in 1976 during Indira Gandhi's tenure, she alleged he had been removed after refusing to relax lending norms for a company linked to Sanjay Gandhi.

She alleged that IDBI Bank was forced to lend to business groups with close links to Congress leaders, including Videocon, ABG Shipyard, and Kingfisher, resulting in bad loans. The NDA government, she said, revived the bank through recapitalisation with more than ₹25,000 crore and professional management.

U.P. CEO asks officials to work for accurate electoral rolls

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa on Friday directed officials for accurate, error-free and up-to-date maintaining of electoral rolls adding if errors in the electoral rolls or laxity in supervision are found in any district, the accountability of the District Election Officer (DEO) concerned will be fixed. "The CEO said that all work related to electoral rolls is currently being carried out through ECI Net. Accordingly, every DEO must personally log in every day and review work while ensuring effective use of all review facilities available on ECI Net," read an official statement.

The CEO has also directed that the receipt of Form-6, Form-6A, Form-7 and Form-8, pending cases and their disposal within the prescribed time frame be reviewed daily.

He has also directed that no officer should share their login credentials, such as user ID, login password and OTP, with any other person.

Restore 1.59 lakh deleted names in Kolkata, Howrah rolls before civic polls: Cong. writes to SEC

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

West Bengal Congress leaders on Friday flagged that 1.59 lakh names of voters in Kolkata and Howrah civic bodies were removed from the electoral rolls during the special intensive revision (SIR) and submitted a letter to State election officials urging them to restore all rightful names before the upcoming civic polls.

The letter was sent to the State Chief Electoral Officer, State Election Commissioner, and Municipal Commissioner and Administrator of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC).

It stated that around 1.20 lakh voters in the KMC and 39,000 voters in the Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC) will not be able to exercise their franchise as their names were struck off the rolls on grounds such as 'logical discrepancies' during the "unplanned SIR process".

It added that the voters have filed appeals challenging their exclusion, which are pending before the appellate tribunals. "We sincerely request your intervention for immediate follow-up and disposal of appeals on priority basis," the letter stated.



West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Subhankar Sarkar. FILE PHOTO

'Voting rights'

"Over 1.59 lakh people will miss their votes. Why are their cases not being heard on a priority basis at the tribunals? They missed exercising their voting rights during the 2026 Assembly poll. This is a repeated violation of people's democratic right," Congress State general secretary Ashutosh Chatterjee, one of the signatories of the letter, told The Hindu.

State Congress leaders also alleged that claims and objections related to the delimitation process within the KMC's jurisdiction are also pending with the civic administration and they have not received any communication on them yet.

On Wednesday, political leaders and activists had written to State Election Commissioner Krishna Gupta and urged him to delay the civic polls till the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) ends. The draft roll of the SSR will be published on November 11 and the final roll on January 16, 2027.

The signatories included Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy, State Congress president Subhankar Sarkar and former Rajya Sabha MP Jawhar Sircar.

Polls in KMC, HMC, and several other municipalities are likely to be held in the next few weeks, though dates are yet to be announced.

BJP demands proof for Rahul's claim of curbs on those going to Delhi for protest

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Rejecting the claim by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was "trying his best" to stop people from reaching Delhi for the Opposition bloc's protest march on November 1, the BJP on Friday challenged the Congress leader to produce proof of any such restrictions.

At a press briefing, BJP MP Sambit Patra took a dig at the Congress and its allies in the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) for postponing their proposed mock Parliament, which was scheduled to be held at the residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday. He claimed that the event could not be conducted due to the lack of organisational capability.

Responding to Mr. Gandhi's allegation that people from various States were being prevented from reaching the rally venue, Mr. Patra said, "Where were people stopped? Who stopped them? And who are the people who were stopped? Show us evidence. Do not create an atmosphere of lies and confusion in the country."

Mr. Patra said the INDIA bloc parties belonging to "political dynasties" had come together several times ahead of elections over the past 12 years to "put on a show of holding each other's hands", but failed to sustain their alliances. He cited the exit of the Aam Aadmi Party from the bloc. "They keep holding hands while cursing each other in their hearts," he said.

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swarnjiya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302006, India Phone Nos 0141-2228066, 2228084
Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in, CIN : U34232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail: edprmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref. No. :- F.02 (452)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIB-14/2026-27/5353 Dated :- 26/10/2026

Corrigendum

In reference to the NIB provided below, Corrigendum is issued for date extension in bid. All details may be seen on https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & https://www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in

Sr. No.	NIB No.	UBN No.	Tender ID on E-Proc	Existing Date			Amended Date		
				Last date and time of submission of online bids	Bid security, bid form fees, RISL fees and Empanelment fees deposited and submitted physically as per bid conditions	Date and time of opening of Online technical bids	Last date and time of submission of online bids	Bid security, bid form fees, RISL fees and Empanelment fees deposited and submitted physically as per bid conditions	Date and time of opening of Online technical bids
1	NIB 14/2026	MSC2627GLOB 00054	2026_RMSCL_601385_1	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M
2	NIB 16/2026	MSC2627GLOB 00055	2026_RMSCL_601406_1	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M
3	NIB 17/2026	MSC2627GLOB 00056	2026_RMSCL_601413_1	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M
4	NIB 18/2026	MSC2627GLOB 00062	2026_RMSCL_602015_1	29.10.2026 up to 06.00 PM	29.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	30.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M
5	NIB 19/2026	MSC2627GLOB 00060	2026_RMSCL_601878_1	27.10.2026 up to 06.00 PM	27.10.2026 up to 06.00 PM	28.10.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M
6	NIB 20/2026	MSC2627GLOB 00057	2026_RMSCL_601480_1	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M
7	NIB 21/2026	MSC2627GLOB 00061	2026_RMSCL_601887_1	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M
8	NIB 22/2026	MSC2627GLOB 00064	2026_RMSCL_602481_1	05.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	05.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	06.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M	12.11.2026 up to 06.00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11.00 A.M

Director (Proc.)
RMSCL, Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/26/12656

Cong. questions Arunachal CM for 'normalising' Chinese actions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday accused BJP leaders of "normalising" Chinese transgressions along the Arunachal Pradesh border, after Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that such incidents "keep happening" and were nothing new.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Khandu's remarks contradicted his earlier dismissal of reports of Chinese incursions in Taksing and came a week after the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) chief confirmed face-offs at several locations in the northeastern State.

"So much for the PM's '*na koi ghusa hai*' [nobody has entered]. Worse, he treats it as normal," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X, referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's earlier assertion post the Galwan clash that no one had entered Indian territory.

He said it was disturbing that the Chief Minister attributed transgressions to the absence of a clearly demarcated border. "Instead of asserting India's position, BJP leaders are rationalising Chinese actions. Nothing about this is normal. This is the new abnormal," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Lokseva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001
PT2-HE-SCH-POLICY-0001-2022/ 58039/HE., Bhubaneswar, Dated : 30.10.2026

Corrigendum-IV

NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR SELECTION OF A CONSULTING FIRM / ENTITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP (STSG) FOR SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF PRADHAN MANTRI UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (PM-USHA) IN HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA .

RFP No. PM-USHA:05/2026 Date: 17.09.2026

Sl. No.	RFP Cl.No.	Page No.	Description as per RFP	Modified vide Corrigendum III, dated 22.10.2026	Now Modified Provisions
1	DATA SHEET (Sl. No.8 & 9)	4	Last Date & Time for receiving of Bid - 05/10/2026 upto 5.30 PM	Last Date & Time for receiving of Bid - 30/10/2026 up to 05:30 PM (Registered Post & Speed Post only)	Last Date & Time for receiving of Bid - 03/11/2026 upto 05:30 PM (Registered Post & Speed Post only)
2		4	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid - 06/10/2026 at 3:30 PM	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid - 31/10/2026 at 3:30 PM	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid - 04/11/2026 at 3:30 PM

All other terms and conditions of the RFP remain unchanged.
Joint Secretary to Govt. & SPD, RUSA/PM-USHA
11001/391/2627 OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0079

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
UPPER INDRAVATI PROJECT, AT/PO: MUKHIGUDA, DIST:KALAHANDI, ODISHA, PIN: 766026
e-mail address : ceuip1987@gmail.com / loulipbbsr@gmail.com

1. Type of Work : Canal & Structure Work
2. Total No. of Works : 05 nos.
3. Approximate value of work : Rs.526.41 lakhs to Rs.960.65 lakhs (Excluding GST)
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 10,000/- (online)
5. Bid Security / E.M.D. : Rs.5,26,500/- to Rs.9,60,700/- (Online)
6. Period of Completion : 18 (Eighteen calendar months).
7. Class of Contractor : 'A' Class and 'A' & Special Class

Procurement Officer	e-Procurement Notice No,	Bid Amount	Availability of online viewing of Tender prior to Bidding		Period for seeking tender Clarification	Submission & Availability of bid on-line	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid
			From	To			
1	2		3	4	5	6	7
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, UPPER INDRAVATI PROJECT, AT/PO: MUKHIGUDA, DIST. KALAHANDI ODISHA,PIN:766026	CCE, UIP-14(05)/ 2026-27, Dt.23.10.2026.	Rs.526411901- to Rs.960646251- (Excluding GST)	30.10.2026 (10.00 AM)	16.11.2026 (up to 5.30 PM)	30.10.2026 to 05.11.2026 during office hours.	30.10.2026 (10.00 AM) to 16.11.2026 (up to 5.30 PM)	17.11.2026 at 11:00 AM

Date of opening of technical bid :**On 17.11.2026 at 11.00 PM** in the O/O the Chief Construction Engineer, UIP, Mukhiguda, Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN-766026. Date of opening of financial bid : To be decided after finalization of Technical Bid. Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, Upper Indravati Project, Mukhiguda
32001/1189/2627 OIPR-32001/32352/1/26-27/0016

INBRIEF



4,000 shifted as Bhutan flood puts north Bengal on guard

At least 4,000 people have been moved to safer areas as parts of the Darjeeling hills and the Dooars region in West Bengal were placed on high alert following a glacial lake outburst flood in Bhutan. Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said that the situation is currently "completely normal". "We have established contact with the people who were reported missing earlier this morning. All 47 of them are safe," he said. State Forest Minister Manoj Oraon said an alert for a possible rise in the water level of the Sankosh river was issued late on Thursday night. "So far, over 4,000 people from 10 places in Kumargram and Tufanganj have been moved to a safe zone," Mr. Oraon added.

12-year-old girl held for killing four-year-old boy in M.P.

A 12-year-old girl allegedly killed a four-year-old boy by pushing him into a water tank after becoming angry with the child's mother for scolding her over a chocolate in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Friday. The incident took place on October 26, when the girl allegedly took the boy to the roof of her house and pushed him into the tank. An FIR has been registered in the case, and the girl was sent to a government juvenile home after being produced before a court. Superintendent of Police Vinod Meena said, "As per her statement, the girl had taken a chocolate the boy was eating after which his mother had scolded her badly."

GSLV places next-generation navigation satellite into orbit

The NVS-03, with a mission life of 12 years, is expected to restore the functioning of the NavIC constellation; satellite carries an indigenous atomic clock, along with procured atomic clocks

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F18) late on Friday successfully launched the NVS-03 satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, according to the ISRO.

The GSLV-F18 with the NVS-03 satellite lifted off from the second launch pad of the spaceport and 18 minutes later placed the satellite into the intended geosynchronous transfer orbit.

The 2,250 kg, NVS-03 is the third satellite in the next generation navigation satellite system envisaged for providing continuity of navigation services for the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) series or the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC). According to the ISRO, the satellite carries an indigenous atomic clock, along with procured atomic clocks.

"It also includes L1 signal in addition to existing L5/S signals with coverage over India land mass and a region extending 1,500 km around Indian geopolitical boundary," the ISRO said.

NavIC is India's independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide accurate Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) service to users in India as well as the region extending about 1,500 km beyond the Indian landmass, which is its primary service area.

The successful launch of the NVS-03, which will have a mission life of 12 years, is expected to restore the functioning of the NavIC constellation which has been weakened due to repeated failures of atomic clocks and the ISRO's inability to place its previous replacement satellite, NVS-02, in its intended orbit. It may be recalled that earlier this year on March 13, the last functioning atomic clock aboard IRNSS-1F had stopped working.

Friday night's launch is only the third mission to be launched by the ISRO in 2026 after the PSLV-C62 mission carrying the EOS-N1 earth observation satellite on January 12, 2026 and the EOS-05 aboard the GSLV-F17 on September 4. While the PSLV-C62 mission was a failure, the GSLV-F17 mission was a success.



The GSLV-F18 rocket carrying the NVS-03 lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Friday night. PTI

Odisha landslide kills three; grim situation in flood-hit districts

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Three people were killed and several are missing in a landslide in Kandhamal district of Odisha, while the flood situation remained grim in Ganjam and Gajapati districts. The State government air-dropped relief materials in areas that remained cut off by floodwaters on Friday.

The landslide occurred at Dangeshi village in Raikia block of Kandhamal district that left a couple and their nine-month-old dead. Some of the villagers could not be traced following the incident.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who carried out an aerial survey along with Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari over Ganjam and Gajapati districts, announced an assistance of ₹4 lakh each for the deceased at Dangeshi.

'Expediting relief'

"Protecting the lives and property during times of crisis is my utmost priority. The entire administration is working round the clock to ensure that food, drinking water, and emergency healthcare reach those affected without any hindrance," Mr. Majhi commented in an X post. "In addition, directives have been issued to the administration to remain fully alert for the restoration of damaged roads and bridges, normalising electricity supply, and controlling post-flood health issues," he said.



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi takes an aerial survey.

As many as 84,564 people – 42,564 in Ganjam, 30,000 in Gajapati, and 12,000 in Kandhamal districts – were affected by flash floods due to heavy rain triggered by Cyclone Arnab.

Koraput and Rayagada districts were also significantly hit by the cyclone's fury. Heavy post-cyclone rainfall has left several villages waterlogged.

Though there has been a significant drop in rainfall on Friday, the overflowing rivers remain a cause of concern.

Consensual intimacy cannot be branded as rape after relationship turns sour: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held that women cannot convert consensual sexual acts into rape after the relationship turns sour.

"We wish to note a worrying trend in recent years wherein consensual relationships that have come to an end are retrospectively combed with a fine tooth so as to identify what can *post-facto* be construed as violence and sexual assault," Justice B.V. Nagarathna observed in a judgment.

The verdict came in a case from Keralam in which a man was accused of repeated instances of rape during a seven-year relationship which they had broken up. The complainant had said that she was kept in the dark about the fact that he was already married and a father to two children from the previous marriage.

Rape, being a heinous offence, must be reserved for situations where there is real violence, the court observed

Justice Nagarathna said a clear distinguishing line must be drawn between an absence of consent because it was got by deception, and the experience of regret over having consented to past sexual acts after the relationship ends.

"While the latter scenario is unfortunate, such hindsight on its own cannot constitute a consensual relationship as a crime... Rape, being a heinous offence, must be reserved for situations where there is real sexual violence, coercion, or manipulation of consent. When every consensual relationship which sours is converted into an accusation of rape, it not only dilutes the gravity of the offence alleged, it also subjects the accused to irreparable stigma, harassment and injustice," Justice Nagarathna pointed out in the judgment.

"There are several [rape] cases that never see the light of day. We must emphasise that genuine cases must be pursued with vigour where the facts clearly show sexual assault and violence... the justice system must not be turned into a tool of vengeance when relationships fail," the court observed.

Chola-era Lord Nataraja, Goddess Sivagami idols unearthed in T.N.

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

In a significant finding, the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) has unearthed bronze alloy idols of Lord Nataraja and Goddess Sivagami, along with their respective pedestals, during the ongoing excavations in Nagapattinam.

The idols belong to the Chola period and were unearthed at a depth of one metre.

The idol of Lord Nataraja is depicted in the 'Ananda Tandava' posture with four arms, and measures 110 cm in height and 100 cm in width. The idol of Goddess Sivagami is depicted in the 'Tribhanga' posture with two arms, and measures 82 cm in height and 23 cm in width. Based on their physical structure, iconographic features, ornamental designs, and the pedestals, the idols are estimated to date back to the 12th century AD.



Timeless treasures: The bronze alloy idols of Lord Nataraja and Goddess Sivagami that were unearthed in Nagapattinam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

These discoveries provide crucial archaeological evidence for understanding the religious practices, art and history of metal sculptures in Nagapattinam during the Chola period. Sharing this discovery in a post on X, Minister for School Education Rajmohan, who also holds the Archaeology portfolio, said the findings provided evidence of the antiquity and historical significance of Tamils.

2 arrested in cheetah death case; 6 people suspended

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Two people have been arrested in connection with the killing of a male cheetah cub at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Friday.

"The arrest has been made by the local police under the Arms Act, after which the accused were produced before a court. They are currently in police remand, and we will take custody soon," a senior wildlife official said, requesting anonymity.

"We are in the process of solving the case very soon. At the moment, multiple teams are working in different directions," the official said.

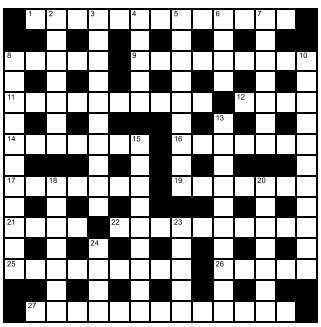
The official also said that six forest personnel had also been suspended in the case.

THE CROSSWORD + 14937

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Stuttering? We got heartily drunk - it's difficult to articulate (6,7)
8 Wife enthralled by knocking back European beverages (5)
9 Transports ecstasy across Spain by a stretch of water (6,3)
11 Instruct crew to move closer to check railway accident (5,5)
12 Come up against fine champion (4)
14 Baron, touch irritated by prince's bungle (5,2)
16 A bag containing note with extremely unusual ring (7)
17 Detached portion of old, broken tile in ancient city (7)
19 Cher is zesty at opening, playing lively compositions (7)
21 King survives, grabs queen's Malayan dagger (4)
22 Lacking width - saw's not working (3,2,5)
25 Slow-cooked cut of beef and drink for a soprano and tenor (4,5)
26 Beginning to tipple in the middle of the day? That's unacceptable (3,2)
27 Cheetahs ran berserk outside oriental college? It's likely (3,7,3)

Down

2 Soft drug in full moon rave is producing effects (7)
3 Cured his dengue on time - bless you! (10)
4 Stop in English pub across motorway (5)
5 Line deleted from outstanding part of speech (4,5)
6 Shoot second goal (4)
7 Tangle with nobleman protecting extremely notorious nationalist (7)
8 One treating cardiovascular problem caused by drink outside club's retro bar (4,7)
10 Stunned by associate spreading news about fraud by head of establishment (11)
13 Where airplane's fuel is readily available (2,3,5)
15 Reckless ultra caught by policeman around atomic plant (9)
18 Conquest by US president to seize island near northern side of Hormuz (7)
20 Cooking appliance in a resort malfunctioned (7)
23 Work on twitch relating to the eye (5)
24 Reptile amongst metamorphic rocks (4)

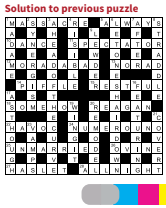
SUDOKU

			9			1		4
				3			8	2
		8	5	4				
		5					4	7
8	7						6	5
4	3					8		
				9	1	5		
3	6			5				
1		7			8			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.583747 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	4	6	2	7	3	8	5
5	2	7	9	3	8	4	1	6
8	6	3	5	1	4	9	2	7
7	8	1	3	6	9	5	4	2
3	9	2	8	4	5	6	7	1
4	5	6	2	7	1	8	3	9
2	7	9	4	5	3	1	6	8
6	3	5	1	8	2	7	9	4
1	4	8	7	9	6	2	5	3

FAITH

Beauty of Sanatana Dharma

A child may be confused by the number of branches of *Sanatana Dharma* and wonder if it concerns only a few communities. Practices may differ; philosophies may diverge but dharma (principles of living) is common for everyone in society. In fact, *Sanatana Dharma* is for entire humanity, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh, speaking at the Dharma Rakshana Mahotsava, commemorating the Dasamanotsavam (tenth year of Sri Vidyasheera Tirtha Swami heading the Sri Vyasaraja Math), in the presence of Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswati of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam and Sri Ranganatha Yateendra Mahadesikan, the 46th Azhagiyasingar of Sri Ahobila Math.

The various entities of Hinduism fall under the umbrella of the Veda sastras. Spiritual literature such as Bhagavatam, Brahma Sutras, speak of the same thing. The spiritual interpretation or unbroken chain of teachings across generations might differ from one school of thought to the other, but *Sanatana Dharma* refers to a code of conduct that remains unchanged. *Sanatana* means something that is eternal, one with neither a beginning nor an end. *Achaloyam Sanatanam*, says Lord Krishna, referring to the individual soul. *Dharma* stands for the set of (moral) rules that every human being should follow. The essential characteristics for a perfect human being include guidelines such as leading a truthful life, following virtuous principles in daily life, respecting one's guru, kindness to all living creatures, obeying one's father, among others. These principles of *Sanatana Dharma* are for all and not for a linguistic minority. Like a tree having many branches from a single root, *Sanatana Dharma* has its roots in the Vedas.

INBRIEF



IGL net profit plummets 93% on higher input gas cost

Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) reported a sharp decline in second-quarter net profit as elevated input gas costs squeezed margins, despite higher sales volumes. The company's decision to shield consumers from global price volatility also weighed on profitability. Net profit plunged more than 93% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹24.38 crore during the quarter despite an 8% YoY increase in sales volumes to 10.06 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD).

Sun Pharma Q2 profit plunges 36% on exceptional charges

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries reported a 36.4% year-on-year (YoY) decline in consolidated net profit to ₹1,988.5 crore for the September quarter, weighed down by exceptional charges of ₹1,268.8 crore related to its acquisition of Organon and a settlement in an antitrust litigation. Excluding the exceptional items, adjusted net profit stood at ₹3,162 crore. Revenue from operations, however, grew nearly 12% YoY to ₹16,198.7 crore. U.S. formulation sales declined 8.2% to $455 million during Q2 FY27.

India orders Sun Pharma to halt eye-care drug production

Indian drug regulators ordered Sun Pharma to stop manufacturing, selling and distributing ophthalmic products made at its Assam facility, documents reviewed by Reuters showed. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and the office of Drugs Controller Assam ordered the shutdown on August 20 after a joint federal-state inspection of the facility identified lapses in the system meant to ensure product quality and safety, following Sun Pharma's move in July to voluntarily recall about 11 eye-care brands. REUTERS

India slashed oil imports from U.S. and Russia in Sept.

Government data showed India's oil sourcing remains highly concentrated, with just Russia and the UAE accounting for 60% of oil imports, coinciding with the 'Russia Sanctions Act'

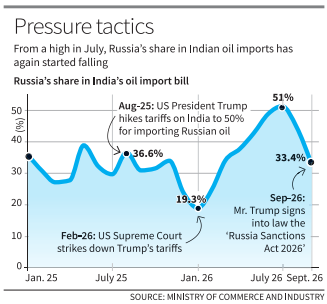
TCA Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In what looks like a direct response to the 'Russia Sanctions Act' being signed into law that month, India in September 2026 slashed its oil imports from the U.S. to zero, and drastically cut down its imports of Russian oil, the latest official data shows.

Instead, India turned to the UAE for its oil requirement, with that country's share rising to more than one-fourth of India's oil imports. As a result, India's crude oil sourcing remains highly concentrated, with just two countries – Russia and the UAE – accounting for 60% of all oil imports.

The U.S. House of Representatives on September 16 passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which was then signed into law by President Donald Trump on September 18.

The law empowered the U.S. to levy tariffs of up to 100% on countries such as India and China that imported large quantities of Russian oil and gas.



The tariffs are currently in abeyance, with Mr. Trump on October 16 signing an executive order temporarily waiving the tariffs and submitting a certification to the U.S. Congress saying that the pause was in the U.S.'s national interest. The Indian government data on October oil imports will be released next month.

India imported 209.4 lakh tonnes of crude oil in September 2026, which was 9.5% higher than in August, and 4.1% higher than in September last year. However, as has been the case in the last six months or so, elevated crude oil prices have meant that India's oil import bill has swelled far faster than the growth in the actual quantity of oil being imported.

The data showed that India's oil import bill of nearly $14.3 billion in September 2026 was 16.4% higher than the bill in August, and a much more significant 33% higher than in September 2025 when oil prices were relatively more benign. Russia's share in India's oil imports has recently been broadly following the U.S.' actions regarding such imports.

Most recently, Russia's share climbed to an all-time high of around 51% in July 2026, capping off a steady climb since February when the U.S. scrapped its Russian oil-linked penal tariffs on India. This also coincided with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz due to the war in West Asia and the resultant supply constraints from that route.

However, Russia's share has fallen since then – to 44% in August, and further to 33% in September, when the 'Russia Sanctions Act' was signed into law.

In volume terms, while India increased its overall oil imports in September, it cut Russian imports by nearly 18% as compared with August.

A previous analysis by *The Hindu* shows before the penal tariffs were removed in February, India had been slashing oil imports from Russia in line with U.S pressure.

RIL Q2 profit jumps 41% to ₹25,548 crore on O2C, Jio strength

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI



RIL delivered a strong performance despite a complex operating environment.

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) reported a 41% year-on-year (YoY) increase in consolidated net profit to ₹25,548 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2026, driven by strong performances in its Oil-to-Chemicals (O2C) and Jio Platforms businesses.

Gross revenue rose 27.8% YoY to ₹3,62,268 crore. Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL) recorded an 11.3% increase in revenue to ₹47,485 crore, aided by subscriber additions, higher average revenue per user (ARPU) and growth in digital services. Consolidated net profit rose 13.7% to ₹8,387 crore.

Revenue at Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) grew 6.4% to ₹91,716 crore. Consolidated profit after tax declined 24.5% to ₹2,619 crore.

The O2C business emerged as a key growth driver, with revenue surging 44.2% YoY, reflecting a sharp rise in crude and product prices.

Crude prices increased 40.6%, while transportation fuel prices rose 50-78%. Prices of most downstream chemical products climbed 25-35%, driven by higher feedstock costs.

"During Q2 FY27, our businesses delivered a strong performance despite a complex operating environment. Commodity markets remained volatile while geopolitical tensions continued to weigh on global supply chains," said CMD Mukesh D. Ambani.

"Our O2C business delivered a particularly strong performance this quarter, led by tight fuel markets, improved downstream petrochemical deltas and firm domestic demand," he said.

Mr. Ambani said Jio continued to register robust growth across mobility, home broadband and enterprise services, supported by its proprietary technology stack and expanding digital offerings.

IOC Q2 profit more than doubles on higher refining margins

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) standalone net profit more than doubled to ₹21,630 crore in the September quarter, buoyed by improved refining margins and a temporary decline in benchmark crude oil prices.

The oil marketing major attributed the sharp rise in profitability largely to lower crude oil prices between mid-June and mid-August, coupled with robust margins in petrochemicals and gas. However, it cautioned that earnings in the coming quarters could face pressure. "Profitability in upcoming quarters may be adversely impacted by inventory losses due to potential fall in crude oil prices with normalisation of situation in Middle East," the company said.

Indian Oil's gross refining margin (GRM), after subtracting special additional excise duty (SAED), rose to $18.52 per barrel during the quarter, against $10.66 a barrel in the corresponding period last year. Revenue increased nearly 30% to over ₹2.62 lakh crore. Domestic petroleum product sales grew about 5% to 23.98 million metric tonnes (MMT).

Refinery throughput rose 2.8% to 18.1 MMT, while capacity utilisation stood at 102.3%.

Google parent Alphabet's shares dive 13% on AI spend

Balasubramanyam C.P.
CHENNAI



Thursday marked worst one-day fall since it began trading in 2004.

Shares of Google parent Alphabet dived 12.6% to $283.82 on the Nasdaq on Thursday wiping out about $482 billion of the company's market-cap after it reported quarterly results, renewing concerns over whether heavy investments in artificial intelligence (AI) will generate enough returns

Thursday marked the worst one-day fall since it began trading in 2004, according to reports.

Alphabet shares remained under pressure on Friday during pre-market trading, slipping a further 0.42% to $282.64, as per a media report.

The sell-off came after the company reported its quarterly results, renewing concerns about whether its heavy investments in artificial intelligence (AI) will generate enough returns.

Alphabet's revenue grew 25% year-on-year to $127.6 billion in the quarter ended September 30. Net profit slid to $26.5 billion from $35 billion a year earlier largely on losses in equity investments. However, earnings from business operations rose 30% to $40.6 billion.

Bright spot

Google Cloud was a bright spot with revenue more than doubling to $30.7 billion. The division's operating income rose to $11.1 billion from $3.6 billion. Alphabet attributed the growth to AI infrastructure and solutions demand as also core cloud services.

But the investment needed to support this growth is putting pressure on the firm's cash flow. Alphabet spent $51.4 billion on capital expenditure in the September quarter, mainly on data centres, servers and networking gear.

CFO Anat Ashkenazi said infrastructure spending was a major reason for the negative free cash flow. She also pointed to inventory being built up for sales of Google's own AI chips, called Tensor Processing Units and a $5.2-billion payment relating to a European Commission fine.

Alphabet retained capital expenditure guidance of $195 billion to $205 billion for 2026. Ms. Ashkenazi said capital expenditure would increase significantly in 2027, indicating that the high spending is likely to continue.

Investors are also watching how AI is changing Google's main Search advertising business. Revenue from Google Search and related advertising grew 12% to $63.35 billion in the quarter, slower than the 17% growth in the previous quarter.

GAIL Gas IPO in FY28; parent to offload 25%

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

State-owned Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) approved, in principle, the listing of wholly owned subsidiary, GAIL Gas Ltd. via an initial public offering (IPO) in FY28 with the parent planning to dilute its 25% stake in the city gas distributor.

GAIL Gas now operates independently in 16 geographical areas besides having a presence in nine other geographical areas via joint ventures. Its distribution infrastructure comprises 593 compressed natural gas (CNG) stations and more than 8 lakh domestic piped natural gas (D-PNG) connections. The firm is looking to significantly expand distribution footprint over next two years.

At an analyst call, Satish Kumar Sinha, director (finance), GAIL, said GAIL Gas was eyeing addition of 275 CNG stations and about 3.7 lakh new PNG connections during the period.

GAIL net doubles

GAIL Q2 net profit more than doubled to ₹4,650.22 crore on a sharp improvement in natural gas marketing business. Overall revenue from operations rose 31.2% year-on-year to ₹45,924 crore. This business was the key driver of profitability.

The segment's profit before tax (PBT) jumped 2.5 times to ₹3,284.3 crore while revenue grew 31% to ₹41,226.04 crore.

Natural gas transmission volumes stood at 130.1 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) in Q2.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

Expression of Interest (EoI)

CDAC Invites Expression of Interest for LICENSING OF C-DAC CENTRALIZED COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE SOFTWARE MODULES. For more details visit **www.cdac.in**
Contact: 0471 2723333, 9847069184, **tpc@cdac.in**

AP POWER GENERATION CORPORATION Ltd., VS, VIJAYAWADA-520004
(A Govt. of AP Undertaking)

AP Govt e-PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATION No. e-1005355/HP/NSRCPH/GOVERNORS/APGENCO/2026

APGENCO invites open tenders "Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Programming, Inspection, Packing and Forwarding, Supply, delivery at site and Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Two Nos, Microprocessor based Digital Governing system for units • 1 & 3 of Nagarjuna Sagar Right Canal Power House (30.6 MW each) located at Vijaya Puri South, Palnadu District of Andhra Pradesh State" through AP e-procurement.
Schedule available Date & Time : **02.11.2026 - 17:00 Hrs** onwards.
Bid submission Closing Date & Time : **10.12.2026 - 15:00 Hrs.**
For further details visit : **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
Contact Nos. **(0866) 2526801,6323,6319.**
DIPR 5531PP/CL, Dt: 30/10/2026

ICAR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SPICES RESEARCH
(भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
पोस्टबग No. Post Bag No: 1701, मरिकुन्नुपोस्टMarikunnu Post, Kozhikode-673 012, Phone: Office 0495-2731410
F. No. 20/1/2024-Estt. (E- 328912) Dated: 28.10.2026
Ph.D ADMISSION NOTIFICATION-2026
AT ICAR-IISR KOZHIKODE
Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for admission to the Ph.D. programme at ICAR–Indian Institute of Spices Research (ICAR-IISR), Kozhikode, recognized research centre under the University of Calicut, in the following disciplines: Botany (08 vacancies), Biochemistry (02 vacancies) and Biotechnology (01 vacancy).
For further details and online submission of applications, please visit the Institute's website: https://www.spices.res.in/
Last date for submission of applications: 14th November 2026.
Sd/- Head of Office, For Director

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram-639136, Karur Dist., Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
TNPL invites Tender for the following:

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
262713 004676	Procurement of Hydrogen Peroxide 50% for Unit-I & Unit-II.	14.11.26

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only.
For further details, please visit websites: **www.tnpl.com** / **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.**
DIPR/3302/TEN/2026

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता (सांगानेर जोन) नगर निगम जयपुर
क्रमांक :- ज.न.नि./2026/276 दिनांक :- 26/10/2026
निविदा सूचना संख्या 50 - 51/2026-27
केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सभी विभागों में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से बिड अधि. अभि. (सांगानेर जोन) से संबंधित विकास कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **http://sppp.raj.nic.in & www.jaipurmc.org** पर देखी जा सकती है। स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल का Unique Bid Number JMC2627WSOB00715 से JMC2627WSOB00716 है।
अधिशासी अभियंता (सांगानेर जोन) नगर निगम जयपुर
सा.अभि./डी/26/12664

MALKAJGIRI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PROJECTS, MMC, HYDERABAD.
Tender Notice No.13/SE(Projects)/MMC/2026-27 (2nd Call). Dt:29,10,2026.
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Item No.	Name of Work
1.	"Restoration Measures for ROB at Moula Ali, Secunderabad"

Events	Date & Timings
Start Date	31.10.2026 @ 12.00 PM
Last Date & Time for receipt of Bids	17.11.2026 @ 12.00 PM
Technical Bid Opening	17.11.2026 @ 12.30 PM
Price Bid Opening	18.11.2026 @ 01.00 PM

Address of the officer concerned **Smt. K. Rohini**, SE (Projects), 9959442013, Superintending Engineer (Projects), Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation, 1st Floor, HMDA Complex, Tarnaka, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer(I/C) (Projects), MMC.
DIPR R.O.No.127652/PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 30.10.2026

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprises)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GACHIBOWLI, HYDERABAD 500 032
Ref:BDL/CC/OT/GT/007/2026-27 Dt: 31,10,2026
e-PROCUREMENT ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Inviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding

SLNO	Tender ID	Description	Estimate in Rs
1	67160	Infrastructure Works at Shesharthang, Leh Ladakh (UT) through EPC Method.	₹1588.79 Lakhs

Please visit website **https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com**, **select online tenders on dashboard** for further details. Bids should be submitted online only, **"corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers"**
*Bidders are Requested to apply for online Vendor Registration in BDL website **https://bdl-india.in/registration-contractors** prospects.
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (Corp Comml)

दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Established by Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide Act 6 2009
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
Shahbad Daulatpur, Bawana Road, Delhi- 110042
FDTU/Rectt./Assistant Prof./2026/F-1018/5603 Dated: 22/10/2026
Advertisement Notice No. 04/2026
RECRUITMENT FOR THE POSTS OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR INCLUDING BACKLOG VACANCIES WITH SPECIAL DRIVE FOR PwBD CATEGORY
Opening Date & Time for Submission of Online Applications: - **23rd October, 2026 from 11:00 AM onwards**
Closing Date & Time for Submission of Online Applications: - **07th December, 2026 till 05:00 PM**
Delhi Technological University is a teaching-cum-research University committed to foster excellence in education, research, technology incubation, product innovation, outreach and extension activities in Engineering, Management, and Applied Sciences. The University invites applications from the talented individuals to fill up the posts of Assistant Professor on direct mode of recruitment. The details of the vacancy position are as given below:

S. No.	Discipline	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	Total Vacant posts	PwBD*
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1.	Applied Chemistry	0	1	0	3	0	4	0
2.	Chemical Engineering	1	0	1	2	0	4	0
3.	Applied Mathematics	4	1	0	3	3	11	1
4.	Mathematics & Computing	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
5.	Applied Physics	7	2	2	3	1	15	1
6.	Engineering Physics	1	2	0	6	2	11	1
7.	Automobile Engineering	6	1	1	2	2	12	1
8.	Civil Engineering	7	2	2	6	3	20	2
9.	Management (DSM)	0	3	2	3	2	10	1
10.	Electronics & Communication Engineering	1	1	0	1	1	4	0
11.	Electrical Engineering	2	1	1	2	2	8	0
12.	Environmental Science & Engineering	3	1	0	2	0	6	1
13.	Humanities (Economics)	1	1	1	2	0	5	0
14.	Humanities (English)	1	0	1	1	0	3	0
15.	Production Engineering	9	3	1	5	2	20	2
16.	Mechanical Engineering	2	4	1	9	2	18	2
17.	Information Technology	1	1	1	6	0	9	1
18.	Software Engineering	2	0	0	1	0	3	0
19.	Computer Science & Engineering	7	1	6	16	6	36	3
20.	Economics (USME)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
21.	Design	2	0	0	1	0	3	0
22.	Biotechnology	1	1	0	2	2	6	1
23.	Geospatial Science#	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
24.	Geospatial Technology#	3	1	0	2	0	6	0
	Total	62	27	21	80	29	219	17

* For applicable Benchmark Disability for these posts, reference be made to the detailed advertisement available at the university website i.e. **www.dtu.ac.in**.
# The regularisation of incumbents against these posts shall be after the application for creation, approval and sanction of these posts, as at present these posts have been borrowed from the sanctioned posts of other disciplines.
The above-mentioned vacancies are provisional and can be varied as per the requirement of the University.
For the detailed advertisement candidates are required to visit the university website i.e. www.dtu.ac.in. The interested candidates are required to fill up the application form through ONLINE mode only available at University website **www.dtu.ac.in**. Candidates are required to retain a copy of printout of the application form. All further communications related to recruitment will be displayed on the university website from time to time. In this regard, no personal communication will be entertained. **Registrar**

LONDON

Scottish Police probing Andrew, Epstein stay at castle: U.K. media



AFP

The Scottish Police are in the "very early stage" of probing the late U.S. sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's reported stay at the royal Balmoral estate at the invite of ex-prince Andrew, U.K. media reported Friday. He is believed to have visited the British monarch's estate in 1999, with his jailed accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell. AFP

LOS ANGELES

Hollywood actor Patrick Stewart, *Star Trek*, *X-Men* star, dies at 86



AP

Patrick Stewart, the British Shakespearean actor who became a Hollywood megastar through roles in the *Star Trek* and *X-Men* franchises, died at his home in Los Angeles. He was 86. His death on Wednesday came after a "brief journey" with Alzheimer's and Lewy body dementia, a statement on his social media accounts said. AFP

MUSCAT

Oman rescues 25 sailors from burning vessel, Iran halts tankers



REUTERS

Oman said on Friday it had rescued 25 sailors from merchant ship *RITI*, flying the Panamanian flag, that was targeted and set ablaze, as Iran reported three oil tankers were halted while crossing the blockaded Strait of Hormuz. Tehran has restricted maritime traffic through the strait since the West Asia war began on February 28. AFP

MOSCOW

Russian paper *Novaya Gazeta* shuts under Kremlin pressure



AFP

Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* declared Friday it was closing, saying it had been "killed" by state pressure after years of repression targeting its journalists who were critical of the Kremlin and its Ukraine war. Founder, Dmitry Muratov, said the closure was "part of a giant military campaign by the Russian Federation". AFP

'Israel committed war crimes, genocide even after Gaza truce'

Israeli military operations and settler violence in West Bank were part of coordinated attack against Palestinians, aimed at entrenching settlements, annexing territory and displacing its population, says UN commission led by Justice Muralidhar

Stanly Johny

Israeli forces have continued to commit war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in the occupied Palestinian territory even after the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, a UN commission of inquiry has said.

In a report presented to the UN General Assembly, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory said Israeli military operations and settler violence in the West Bank were part of a coordinated attack against Palestinians, aimed at entrenching settlements, annexing Palestinian territory and displacing its population.

The commission, Chaired by Justice Srinivasan Muralidhar, said more than 75,000 Palestinians, including at least 21,500 children and 11,000 women, had been killed across the occupied Palestinian territory since October 7, 2023, the day Hamas carried out an attack in Israel, killing 1,200 people. It said the death toll had continued to rise despite the October 2025 ceasefire.

"Failure to act now is particularly egregious against the backdrop of the staggering death toll, which has continued to rise since the so-called ceasefire," said Justice Muralidhar in his statement at the UN on October 26.



A cruel occupation: Palestinian children stand amid the rubble after a building was hit overnight by an Israeli strike in Gaza on Friday. AFP

Territorial control

In Gaza, Israeli forces have continued expanding their territorial control, resulting in the killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians, including children, who approach or cross the Yellow Line, which separates Israel-military controlled Gaza from the Palestine-ruled parts of the enclave, he said.

The findings contradicted claims by the Board of Peace in its May report to the Security Council that the ceasefire had largely held and brought enormous relief to civilians.

The Justice said the situation in the West Bank had deteriorated significantly since October 2023.

The commission concluded that Israel had committed crimes against humanity, including extermination, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence. It also accused Israeli authorities of persecution through discriminatory rules of engagement that applied exclusively to Palestinians.

The report traced the roots of Israeli violence to policies dating back to the 1947-48 war, arguing that Israel had sought to maximise territorial control while minimising the Palestinian population through displacement and the use of lethal force.

The report also documents the expansion of Israeli military operations in the West Bank, including air strikes and the destruction of refugee camps.

It says military operations since January 2025 have resulted in the largest displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank since 1967, with 34,176 people still displaced as of August 2026.

Justice Muralidhar, addressing the gathering via a video link, also criticised Palestinian security forces for using unnecessary or disproportionate force against Palestinians in the West Bank.

It said the Palestinian Authority had failed to conduct effective and impartial investigations into killings and provide remedies to victims.

Calling on Israel to end its occupation and comply with the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) July 2024 advisory opinion, Justice Muralidhar urged Member states to stop providing assistance that could sustain the occupation and settlements. He also called on states to use all available means to prevent and punish genocide and support the International Criminal Court (ICC).

He said he addressed the committee through a video statement because he had not received a U.S. visa despite efforts to meet the requirements.

Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN Danny Danon, in his response, rejected the commission's findings, describing the report as "works of historical fiction".

He accused the commission of "seeking to challenge Israel's legitimacy", and said it had taken "terrorist talking points and turned them into an official UN document."

Evidence gathering

Justice Muralidhar, in his concluding remarks, defended the commission's work, saying its findings were based on "painstakingly gathered evidence".

"The evidence gathering protocols [of the commission] were aligned with those of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. The commission followed the highest professional standards and reached conclusions only after satisfying itself of the evidence," he said.

He added that the commission was ready to share its evidence with any adjudicatory body seeking to investigate the allegations.

"Israel has refused to cooperate with the commission and has denied it access to the occupied Palestinian territory since its work began."

China expels 33 officials as Xi's 'anti-graft drive' widens

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China has eradicated "serious hidden dangers" in its Communist Party and military under President Xi Jinping's leadership, a senior official said on Friday, a day after authorities confirmed the expulsion of a record 33 figures.

In more than a decade in charge, Mr. Xi has cracked down hard on graft, ensnaring thousands of officials and purging dozens of members of the powerful Central Committee and a string of the top military brass.

As a four-day plenum of the Central Committee wrapped up on Thursday, state media confirmed 33 more dignitaries had been ejected, including former Politburo member Zhang Youxia, once China's highest-ranking general.



Xi Jinping

The plenum adopted a decision on "advancing full and rigorous governance of the party", which includes reducing corruption among cadres, state news agency Xinhua said.

Proponents say China's corruption purge promotes clean governance, but analysts have said the moves were aimed at paving the way for Mr. Xi to extend his rule at a Party Congress due in the second half of 2027.

The Central Committee, "with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core", has "eliminated serious hidden dangers within the Party, the state and the military," Zhang Fuhai, deputy secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), said on Friday.

The party, he told reporters, had been guided by the sense of mission that "we would rather offend thousands than let down 1.4 billion people".

The CCDI's Mr. Zhang said on Friday discipline inspection and supervisory organs in the country have punished 7.9 million people since 2012. Efforts to weed out corruption will be "deepened", he vowed.

The plenum also saw Zhang Shengmin, who has spearheaded the anti-graft drive and serves as Mr. Xi's number two in the Central Military Commission, promoted to the Politburo, the top decision-making body.

Thousands of students, workers protest in Italy

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Thousands of students and workers took to the streets across Italy on Friday, calling for more school funding and relief from the soaring cost of living, amid a high police presence to avert possible clashes.

Friday's Italy-wide protest comes after weeks of demonstrations, led by students who have set up tent camps and occupied schools to make their demands heard, fuelled by similar movements in nearby France and Spain.

A general strike called by Italy's USB trade union attracted thousands of workers to Friday's protests, including truck drivers, taxi drivers and farmers who have rallied in recent weeks over the spike in fuel prices and to oppose rising defence spending.

Marches were held in dozens of cities in the country, including in Bologna, Genoa, Naples, and Turin – where a few minor skirmishes between protesters and riot police occurred at the start of the protest.



Classes on streets: Students demonstrate demanding more funding for education and better support for housing, in Rome on Friday. AFP

In Rome, university student Beatrice Chilelli told *AFP* students were "at a breaking point". "They can't afford to pay exorbitant tuition fees, and rent... which weighs heavily on parents' shoulders," said the 21-year-old, citing student housing in Rome that could reach 1,200 euros per month for one room.

"We need more houses, not bombs!" sang one group in the crowd, as a troupe of protesters gave a brief performance imitating terrified civilians in a Gaza bombing raid.

The Milan protest also began at the central train station, but then headed outside the city – far from the centre where young vandals had looted stores, destroyed property and clashed with police two weeks ago after another sanctioned cost-of-living demonstration. Police in riot gear blocked off streets, but no major clashes had been reported as of midday.

Besides students, the demonstrators at Friday's protest included teachers, workers and retired people. Many pro-Palestine flags were seen in the crowds in major cities.

Netanyahu's bloc finishes ahead, but falls short of majority

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's camp finished ahead of the Opposition but remained well short of a parliamentary majority, according to final results from Israel's general election released early Friday.

Mr. Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and far-right parties won 53 of the Knesset's 120 seats, with his Likud party remaining the largest single faction with 27 seats. The Opposition bloc, led by centrist Gadi Eisenkot, secured 48 seats.

The results from the Central Elections Committee also confirmed a dramatic breakthrough by Arab groupings Ra'am and the Joint List, which together won 19 seats and could emerge as kingmakers in coalition talks.

The two parties were targeted by unproven election-fraud allegations circulated by Mr. Netanyahu's camp on Thursday.

Israel's Shin Bet domestic security agency said it was investigating suspected irregularities but added it was not intended to "cast aspersions or place blame on an entire sector that went out to vote in a democratic and lawful manner".



Benjamin Netanyahu

The final results will be formally presented on Wednesday to President Isaac Herzog, who will then begin consultations with party leaders before tasking one of them with trying to form a government, the commission said. The absence of a majority bloc points to potentially difficult coalition negotiations that could last for weeks.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
KANUPUR IRRIGATION PROJECT
AT/PO-BASUDEVPUR, DIST-KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN-758047
e-mail: ccekipbpur@gmail.com

"e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE - Bid Identification No.: CCE, KIP (KRC&BD)-16/2026-27
(Pertaining to Kanpur Rehabilitation Camps & Building Division, Basudevpur)

1.	Name of the Work	As per Detailed Tender Call Notice
2.	Total No. of Package	02 (Two Nos. of individual Work)
3.	Estimated Cost	559.90 Lakh to 646.77 Lakh
4.	Period of completion	As per Detailed Tender Call Notice
5.	Class of Contractor	"A" Class or "Special" Class Contractor as per Detailed Tender Call Notice
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	Dt.31.10.2026 from 10.00 Hours to Dt.16.11.2026 up to 17.00 Hours.
7.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	16.11.2026 up to 17.00 Hours.
8.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender (Technical Bid)	17.11.2026 at 11.00 Hours
9.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Mahendra Kumar Behera Chief Construction Engineer, Kanupur Irrigation Project, At/Po.- Basudevpur, Dist.- Keonjhar, Odisha - 758047.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"
(Er.Mahendra Kumar Behera)
Chief Construction Engineer,
Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar, Odisha
32001/1185/2627
OIPR-32001/32376/1/26-27/0012

KERALA STATE BEVERAGES (M&M) CORPORATION LTD
(A GOVERNMENT OF KERALA UNDERTAKING)
BEVCO TOWER, PALAYAM, VIKAS BHAVAN PO,
TRIVANDRUM - 695 033, Ph: 0471 2790100
e -Tender Notice
KSBC invites e-tenders through e-tender portal of Kerala https://etenders.kerala.gov.in (Tender ID: 2026_KSBC_881032_1.), from agencies/companies for the supply of thermal paper rolls at all KSBC Warehouses. The last date of submission of tender is 10.11.2026. For more details, please visit etenders.kerala.gov.in. Only tenders submitted through the e-tender portal in the manner prescribed on or before 10.11.2026 at 5.00 PM will be considered.
Sd/-, AGM (Operations)

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KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website:www.kiadb.in
No.KIADB/CE-1/E-Auction-01/2297/2026-27 Date:29.10.2026
E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PLOTS
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
This is to inform that Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) intends to allot industrial plots through e-auction. The details are as under:

Sl No.	Industrial Area	Plot No.	Extent (in Sqm)	Extent (in Acre)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Hassan Growth Center	233 (Corner Plot)	2150.72	0A-21.26G	5.00
2	Hassan Growth Center	373P (Intermediate Plot)	1894.11	0A-18.72G	5.00

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Schedule of Events for e-Auction is as below:

Sl No.	Particulars	Dates
1	Bidder Registration Starts Date	30.10.2026
2	Last Date for Submission of Bid	18.11.2026 on or before 5:00 pm.
3	Live Bidding	20.11.2026 Commences at 10:30 Hrs. & Concludes at 15:00 Hrs.

DIPR/CP/3412/CCL/2026-27
Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief,
KIADB, Bengaluru



GETTY IMAGES

> **Max senses things we cannot measure with our data analysis and sensors in the car. His technical sensitivity is outstanding, probably without any equivalent**
>
> **Max has that capability to pinpoint what is limiting performance. He already felt at the beginning of this year that there was a problem with the steering rack, and we couldn't see it**
>
> LAURENT MEKIES
> RED BULL TEAM PRINCIPAL

How Red Bull tapped Max's sensitive side

The four-time world champion's extraordinary feel for the car has proven invaluable in the energy drink giant's maiden attempt at building its own power unit. After a difficult first half of the season, Red Bull finally has a winning package. Although it has come too late to affect the title race, the turnaround offers an indication of why Verstappen evokes such reverence within F1

S. Dipak Ragav

The charm of a long season in any sport is that it lets those who start slowly come back and spring a surprise or two, making the year even more exciting.

In F1 2026, it was clear from the start that Mercedes had stolen a march on its rivals and would be hard to beat for both titles. Ferrari was its closest competitor early in the year, but there was never a clear indication that the Scuderia could mount a serious bid.

The development curve

One reason is that the Prancing Horse has historically struggled to develop its car throughout the season. Over the last decade, the Italian marque has often innovated and started the year strongly, but hasn't sustained that momentum. Ferrari brought consistent performance to the car only in 2024, when it came within a handful of points of clinching the constructors' title.

This season, McLaren and Red Bull started with an uncompetitive package but have since begun to trouble Mercedes regularly.

Red Bull in particular had a difficult first half of the year, often being just the fourth-best car. The energy drinks outfit, though, has since transformed its season, with Max Verstappen winning two of the last three events and finishing third in the other.

In a complex sport like F1, driver feedback is vital in helping engineers find the right development path. The driver's inputs can unlock a car's performance

Last year, Red Bull showed it could develop the car right through the season, bringing Verstappen into the title fight and keeping him in it until the last race. It has managed the first part again this year.

While clawing back the deficit under a new rule-set in such a short time frame is impressive in its own right, Verstappen's victory in Sepang, Malaysia (Bahrain GP!) is even more special because it marked the team's first win as a power unit (PU) manufacturer in its maiden attempt.

Over the last few races, the team has worked on both the chassis and PU fronts to suddenly have a car capable of challenging for wins, at least in Verstappen's hands. This brings us to the next point: how much a driver can influence a team's development trajectory.

In a complex sport like F1, driver feedback is vital to help engineers find the right development path. Often, teams prefer to follow the preferences of their fastest driver. This is typically the best approach, but sometimes it can send the team down a wrong alley, as a driver's preferred style might not be the most efficient way to generate lap time. This is where insightful feedback from the driver can help the team iron out issues and unlock the car's performance.

While F1 is largely engineering-driven, in that most of the lap time is gained in wind tunnels and computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis, and getting the right package onto the track, the driver still matters.

Sometimes, while the wind tunnel data might show a car's theoretical potential, accessing that on track might be difficult, which could affect overall lap time. How close a driver gets to that potential is what separates the very good from the great. Right now, few can match Verstappen.

Red Bull team boss Laurent Mekies recently said his driver's inputs helped with the upgrades.

An outlier attribute

"His input is massive, and his technical sensitivity is outstanding, probably without any equivalent and therefore yes, he has that capability to pinpoint what is limiting performance," Mekies said after the Singapore GP win.

This strength allows the four-time champion to get the most out of a tricky car and do wonders that his teammates seldom can.

The best drivers often arrive at solutions earlier than most. During pre-season testing in Bahrain, Verstappen started downshifting aggressively to first gear in corners – drivers usually took them in second – for better energy recovery and management. By the end of the test, others started following suit. Things like these and having the mental processing capacity to feel every little thing the car tells him are crucial to finding those last tenths or hundredths of a second.

Another driver who exemplifies that trait is Fernando Alonso. The Spaniard is probably one of the most adaptable drivers to have ever raced in F1. Irrespective of the limitations of the car, he consistently finds a way to get the most out of it even if he is never the outright quickest over a lap. But over a race distance, his ability to feel the changing grip conditions and adjust is probably second to none, which allows him to extract results from bad cars that not many can manage. It is one reason why he is still able to operate at such a high level at 45.

Even though the records show only two titles, it would be nigh impossible to have a debate on the greatest drivers in F1 without Alonso featuring very high on that list.

It's a quality that also adds to Verstappen's exalted standing. Earlier in the season, Mekies recalled that the Dutch driver found a steering-rack issue the data didn't show.

"It is a fact that Max senses things we cannot measure with our current data analysis and sensors in the car. I will be very honest about that. That is the result of his extraordinary sensitivity in the car and his technical level.

"To give an example, Max already felt at the beginning of this year that there was a problem with the steering rack, and we couldn't see it. But thanks to him, we were able to solve it. As a team, we have only benefited from that," Mekies added.

His former teammate Alexander Albon remarked that Verstappen can handle a car on the nose, even if it makes the rear unstable. Albon offered a sense of the sharpness of the frog end by comparing it to controlling the cursor on a computer screen by turning the mouse sensitivity to maximum.

Defining story

It perfectly sums up a defining story of Red Bull during the Verstappen years, in which his teammates start the campaign close to his pace but struggle as the season goes on.

Even this year, until the summer break, Isack Hadjar matched Verstappen, but after the upgrade was introduced in Baku, the Frenchman has struggled to keep up even as the car as a whole has found a higher ceiling.

Across sports, statistics don't always tell the whole story. This is particularly true in F1, where the machinery plays a huge role. The fact that Verstappen can live with a car built closer to a theoretical peak, in a way in which no other driver can, shows why he is regarded as the best on the grid even in seasons in which he doesn't win the drivers' title.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	25	10,450	16
2	Alexander Zverev	29	9,750	19
3	Carlos Alcaraz	23	5,610	17
4	Ben Shelton	24	4,680	21
5	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,860	23
6	Flavio Cobolli	24	3,690	25
7	Felix Auger-Aliassime	26	3,515	21
8	Arthur Fils	22	3,425	19
9	Frances Tiafoe	28	3,380	22
10	Alex de Minaur	27	3,280	23
11	Rafael Jodar	20	3,234	20
12	Novak Djokovic	39	3,090	15
13	Taylor Fritz	28	2,995	22
14	Tommy Paul	29	2,675	22
15	A. Davidovich Fokina	27	2,600	23

Top Indians ▸



Sumit Nagal
Rank 269 ▲ 12 spots



Manas Dhamne
Rank 391 ▲ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Elena Rybakina	27	9,501	20
2	Aryna Sabalenka	28	7,550	20
3	Mirra Andreeva	19	6,306	20
4	Jessica Pegula	32	6,225	20
5	Coco Gauff	22	5,973	20
6	Elina Svitolina	32	5,229	19
7	Karolina Muchova	30	4,725	19
8	Iga Swiatek	25	4,389	19
9	Linda Noskova	21	4,353	19
10	Marta Kostyuk	24	3,920	19
11	Maja Chwalinska	25	3,016	23
12	Iva Jovic	18	2,941	23
13	Diana Shnaider	22	2,798	22
14	Elise Mertens	30	2,540	22
15	Victoria Mboko	20	2,393	15

Top Indians ▸



Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 334 ▲ 31 spots



Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 369 ▲ 9 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	A.K. Antonelli	Mercedes	365	9
2	G. Russell	Mercedes	242	3
3	L. Hamilton	Ferrari	241	1
4	M. Verstappen	Red Bull	236	2
5	C. Leclerc	Ferrari	233	1
6	L. Norris	McLaren	211	2
7	O. Piastri	McLaren	144	0
8	I. Hadjar	Red Bull	105	0
9	L. Lawson	RB	77	0
10	P. Gasly	Alpine	42	0
11	A. Lindblad	RB	38	0
12	F. Colapinto	Alpine	27	0
13	O. Bearman	Haas	23	0
14	N. Hulkenberg	Audi	13	0
15	G. Bortoleto	Audi	10	0
16	E. Ocon	Haas	7	0
17	F. Alonso	Aston Martin	7	0
18	C. Sainz	Williams	7	0
19	A. Albon	Williams	5	0
20	Y. Tsunoda	RB	1	0
21	L. Stroll	Aston Martin	0	0
22	V. Bottas	Cadillac	0	0
23	S. Perez	Cadillac	0	0



A.K. Antonelli



G. Russell

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Mercedes	607	12
2	Ferrari	474	2
3	Red Bull	355	2
4	McLaren	355	2
5	RB	102	0
6	Alpine	69	0
7	Haas	30	0
8	Audi	23	0
9	Williams	12	0
10	Aston Martin	7	0
11	Cadillac	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Christo Popov	89,932	19
2	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	89,465	17
3	Anders Antonsen	85,155	17
4	Alex Lanier	83,665	15
5	Chou Tien Chen	82,230	26
6	Jonatan Christie	80,031	17
7	Victor Lai	79,845	18
8	Shi Yu Qi	79,525	13
9	Kodai Naraoka	78,740	18
10	Alwi Farhan	73,699	17
11	Loh Kean Yew	69,020	17
12	Lin Chun-Yi	64,924	19
13	Toma Junior Popov	64,427	19
14	Lakshya Sen	61,563	19
15	Koki Watanabe	59,220	19

Top Indians ▸



Lakshya Sen
Rank 14



Ayush Shetty
Rank 19

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,22,287	15
2	Akane Yamaguchi	1,03,726	17
3	Wang Zhi Yi	1,01,389	16
4	Chen Yu Fei	87,351	13
5	Ratchanok Intanon	77,546	19
6	Putri Kusuma Wardani	71,653	17
7	Tomoka Miyazaki	71,406	21
8	P.V. Sindhu	70,261	16
9	Nozomi Okuhara	68,930	18
10	Pornpawee Chochuwong	68,897	18
11	Han Yue	64,698	12
12	Line Christophersen	60,040	21
13	Kim Ga Eun	57,791	14
14	Mia Blichfeldt	55,253	11
15	Sim Yu Jin	54,544	12

Top Indians ▸



P.V. Sindhu
Rank 8



Unnati Hooda
Rank 21

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Harry Brook	861	898
2	Temba Bavuma	818	818
3	Joe Root	816	932
4	Travis Head	813	884
5	Steve Smith	798	947
6	Rachin Ravindra	740	740
7	Rishabh Pant	713	801
8	Daryl Mitchell	710	804
9	Shubman Gill	709	807
10	Kamindu Mendis	706	784

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Marco Jansen	876	876
2	Mitchell Starc	861	872
2	Matt Henry	861	870
4	Ollie Robinson	856	856
5	Jasprit Bumrah	853	908
6	Scott Boland	829	829
7	Pat Cummins	817	914
8	Kagiso Rabada	808	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	805	864
10	Noman Ali	777	853

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	841	855
2	Daryl Mitchell	794	840
3	Virat Kohli	781	908
4	Rohit Sharma	770	879
5	Ibrahim Zadran	752	756
6	Shai Hope	710	782
7	Ben Duckett	679	679
8	Harry Brook	675	693
9	Babar Azam	672	894
10	K.L. Rahul	653	676

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	760	775
2	Keshav Maharaj	660	737
3	Abrar Ahmed	648	675
4	Mitchell Santner	644	656
5	Kuldeep Yadav	620	757
6	Shaheen Afridi	616	691
7	A. Omarzai	610	610
8	Bernard Scholtz	606	631
9	Maheesh Theekshana	603	680
10	Jofra Archer	599	682

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	897	931
2	Sahibzada Farhan	883	883
3	Ishan Kishan	866	916
4	Harry Brook	793	793
5	Jos Buttler	789	794
5	Dewald Brevis	789	806
7	Phil Salt	775	881
8	Shai Hope	759	766
9	Shreyas Iyer	758	829
10	Tilak Varma	724	845

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	733	828
2	Adam Zampa	700	746
3	Adil Rashid	695	747
3	Abrar Ahmed	695	757
5	Nathan Ellis	675	678
6	Jamie Overton	674	674
7	Mitchell Santner	665	735
8	Nasum Ahmed	661	661
9	Mahedi Hasan	654	654
10	Liam Dawson	648	652

I like Mikhail Tal, but Magnus Carlsen is my favourite player

Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus' precocious talent evokes comparisons to elite Grandmasters. In this chat, the 15-year-old talks about his chess journey, the game's growth in Turkey, the role of sponsorship in young careers and his famous pawn checkmate against two queens

SUDHAKARA JAIN



Arjun [Erigaisi] finds some interesting opening ideas. Nihal Sarin is also creative and very good at speed chess. Pragg just wants to beat everyone

INTERVIEW

Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus could well be the world's most talented 15-year-old chess player. The Turkish prodigy – the fourth youngest Grandmaster in history at the time he achieved the honour – is currently ranked 17th, with a highly impressive Elo rating of 2731. Five-time World champion Magnus Carlsen believes the teenager's quality of chess is unprecedented for his age. Erdogmus was in Bengaluru recently for the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League, in which he played for PBG Alaskan Knights. Excerpts from an interview he gave *The Hindu*:

You made your debut at the Global Chess League.

It is a very big tournament and it was an amazing feeling to play in a tournament featuring players like Magnus Carlsen and Vishy [Viswanathan Anand]. I have a lot of respect for Vishy because of what he has done for Indian chess. I also enjoyed being part of my team, PBG Alaskan Knights. After the games we would be talking with each other. Sometimes we would discuss the games we played. And sometimes we would play bullet games. It was all great fun.

This is your second visit to India. You had played at the World Cup in Goa last year.

The Indian players are so talented and the people here are very friendly. They really love chess. India is really big in the chess world.

Both me and my father were crying after I got my GM title. It was maybe the biggest point in my career

Arjun Erigaisi is your teammate at Alaskan Knights.

I have a very good relationship with him. I like him as a player too. He always finds some interesting opening ideas. And when he plays, he is also very creative. His time management is also very nice. Nihal Sarin is also creative and finds interesting ideas. And he is very good at speed chess. Pragg [R. Praggnanandhaa] is excellent in openings. And he plays very bravely, actually. Sometimes he takes big risks.

Which seems to be paying off particularly well for him of late...

Yes, he has recently won a lot of tournaments. He just wants to beat everyone. He isn't afraid of anyone.

How is the state of chess back home in Turkey, after your emergence as a world class player?

Yes, it is becoming a bit more popular because of me and also because of Ediz [Gurel]. Ediz has also been playing very well.

Yes, both of you are in the top 100.

Earlier, we had Mustafa Yilmaz in the top 100. He dropped his rating, so he is not in that list anymore. This is the first time that Turkey has two players in the top 100.

So back in Turkey, more people are recognising you? And are there more boys and girls playing chess now?

Yes. Chess is growing in Turkey, and that makes me very happy.



You have this big sponsorship...

Yes, from [Turkish entrepreneur and chess philanthropist] Eren Ucok. He has supported me in so many ways, both financially and personally. It is not just about the financial support. He always believes in me and motivates me. So I am very lucky to have someone like him.

How did it happen?

Some time back, he had decided to support chess and I was actually doing very well at the time; I had some great performances. At first he supported me, and now he is supporting other young talents.

At the highest level, chess is a very expensive sport...

Indeed, I am very lucky. Because for most people, sponsorship is an issue.

The world's youngest Grandmaster, Abhimanyu Mishra, doesn't have a sponsor.

Yes. For me the sponsorship came at the right time.

How did you get interested in chess?

While I was studying at kindergarten, and I was six at the time, we had chess lessons. That is how I learned the game. And I really liked the chess pieces.

Any pieces in particular, like bishop or knight?

Maybe I preferred knight. It can be more tricky. I really liked the game. And I joined some course in chess and that was how it started.

Then you became the European Under-8 champion, winning all your first eight games.

Yes I won the title with a round to spare.

That must have given you a lot of confidence early in your career.

Yes, it did. And everyone became aware that I actually became the European champion and that made me a little bit popular in my country.

Two years ago, you became the world's fourth youngest Grandmaster in history.

It means a lot to me. I was very happy. Both me and my father were crying after I got my GM title. It was maybe the biggest point in my career.

Last year, you came up with a fine performance at the Grand Swiss tournament. Your game against India's Aditya Mittal was much appreciated and it was one of the best games of the year. You allowed White to have two queens on the board, you sacrificed your own queen and checkmated him with a pawn.

I calculated everything until then. It just worked and I just went for that. Yes, it was a nice win, but I had won some other games by sacrificing pieces in the past, too.

So, you must enjoy Mikhail Tal's chess.

Yes, I obviously have checked his games. I like him, but Magnus Carlsen is my favourite player.

You must have felt happy when Carlsen said some great things about you after your performance at the Grand Swiss. He said the level of your play was unprecedented for a 14-year-old.

Yes, I was very happy to hear that. But, at the Grand Swiss, I was hoping to do better after starting very well. I had beaten Levon Aronian, but lost a very stupid game against Hans Niemann. And that made me sad. After that, I couldn't qualify for the Candidates. I had some good chances, but then I lost two games. And my chances were over for the Candidates.

Which was won by Javokhir Sindarov, who will now challenge D. Gukesh for the World title match, which begins in Geneva in November. Your thoughts on the match?

Sindarov, I feel, is a favourite, little bit actually. He has had some very good performances and has done better than Gukesh of late. But anything can happen in a World championship match.

What are your ambitions?

I just want to improve my rating. And I want to keep on playing in good tournaments.

GAME THEORY

Bundesliga: goals vs. expected goals

Bayern Munich has dominated Bundesliga's attacking statistics, generating the most expected goals (xG) and scoring the most goals in the opening rounds of the season. RB Leipzig, next on the goal-scoring chart, has overperformed its xG unlike Bayern. Indeed the size of Leipzig's overperformance is the highest in the German top-flight, the team scoring 4.11 goals more than expected based on the shots it has taken. A look at how the teams in Bundesliga rank on xG and the margin between the goals they have scored and the xG they have generated (xGDiff):

Rank	Team	Goals	xG	xGDiff
1	Bayern Munich	24	24.15	-0.15
2	RB Leipzig	20	15.89	4.11
3	Mainz 05	16	16.69	-0.69
4	Leverkusen	16	16.03	-0.03
5	Augsburg	16	15.57	0.43
6	Freiburg	15	14.29	0.71
7	Werder	15	13.40	1.60
8	Hoffenheim	13	15.55	-2.55
9	Elversberg	12	10.57	1.43
10	Dortmund	11	13.87	-2.87
11	M'gladbach	11	12.59	-1.59
12	VfB Stuttgart	10	15.85	-5.85
13	E. Frankfurt	10	13.13	-3.13
14	FC Koln	7	12.33	-5.33
15	Paderborn	6	8.71	-2.71
16	Hamburger	6	7.50	-1.50
17	Union Berlin	6	8.03	-2.03
18	Schalke 04	4	8.02	-4.02



BAYERN MUNICH


RB LEIPZIG


MAINZ 05



LEVERKUSEN

SOURCE: WHOSCORED.COM

PICTURE THIS



GETTY IMAGES

All-time great

Daiki Hashimoto, seen here on the pommel horse, recently staked his claim to being one of the greatest male gymnasts of all time by securing his fourth straight all-around title at the Artistic Gymnastics World championships in Rotterdam.

The 25-year-old from Japan, who has also won three Olympic gold medals, retained his crown to win his seventh gold — his 14th medal — at the championships. Vitaly Scherbo (12 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze) is the most decorated male gymnast in the competition's history.

The weeklong marquee event is one "where power meets poise, expression meets precision, and artistry meets ambition on a global stage".

The World championships dates back to 1903 in Antwerp, where only male gymnasts competed. Women's events were introduced in Budapest in 1934. In artistic gymnastics, athletes perform short routines on different apparatus, including floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, horizontal bar, uneven bars and balance beam.

The Rotterdam championships also served as the first artistic gymnastics qualifier for the LA Olympics.

TREND-SETTER

Wickets in the PowerPlay made the difference, feels Santner



AFP

With the wind, it didn't dew up. You have to bowl well against these guys and we did. The guys bashed through and we managed to take wickets in the PowerPlay. We saw a couple fly through at the start. There was a little (bit of spice) on the wicket, which we wanted — New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner.

LEADING THE CHARGE

Arshdeep becomes first Indian to claim 150 wickets in T20Is



CREIMAS/BCCI

Arshdeep Singh scripted history by becoming the first Indian bowler to reach 150 wickets in T20Is. Arshdeep achieved the feat by dismissing Mitchell Santner in the fourth T20I against New Zealand in Auckland on Friday. The left-arm pacer has 150 wickets in 103 matches at an average of 20.62 and an economy of 8.65.

ROARING BACK

Chase sparks Bangladesh collapse, gives West Indies the edge



AFP

West Indies captain Roston Chase (three for 25) ripped through Bangladesh's top-order to leave the host at 79 for six in the second innings on day three of the first Test in Mirpur on Friday. Bangladesh held a 106-run lead at stumps. **The scores:** Bangladesh 272 & 79/6 in 29 overs vs. WI 245 in 82.5 overs (Tagenarine 56, Hasan 4/33).

NEW SET

Uthappa named MI batting coach; McClenaghan, too, joins franchise



FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

Mumbai Indians on Friday named Robin Uthappa as its batting coach ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League season. New Zealand's Mitchell McClenaghan was appointed the bowling coach while T. Dilip and Dhawal Kulkarni will be the fielding coach and development bowling coach respectively.

Phillips sends India on a leather hunt as Black Caps pull one back

The No. 4 batter smashes a 49-ball 107 to propel the home team to 259 for seven, its highest in the format; the Men in Blue lose their way early and go down by 87 runs in the fourth T20I; Bracewell (65) and Duffy (four for 23), too, shine for the host



Onslaught: Phillips smashed four successive sixes off Nitish to kickstart New Zealand's final push. AFP

INDIA IN NZ

Agence France-Presse
AUCKLAND

Glenn Phillips smashed a sublime century as New Zealand made its highest T20I score in an 87-run win over India on Friday.

Phillips hit 10 sixes and six fours as he blasted 107 from just 49 balls, steering the host to a record 259 for seven in the fourth T20I. The No. 4 batter was well supported by Michael Bracewell (65, 25b, 4x4, 6x6).

India won the toss for the fourth time running, electing again to bowl after the ploy led it to a 3-0 series lead.

Phillips, who scored his third T20I century, made a lightning start after coming to the crease with the score at 34 for two in the third over, and initially found an able ally in opener Finn Allen (31, 17b, 2x4, 2x6).

New Zealand's innings was teetering at 112 for four in the 11th over when Bevon Jacobs was removed. But Bracewell's arrival heralded a 115-run partnership in just 40 balls. Phillips hit four straight sixes off Nitish Kumar in the 16th over to begin the final onslaught, with 85 runs coming from the last five overs.

In reply, India lost two wickets in the opening over, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan falling to Jacob Duffy. Needing 13 runs per over, the Men in Blue lost their way as New Zealand's bowlers adjusted far better to the conditions.

Jacob Duffy finished with four for 23, and Mitchell Santner took two for 24, as India's effort ended at 172 for nine.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Tim Seifert c Prince b Mayank 3 *(5b)*, Finn Allen c Abhishek b Axar 31 *(17b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Daryl Mitchell lbw b Mayank 24 *(9b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Phillips c Abhishek b Nitish 107 *(49b, 6x4, 10x6)*, Bevon Jacobs c Arshdeep b Mayank 7 *(7b)*, Michael Bracewell lbw b Prince 65 *(25b, 4x4, 6x6)*, Mitchell Santner c Nitish b Arshdeep 5 *(6b)*, Nathan Smith (not out) 6 *(3b, 1x4)*, Adam Milne (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-2, w-7): 10; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 259.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Seifert, 0.6 overs), 2-34 (Mitchell, 2.5), 3-93 (Allen, 7.6), 4-112 (Jacobs, 10.4), 5-227 (Bracewell, 17.2), 6-246 (Santner, 18.6), 7-252 (Phillips, 19.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Mayank 4-0-48-3, Arshdeep 4-0-38-1, Prince 4-0-49-1, Nitish 4-0-64-1, Axar 3-0-43-1, Dhir 1-0-16-0.

INDIA

Sanju Samson c Seifert b Duffy 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Abhishek Sharma c Santner b Fisher 27 *(15b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Ishan Kishan c & b Duffy 0 *(3b)*, Shreyas Iyer b Milne 22 *(11b, 4x4)*, Axar Patel c & b Santner 7 *(9b, 1x4)*, Nitish Kumar c Bracewell b Santner 21 *(10b, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma c Seifert b Fisher 35 *(35b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Naman Dhir c Smith b Duffy 28 *(13b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Arshdeep Singh c Jacobs b Duffy 0 *(1b)*, Prince Yadav (not out) 18 *(17b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Mayank Yadav (not out) 3 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-4): 7; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 172.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Samson, 0.2), 2-4 (Kishan, 0.5), 3-50 (Abhishek, 4.3), 4-56 (Shreyas, 5.3), 5-86 (Nitish, 8.1), 6-89 (Axar, 8.4), 7-121 (Dhir, 11.2), 8-121 (Arshdeep, 11.3), 9-158 (Tilak, 18.4).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Duffy 4-0-23-4, Milne 4-0-35-1, Smith 4-0-47-0, Fisher 4-0-40-2, Santner 4-0-24-2.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Phillips.
New Zealand won by 87 runs, India ahead 3-1 in five-match series.
Fifth T20I: November 1, Hamilton, 12.30 p.m. IST.

Celebrating a milestone for women's cricket

INDIA AT 50

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Saturday marks a less remembered but a significant half century for Indian sport.

It was on October 31 in 1976 that the first women's Test between India and the West Indies got underway at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. In the 50 years since, India may have played only 42 Tests more, and that is an issue no doubt, but women's cricket has changed beyond recognition, with teams across the world getting to play so many limited-overs games right through the year.

It was only on Wednesday that India played Zimbabwe in an ODI at Vadodara. On the same day at Kochi the WPL's mini auction was held. A 15-year-old Uma Kashvi was picked up by Delhi Capitals for ₹10 lakh. G. Kamalini, three years older, was bought by Gujarat Giants for ₹40 lakh.

And watching the auction was Shubhangi Kulkarni, as a member of the BCCI Apex Council. There had been little money in women's cricket till not so long ago.

Shubhangi was one of India's stars from that Test against the West Indies. With her leg-spin, she took five for 48 in the first innings, and two for 28 in the second.

She also had a hand in the first two wickets the visiting side lost in the first essay. She caught opener Gloria Gill at slip off the bowling of left-arm spinner Sharmila Chakraborty and played a part in the run out of Louise Browne.

"It was a dream beginning to my Test career, and a day I will always cherish," Shubhangi told *The Hindu*. "Before the series, we had attended a coaching camp conducted by Lala Amarnath. I had learnt a few new tricks from him and from my coach, Kamal Bhandarkar, and was really looking forward to trying them out on the international stage."

Those tactics worked. The match was drawn. As were the following two Tests at Chennai and New Delhi, but India won the fourth at Patna.

Shubhangi took seven wickets in India's first-ever win in international women's cricket. In a low-scoring match, the only fifty was scored by India's wicketkeeper-opener Fowzieh Khalili, who made 58 in the first innings.

"What made the experience even more special was playing in front of a packed stadium," recalls Shubhangi. "After the match, the crowd surrounded our bus and simply wouldn't let it move!"

The women's game, though, has moved on. And what a 50!



Blast from the past: Diana Edulji traps Gloria Gill in front of the wicket in the second Test at Chennai in 1976. THE HINDU ARCHIVES



Shubhangi played a key role in India's maiden Test series. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

SNAPSHOTS

Sindhu meets Anmol in the semifinal

SAARBRUCKEN: P.V. Sindhu cruised into the women's singles semifinals of the Hylo Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a 21-12, 21-10 win over Germany's Amalie Schulz on Friday. Sindhu will next face compatriot Anmol Kharb after the latter knocked out sixth seed and fellow Indian Unnati Hooda 21-17, 18-21, 21-16 in a hard-fought contest.

In men's singles, Lakshya Sen came back from a game down against Finland's Kalle Koljonen to seal a last-four spot. He won 14-21, 21-17, 21-13 in an hour and six minutes.



Sindhu. GETTY IMAGES

Prasidh to miss ODIs against New Zealand

India pacer Prasidh Krishna has been ruled out of the upcoming ODI series in New Zealand after failing to recover from a hamstring injury.

Prasidh was initially named in the squad for the first three of the five ODIs, subject to fitness clearance. The 30-year-old will join the India-A squad to stake a claim for the two-Test series.

Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj and all-rounder Nitish Kumar will also link up with India-A for the second and third 'Tests' respectively.

Anvay and Aaryavir in India squad for under-19 Asia Cup

Anvay Dravid and Aaryavir Sehwag were on Friday named in India's squad for the under-19 Asia Cup, to be played in Muscat from November 5 to 14.

The squad:
Lakshya Raichandani (Capt.), Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan (Vice-capt.), Aaryavir Sehwag, V.K. Vineeth, Kushagra Ojha, Arjun Rajput, Manal Chauhan, Anvay Dravid (wk), Rajat Baghel (wk), V. Yashveer, Aryan Savsani, Mohit Ulva, Kavya Patel, Shavin Vinod, Ishan Sood.

India's schedule:
Nov. 6: vs. Nepal; **Nov. 8:** vs. Pakistan; **Nov. 10:** vs. UAE.

India extends winning run, seals spot in the semifinals

ACT

Uthra Ganesan
JALANDHAR

Three goals in the final quarter ensured India would maintain its winning run in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey but the 4-1 victory against Japan on Friday was not the cakewalk the scoreline would suggest. India also advanced to the semifinals.

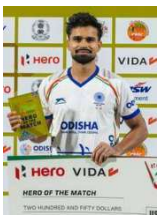
The defending champion was stretched and tested to the limit by a team ranked eight places below in the world. It was a display of defensive discipline and positive play from the Japanese who never backed off despite India's best efforts.

The domination seen from the host in the previous two outings was nowhere to be seen, either in the numbers or on the field, for the first 45 minutes. Japan's resilience made the match exciting. It was the first real test for India, which appeared in a hurry for large periods in contrast to Japan's patient approach.

A perfectly-positioned Abhishek in front of the goal slammed in Sukhjeet's pass from the backline to go ahead in the 11th minute. Shota Yamada drew level four minutes later through a penalty stroke that Suraj Karkera had no answer to. It came off Japan's fourth penalty corner after a goalbound shot bounced off Sanjay's shoulder.

The scoreline remained that way for the next half hour before India upped the ante, increasing the pace and going all out.

"The talk at half-time was just to go all out on the press, keep pushing Japan back and attack," both coach Craig Fulton and Abhishek revealed.



It was a memorable 150th appearance for Abhishek. HOCKEY INDIA

The urgency wasn't surprising; Japan's dominance in the first half was – four PCs to India's none, six circle entries to four and just one shot on target for the home side.

The Japanese plan was simple – stick to the basics, draw the Indians in and then push through the gaps with long passes to cut turnover chances and not concede PCs.

India had just one PC in the entire match and two cancelled after review. Harmanpreet was finally called in to restore the lead in the 47th minute.

Korea, meanwhile, struck twice in as many minutes soon after resumption to overturn China's one-goal lead, then held on to register its first win. Malaysia thrashed Bangladesh 6-1 to remain unbeaten and join India in the semifinals.

The results: India 4 (Abhishek 11, 51, Harmanpreet 47-pc, Vishnukant Singh 56) bt Japan 1 (Shota Yamada 15-ps); Malaysia 6 (Abu Kamal Azrai 14, 22-pc, Akhimullah Anuar 29-pc, Azimuddin Kamaruddin 32-pc, Shello Silverius 33, Aiman Rozemi 50-pc) bt Bangladesh 1 (Amirul Islam 26-pc); Korea 2 (Kim Yong Bok 35, Kim Jae Ho 36) bt China 1 (Chen Chongcong 8-ps).

Rickelton, Mulder lead South Africa's fightback

AUSTRALIA IN SA

Agencies
CAPE TOWN

Centuries from Ryan Rickelton and Wiaan Mulder lifted South Africa back into contention against Australia on day four of the third and final Test at Newlands on Friday.

South Africa began the day only 40 runs ahead and four wickets down. But a fightback led by wicketkeeper Rickelton (101) and all-rounder Mulder (115) earned it a lead of 287. Left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc took three wickets for a match haul of nine. Mulder's dismissal in the day's last over ended South Africa's second innings at 387, giving Australia the entire fifth day to score 288 and win the three-Test series which is tied 1-1.

The scores: South Africa 329 & 387 in 134.4 overs (Ackerman 62, Rickelton 101, Mulder 115) vs. Australia 429.

Vinith's stoppage-time goal earns BFC a point

ISL

Sports Bureau

Substitute Vinith Venkatesh's injury-time equaliser salvaged a point for Bengaluru FC as it held North-East United FC to a 1-1 draw in the Indian Super League at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Guwahati on Friday.

Vinith's right-footed strike into the bottom-left corner in the third minute of stoppage time cancelled out M.S. Jithin's goal in the 15th minute.

Vinith's goal was a result of a defensive mix-up between 'keeper Gurmeet Singh and Eneko Satrustegui while Jithin's opener came courtesy a counter-attacking move.

The draw maintains both teams' unbeaten records, as NorthEast continues its position atop the table with eight points from four matches and BFC is second on seven points from three games.

The result: NorthEast United FC 1 (Jithin 15) drew with Bengaluru FC 1 (Vinith 90+3).



Like mentor, like mentee: Vinith, right, celebrates with Chhetri after netting the equaliser. RITU RAJ KONWAR

INBRIEF



Shanker Basu's new book *The Relentless Sprinter* released

The Relentless Sprinter is a book that offers a behind-the-scenes account of how Shanker Basu, former strength and conditioning head of the Indian men's cricket team, oversaw the making of an elite sprinter. At its heart is athlete Nithin's journey from injury and self-doubt to setting an open national 200m record of 20.66 seconds. The book places Basu's process-driven philosophy under the spotlight, examining the training systems, scientific approach, mindset shifts and difficult decisions that shaped Nithin's progress. Featuring actual workouts, candid reflections and thought-provoking questions, it offers a rare insight into the discipline and rigour behind high-performance sport. The book was released by Shanker and Nithin in Chennai on Friday.

Frosinone's fairytale run continues in Italian football

In Italy, newly promoted Frosinone continued its unlikely rise up the standings by beating Lecce 5-1, making it 13 goals scored in the past three games by coach Massimiliano Alvini's team. Frosinone, a small-city club near Rome, sits sixth, just one point behind AC Milan after nine Serie A rounds. Fiorentina drew 2-2 with Atalanta in a back-and-forth game that kept both teams in the bottom half of the table.

The results: Frosinone 5 (Cichella 25, Calo 45+1-pen, Raimondo 59, Birligea 72, 90+4) bt Lecce 1 (Monteiro 82); Fiorentina 2 (Njie 53, Mario 61) drew with Atalanta 2 (De Ketelaere 41, Zalewski 74).

Zverev set to climb to No. 1 in world rankings

Germany's Alexander Zverev accelerated his ascension to No. 1 in the world rankings for the first time in his career as he beat Tallon Griekspoor 6-4, 7-5 on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the Vienna Open. The 29-year-old Zverev will replace Jannik Sinner atop the rankings on Monday regardless of his next results. Sinner announced the end of his season three weeks ago because of inflammation in his right knee. Zverev will be the 30th different men's player at No. 1 and the oldest first-timer to reach the top since 30-year-old John Newcombe did it in 1974. The ATP rankings had been created the previous year.

India finishes 87th in FIFA U-15 WC & Festival

India beat Cuba 6-4 to end its FIFA U-15 World Cup and Festival campaign on a winning note in Baku on Friday. Victor Lalawmpuia (1, 23), Nibas Meetei Wahengbam (6, 22) and R. Lalremruatfela (12, 27) scored twice each as the Blue Colts secured victory in their 10th and final fixture of the tournament. India finished 87th in the inaugural edition of the tournament among 189 competing nations. India registered five wins – over Laos, Cameroon, Bahrain, Trinidad and Tobago, and Cuba. It suffered defeats to Senegal, Honduras, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan, while drawing once against Grenada.

Bengal squad for Ranji match against Maharashtra

The Cricket Association of Bengal on Friday announced an 18-member squad for Bengal's next Ranji Trophy Group C match against Maharashtra to be held at the Eden Gardens here from Monday.

The squad: Abhimanyu Easwaran (Capt.), Sudip Gharami (Vice-capt.), Sudip Chatterjee, Abishek Porel (wk), Shahbaz Ahmed, Shakir Habib Gandhi (wk), Ankur Paul, Sumanta Gupta, Ankit Shukla, Subham Chatterjee, Mohammed Shami, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal, Pradipra Pramanik, Aamir Gani, Mohammed Kaif, Soumyadip Mandal, Karan Lal and Geet Puri.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs. West Indies: First Test, Day 4, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

South Africa vs. Australia: Third Test, Day 5, Eurosport & FanCode, 2 p.m.

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV App, 5 & 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.

LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Serie A: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 7.30 & 10.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 8 & 11 p.m.

Formula One: Mexico GP (Qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 2.30 a.m. (Sunday)

New Zealand-A vs. India-A: Second 'Test' Day 2, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 3.30 a.m.(Sunday)

Manisha clinches a historic World title

The 29-year-old edges out Pan-American champ Abigail in the 59kg final; she becomes the first Indian woman to win gold in the prestigious event

WRESTLING

Sports Bureau

Manisha Bhanwala scripted history as she rallied to beat USA's Pan-American champion Abigail Elizabeth Nette 8-6 in the 59kg final and became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the World wrestling championships in Astana on Friday.

The 29-year-old Manisha is the second Indian after Sushil Kumar to win a World title.

Sushil had become the World champion in 66kg freestyle in Moscow in 2010.

Manisha overcame a disappointing performance in the 57kg weight class at the Asian Games in Japan to give a dominating performance in the non-Olympic category.

The Haryana wrestler, who defeated three strong opponents on Thursday to make it to the final, displayed a steely resolve and tactical brilliance to fight back from 0-6 down to stun World No. 10 Abigail 8-6.

After winning the Asian title in 62kg, Manisha took a bold call to switch to the competitive 57kg last year.

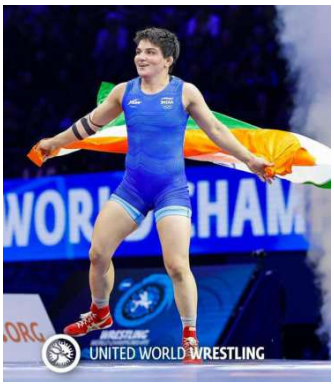
"I competed in 62kg for four years and gave good performances. I feel I could not make it to the Olympics because of my height (five feet two inches) as I was not able to take proper positions," Manisha had told *The Hindu* after winning the 57kg National title last year.

Her historic performance in Astana should boost Manisha's ambition to shine at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Besides Manisha's gold, Neelam Sirohi and Kajal Dhochak's silver in 50kg and 76kg respectively and Tanu Sharma bronze in 72kg helped Indian women record their best-ever showing in the Worlds. Overall, India finished fourth in the women's section.

In men's freestyle, Vicky (97kg) was beaten 10-0 by Iranian Hassan Yazdani in repechage.

Three others – Nikhil (61kg), Pushpender Dalal (86kg) and Jaspooran Singh (125kg) – moved into repechage rounds.



Turning it around: Manisha overcame the disappointment in the Asian Games to shine at the Worlds. UWW

Abhinandh sends fourth seed Hyuk packing

WTT FEEDER CHENNAI

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Having fallen short of his own expectations, particularly after a successful Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season-7, where he was adjudged the Player-of-the-League, P.B. Abhinandh had little to show for his efforts in recent weeks. He lost the final of the WTT Youth Contender in Vientiane in August before finishing runner-up in two National ranking (youth U-19 boys) tournaments in Kanpur and Panchkula.

But Abhinandh showed the temperament of a professional, putting those disappointments behind him to produce an exciting attacking display and trounce fourth-seeded South Korean Kwon Hyuk (18), regarded as one of the most promising young paddlers on the international circuit, 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 in a men's singles first-round match of the WTT Feeder Chennai at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University near here on Friday.

While Hyuk was the lone seeded player to lose in the men's section, there were quite a few upsets in the women's event. Ananya Muralidharan defeated seventh seed Sayali Wani 3-0 while Swara Karmarkar overcame Japan's Cocona Muramatsu, seeded sixth, in five games and Prisha Goel upset eighth seed Swastika Ghosh in five games.

"I was really upset after losing three finals. Before my singles first-round match earlier in the day, Divyanshi Bhowmick and I had lost in the first round of the mixed doubles against my sister Ananya and Mehan Senthil. I walked out of the hall and kept thinking for a long time. I decided finally not to 'overthink' and try and be in the moment in singles. I am happy that I did that," said Abhinandh.

The results (singles): Men: Manav Thakkar bt Lee Jungmok (Korea) 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 11-9; Harmeet Desai bt Punit Biswas 11-8, 11-6, 11-9; Akash Pal bt MA Yeongmin (Korea) 11-8, 11-8, 11-7; SFR Snehit bt Divyansh Srivastava 11-6, 11-4, 11-6; P. B. Abhinandh bt Kwon Hyuk (Korea) 11-4, 11-4, 11-7; Payas Jain bt Lee Hyeonko (Korea) 11-7, 11-7, 11-3; G. Sathiyan bt Priyanuj Bhattacharya 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 4-11, 11-7; Ankur Bhattacharjee bt Sahil Rawat 11-5, 7-11, 11-8, 11-9.

Women: Yang Ha Eun (South Korea) bt Kavya Baskar 11-6, 11-3, 11-7; Ananya Muralidharan bt Sayali Wani 12-10, 11-3, 11-6; Divyanshi Bhowmick bt Shriya Anand 3-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-7; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Anusha Kutumbale 7-11, 11-7, 11-7, 4-11, 11-8; Swara Karmarkar bt Cocona Muramatsu (Jpn) 11-8, 10-12, 13-15, 11-9, 11-7; Prisha Goel bt Swastika Ghosh 11-6, 9-11, 11-9, 8-11, 12-10; Nithyashree Mani bt Naisha Rewaskar 7-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-7; Yoo Yerin (Korea) bt Kim Seoyun (Korea) 6-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-9.



Going for it: Abhinandh's attacking display stood him in good stead against Hyuk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Three flags, one Ibrahima Diaw: meet the journeyman paddler

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

At 34, Ibrahima Diaw has competed in two Olympic Games and numerous professional table tennis tournaments across the globe.

He is one of a handful of players to play for three countries. Diaw, who was born in France, represented the nation and won gold at the 2008 European youth championships. He then turned out for Senegal at the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, and is now competing under Denmark's flag at the WTT Feeder Chennai at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University here.

Speaking to *The Hindu* after his first-round victory over India's Kushal Chopda on Friday, Diaw clarified that his association with Denmark was limited to WTT (Pro Tour) tournaments. "I still love representing Senegal and am still playing for Senegal. I haven't changed my country. I just live & train in Denmark, and they have allowed me to register for WTT tournaments from July. Diaw sees this as his future beyond competitive table tennis. "Yeah, I'm old. I'm actually preparing for my post-career. I've done my course in physical training. Harmeet & I have played together in foreign leagues (in Roanne, France). My job is to actually make him fresh for every tournament," he said.

Senegal remains close to Diaw's heart. As the country prepares to host the Youth Olympic Games from October 31 to November 13, he will cheer for his father's nation.

"It was a great honour to represent Senegal and put them on the map in table tennis. I hope the Youth Olympic Games turn out to be a huge success," he said.



True love: Diaw says his heart still beats for Senegal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cherie Chevalier obliges in the main event

HYDERABAD: Trainer K.S.V. Prasad Raju's Cherie Chevalier, ridden by P. Sai Kumar, won the Telangana Race Horse Owners Association Trophy, the feature event of the concluding day's races of the Hyderabad Monsoon Races 2026, here on Friday (Oct. 30).

The winner is owned by Mrs. Smita Bajoria, M/s. Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Bollineni Krishnaiah, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Teegala Sumant Reddy & Pochana Arjun Reddy.

LEADING OWNER: C. Aryama Sundaram. **LEADING TRAINER:** D. Netto (25 wins). **LEADING JOCKEY:** Akshay Kumar (32 wins). **LEADING APPRENTICE JOCKEY:** Sonu Kumar (3 wins). **CHAMPION HORSE:** Buddy (10 points). **HORSE OF THE SEASON:** Corinthian.

1. BLUE MAX PLATE (1,200M): AASHRITHA PET (Santosh Raj N R) 1, Amboseli (Darshan) 2, Char Ek Char (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Pranava (D.S. Deora) 4. Not run: Iconic Star. 7-1/2, Neck and 3. 1m, 15.03s. ₹18 (w), 16, 10 and 22 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 46, FP: 51, Q: 38, Tanala: 212. Favourite: Aashritha Pet. Owners: Mr. Sandeep Kumar Reddy Atla & Mr. D.N. Kempegowda. Trainer: Neelesh Rawal.

2. SIRCILLA PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400M): BELGIUM WAFFLE (Mohit Singh) 1, Bayone (D.S. Deora) 2, Ashwa Vivegam (Gaurav) 3 and Lina O Lina (V.S. Shekhawat) 4. 1m, 27.33. ₹15 (w), 12, 13 and 27 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 64, FP: 37, Q: 31, Tanala: 222. Favourite: Belgium Waffle. Owner: Mr. Vipin Kalra. Trainer: Jasbir Singh.

3. SHAMSHABAD PLATE (1,600M): ASHWA JAFFNA (Gaurav Singh) 1, Wind Castle (D.S. Deora) 2, Aakarshaka (Neeraj) 3 and December Rain (Mohit) 4. 3/4, 5 and 1-1/2. 1m, 40.69s. ₹16 (w), 10 and 58 (p). SHP: 68, THP: 36, FP: 218, Q: 138, Tanala: 427. Favourite: Ashwa Jaffna. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

4. SHAPHIR PLATE (1,600M): LOVE ALL (Akshay Kumar) 1, Special Star (P. Sai K) 2, La Quinta (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Federer (Arjun) 4. 4-1/2, 11-3/4 and 1- 1/2. 1m, 38.90s. ₹10 (w), 10 and 16 (p). SHP: 17, THP: 28, FP: 18, Q: 15, Tanala: 28. Favourite: Love All. Owners: Mr. M. Raghunath rep. Gava Racing Syndicate LLP & Mr. P. Amarender Reddy. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

5. TEEGALA SULOCHANA REDDY MEMORIAL TROPHY (2,000M): CELESTIAL (Antony Raj S) 1, One Nation (Akshay K) 2, Racing Ruler (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Corte Madera (P. Sai K) 4. 3/4, Head and 3/4. 2m, 06.30s. ₹60 (w), 18, 11 and 14 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 26, FP: 180, Q: 75, Tanala: 513. Favourite: One Nation. Owners: M/s. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Adar C. Poonawalla rep. Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. & S.R. Sanas. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

6. TELANGANA RACE HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION TROPHY (1,600M): CHERIE CHEVALIER (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Star Of Night (Antony Raj) 2, Uchchaihshravas (Neeraj) 3 and Reigning Beauty (Md. Ismail) 4. 3/4, 1 and 2. 1m, 41.05s. ₹16 (w), 10, 15 and 18 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 41, FP: 50, Q: 35, Tanala: 105. Favourite: Cherie Chevalier. Owners: Mrs. Smita Bajoria, M/s. Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Bollineni Krishnaiah, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Teegala Sumant Reddy & Pochana Arjun Reddy. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

7. SIRCILLA PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400M): NYANZA (Darshan R.N.) 1, Sara (Mohit) 2, Veera's Lakshmi (Santosh Raj) 3 and American Affair (V.S. Shekhawat) 4. Not run: Aprameya. 8-1/4, 3/4 and 2. 1m, 27.09s. ₹31 (w), 14, 33 and 22 (p). SHP: 113, THP: 62, FP: 287, Q: 271, Tanala: 975. Favourite: Veera's Lakshmi. Owner: Mr. S.A. Shehzad Abbas. Trainer: Raza Shehzad.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹3,749 (81 tkts.) & 30%: 226 (574 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 159 (256 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 66 (401 tkts.), (ii) 1,405 (21 tkts.).

Sarthak takes pole with a record lap

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Sarthak Chavan marked his 20th birthday in style, qualifying for pole position with a record lap in the premier Super Sport 301-400cc Open class in the third round of the MRF Indian National Racing Challenge 2W at the Madras International Circuit on Friday. Ann Jennifer (Motul Sparks Racing) secured pole in the Super Stock 165cc Intermediate class with a late burst. Veteran Mathana Kumar took P1 in the Super Stock 301-400cc Open category.

Kavicholaiarasan (Speed Up Racing) topped the qualifying session in the Stock 301-400cc (Novice) class, as did Akarsh Jangam (MAI Racing) in the Stock 165cc (Novice) category. Rajender Beedani (Maxperience Racing) will start the Pro-Stock 200cc race from pole.

In the Petronas TVS One-Make Championship, Beedani took pole while Poojitha Anil Kumar was the quickest in the Women category.

Neeraj Chopra plans to resume training soon

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra says he plans to resume training and undergo rehabilitation in the next couple of weeks as his ankle injury, which ruled him out of the recent Asian Games in Japan, has improved significantly.

The 28-year-old javelin throw superstar sustained the injury during training in August this year. The setback brought an early end to his season, forcing him to miss the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games as well as the Diamond League finale.

He said he is much better now after consulting renowned orthopaedic surgeon Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala.

"My injury is much better now. I faced some issues initially in the first month and a half, but it has improved significantly," said Neeraj. "I consulted Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala and he has advised that I can now resume training and begin proper rehabilitation. My plan is to start both in the next couple of weeks".

Bagan faces Punjab, set for a litmus test

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant will look to capitalise on home advantage when it hosts an in-form Punjab FC in a crucial Indian Super League fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday.

Separated by just a point, both sides have plenty to play for: Punjab has seven points from three matches while Bagan has six points off three games.

Punjab arrives unbeaten and buoyed by a thrilling 3-2 away win over Churchill Brothers, which was sealed by Sanathoi Singh's dramatic stoppage-time goal.

On the other hand, Bagan will seek to build on its hard-earned 1-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC at this venue.

Manvir Singh's 85th-minute strike secured all three points, providing a timely fillip to the Mariners after an early-season setback.

The contest also renews a recent rivalry. The sides met in the IFA Shield semi-final earlier this month, playing out a goalless draw in 120 minutes before Bagan prevailed in a penalty shootout.

The Mariners also enjoy a commanding record over the Shers in the ISL, having won all five previous meetings, including a 3-2 win in April.

Punjab will be determined to end that run and underline its credentials as a genuine title contender while Bagan will be eager to extend its dominance.



Goal threat: Manvir will hope to have attacking returns again. PTI