MONDAY
November 24, 2025

VIJAYAWADA
CITY EDITION
14 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Regd. VJ/050/2015-17
RNI No. APENG/2001/49937

Vol. 25 • No. 277

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna



BLO DEATHS

SIR is an imposed oppression: Rahul

NEWS » PAGE 9



UKRAINE PEACE PLAN

Officials discuss proposal

WORLD » PAGE 12



TEJAS CRASH

Experts warn against premature conclusion

NEWS » PAGE 8

DECEMBER SUMMIT

Future of health lies in harmony

Delhi meeting will strengthen recognition of traditional medicine

OPINION » PAGE 7



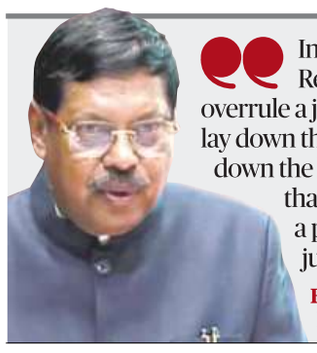
BREAKING A DROUGHT

Lakshya powers to the Australian Open title

SPORT » PAGE 14

Presidential Reference opinion does not overrule a judgment: former CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



> In a Presidential Reference, we cannot overrule a judgment, but we can lay down the law, and while laying down the law, we can observe that the law laid down in a particular manner [in a judgment] is not correct
>
> **B.R. GAVAI**
> Former CJI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, who retired from the post on Sunday, said the Presidential Reference opinion against tying Governors to timelines was not intended to shift the burden back on the States to run pillar-to-post to get their recalcitrant Governors to pass pending Bills on time.

"If the Constitution does not provide for a timeline, we [judiciary] cannot read something that is not there. It is for the Parliament to do that," he said.

He explained that an opinion given in a Presidential Reference did not overrule a judgment but only clarified the law.

"In a Presidential Reference, we cannot overrule a judgment, but we can lay down the law, and while laying down the law, we can observe that the law laid down in a particular manner [in a judgment] is not correct," he said.

The Presidential Reference was triggered by a judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case on April 8, which broke the silence in the Constitution and held that Bills must be cleared by the Governors and President in three months or they would be "deemed" to have got assent. On November 20, a five-judge Bench, in its advisory opinion, contradicted the April 8 judgment and concluded that Governors and the President cannot be forced to follow a timeline. They need to act only within a "reasonable period". The Bench, however, did not specify the term "reasonable period" in its opinion.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8
'UPHELD LETTER AND SPIRIT'
» PAGE 6

No plan to bring Bill on Chandigarh, says Centre

Govt. had listed Bill that would align Chandigarh with other Union Territories; but following outrage, Home Ministry says proposal to 'simplify' law-making process is under 'consideration'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry said on Sunday that the Centre has no intention of introducing a Constitution Amendment Bill to bring Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution in the upcoming session of Parliament.

The clarification came following outrage in Punjab with parties, including the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and Aam Aadmi Party, opposing the move which would pave the way for the appointment of an independent administrator in Chandigarh, bringing the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana under the direct control of the Ministry.

The claim over Chandigarh has been a sensitive political issue ever since the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966.

The November 21 Lok Sabha Bulletin had listed the Constitution (131 Amendment) Bill, 2025 among 10 Bills proposed to be passed during the Winter Session of Parliament from December 1.

The description said the Bill is proposed for discussion and passage to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures when its Legislative Assembly is dissolved or suspended.

The Ministry said that the "proposal to simplify the Central Government's law-making process for the Union Territory of Chandigarh is still under consideration..."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

The Chandigarh question

The Centre hurried to issue a clarification on a Bill that aims to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures

- On November 21, the Lok Sabha Bulletin listed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 among **10 Bills** for the Winter Session
- Chandigarh has been a **sensitive issue** since the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966. Currently, the Governor of Punjab serves as its Administrator



With protests in Punjab, the Ministry issued a clarification

- Proposal is still under consideration, **no final decision** yet
- It does **not seek to alter** Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure
- No Bill will be **introduced** in the upcoming Winter Session

Opposition targets BJP over emotive issue

CHANDIGARH
Political parties on Sunday criticised the BJP even as the Union government clarified that it had no intention of introducing a Bill on Chandigarh in the Winter Session of Parliament. Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring termed the clarification vague. » PAGE 10

NEARBY



Civil Services trainees urged to lead Viksit Bharat

PUTTAPARTHI
Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Sunday urged the Civil Services Officer trainees at the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN) to play a pivotal role in shaping Viksit Bharat @2047. » PAGE 2

Change of guard likely in Nellore civic body

NELLORE
The proposal to move a no-confidence motion against Nellore Mayor is set to move forward, with Nellore City MLA P. Narayana meeting Nellore Rural MLA Sridhar Reddy to finalise the plan. » PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 3

Vice-President and Naidu hail spirit of service at Prasanthi Nilayam

K. Umashanker
PUTTAPARTHI

Puttaparthi witnessed a historic spiritual gathering on Sunday after thousands assembled at Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of Sathya Sai Baba.

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and several other dignitaries participated, with speakers reflecting on the appeal of Sathya Sai Baba's message of love and service. Vice-President Radhakrishnan paid glowing tributes to the spiritual leader, recalling Sathya Sai Baba's large-scale humanitarian initiatives, particularly drinking water projects that uplifted lakhs across multiple States. He remembered Baba as the only spiritual leader who visited the residence of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, calling it a testament to his boundless compassion that transcended political and social barriers.

"At a time when society is challenged by division, Baba's teachings of love, unity and service hold greater urgency. His mission lives vibrantly here," he said.



Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Tripura Governor N. Indrasena Reddy and Minister Nara Lokesh during the centenary celebrations of Sathya Sai Baba in Puttaparthi on Sunday.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

UNSC reforms no longer an option but a necessity: Modi at IBSA meet

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was no longer an option but a necessity, and asserted that the India-Brazil-South Africa troika should send a clear message for changes to institutions of global governance.

Addressing the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) leaders summit here, Mr. Modi said that at a time when the world appeared fragmented and divided, the IBSA could provide a message of unity, cooperation, and humanity.

He proposed institutionalising the IBSA NSA-level meeting to strengthen security cooperation among the three countries.

"In the fight against terrorism, we must move forward in close coordination. There is no place for any double standards on such a serious issue," Mr. Modi said at the meeting attended by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The Prime Minister said the IBSA was not just a group of three countries but an important platform connecting three continents, three major democratic nations, and three major economies.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (left) and Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. ANI

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Mind your 'administrative' language, says SC report

Report urges judiciary to stop using words that perpetuate a 'grammar of inequality'; former CJI says continued use of this terminology has 'unintended effect of normalising outdated hierarchies and undermining the respectful work culture'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Halalkhor, cycle *sawar, dhobi, coolie,* scavenger, *masalchi, malan, basta bardhar, chowkidar*, and bundle lifter are among the job titles a Supreme Court report wants the judiciary to get rid of.

The report from the court's Centre for Research and Planning says these and several other terms used in the administrative language of the courts perpetuate a "grammar of inequality".

The report, titled "Reforming administrative nomenclature in the Indian judiciary embedding dignity and equity in service rules", explained that the "grammar of inequality" referred to "the set of unwritten, hierarchical rules inherited from feudal, colonial, and caste-based systems that structure the judiciary's administrative nomenclature".



ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

CJI's foreword

Former Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, in his foreword to the report, said the continued use of this outdated terminology had the "unintended effect of normalising outdated hierarchies and undermining the respectful work culture that the judiciary must uphold".

The Chief Justice, as one of his last acts in office before retiring on Sunday, has sent the report to all the State High Courts with a gentle nudge that updating the judiciary's administrative nomenclature would be a small but significant step towards affirming the worth of every individual working within the judicial system, regardless of rank or role.

The Centre has found that the archaic terminology were once used as a "powerful tool of dominance that causes 'thingification' of the individual". "*Halalkhor*" and "scavenger" violate the prohibitions of caste-based discrimination under the Constitution, the report said.

"Align the language of the administration with the language of the Constitution. Close the gap between what the judiciary pronounces and what it practises. Reaffirm that language itself is the judiciary's first act of justice – an act of recognition, pedagogy, and symbolic justice," the Supreme Court's research centre recommends.

To start with, the report says courts must abandon *halalkhor* for sanitation assistant, *dhobi* for laundry operator, *coolie* for freight assistant, cycle sawar for logistics assistant, *basta bardar* for document handler, bundle lifter for material coordinator, *masalchi* for kitchen assistant, *malan* for horticulture attendant, and scavenger for sanitation assistant.

A.P. outlines ₹66,523 cr. PPP plan to boost urban infra

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department has formulated a comprehensive Public Private Partnership (PPP) strategy to strengthen urban infrastructure with an investment of ₹66,523 crore by 2029 across 12 thematic areas.

These include smart water systems, modern transport networks, and sustainable housing. The plan excludes the requirements of the capital city Amaravati. A sum of ₹2,000 crore has been allocated for Viability Gap Funding in the current year's budget, according to a press release issued by Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar.

Thematic areas include smart water systems, transport networks and sustainable housing

The government prioritised the development of five smart cities with integrated IoT infrastructure, 2,500 km upgraded roads, 15 new urban transit systems and adoption of green building norms aimed at achieving 40% higher energy efficiency in new urban projects.

"We are setting benchmarks to ensure infrastructure development meets global standards and enhances the urban living experience. These projects will create strong economic momentum and position A.P. as one of the country's fastest-growing urban development hubs with sustainable financing models," he said.

Mr. Suresh Kumar said the State was aiming to attract ₹35,000 crore in foreign direct investment into eight new economic zones. Innovative financing structures and partnership models were being developed for this purpose. A roadmap for effective execution and risk mitigation of PPP projects had also been prepared, supported by technology integration and performance monitoring. The government was extending financial incentives to speed up PPP execution and was leveraging funding through international institutions, municipal bonds and green bonds.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Kanaka Durga temple sees heavy rush of devotees

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Sri Durga Malleswara Swamyvarla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri witnessed a heavy rush of devotees on Sunday. The temple administration managed to ensure seamless darshan throughout the day.

Between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the peak rush hours, Executive Officer (EO) and Special Grade Deputy Collector V.K. Seena Naik monitored the situation, moving among the devotees and issuing instructions to staff through the public-address system.

To regulate traffic on the hill, all VIP vehicles were stopped at Om Turning, from where elderly persons and VIP devotees were transported uphill in battery-operated vehicles



Devotees hurrying to get a glimpse of Goddess Kanaka Durga in Vijayawada. FILE PHOTO

arranged for the day. Special duties were assigned to temple staff deployed across the premises, ghat road and Kanakadurga Nagar to prevent any inconvenience to pilgrims.

Thanks to these meticulous arrangements, devotees were able to have a smooth antaralaya darshan without any interruptions. Temple authorities and staff worked together to manage the crowd.

Meanwhile, the temple administration announced that the Surya Prasanna Seva, a special ritual dedicated to Lord Surya, is performed at 8 a.m. every Sunday at the sanctum sanctorum of the Goddess. Entry is limited to two persons per ticket, and the combined fee is ₹1,000.

The temple management urged devotees to make use of this sacred service, noting that scriptures glorify Lord Surya as the giver of food and life-energy to all beings, and that sincere worship of the Sun God is believed to bring health, prosperity and longevity.

Civil Services trainees urged to lead Viksit Bharat with team excellence

Laws are meant for societal welfare and must be enforced effectively by administrators, says Vice-President; praises Union Public Service Commission, which will enter its centenary year in 2026, calling it "guardian of merit, integrity and fairness"

The Hindu Bureau
PUTTAPARTHI

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Sunday urged the Civil Services Officer trainees at the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN) to play a pivotal role in shaping Viksit Bharat @2047, stressing that they could prioritise "team excellence over personal brilliance" as they enter public service.

Speaking at a programme held on the NACIN campus at Palasamudram in Sri Sathya Sai district, Mr Radhakrishnan recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration of the new campus in 2024 and said the institution had emerged as a key hub for capacity building in Customs and GST administration.

Highlighting the significance of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Vice-President said that Patel's vision and leadership laid the foundation for a unified, strong and self-reliant India, and remained a guiding force for today's civil servants.

Mr. Radhakrishnan praised the Union Public Service Commission, which will enter its centenary year in 2026, calling it the "guardian of merit, integrity and fairness" in the recruitment of civil servants. He stressed that inclusive growth must remain central to policy execution. Wealth creation and wealth distribution, he said, are equally important for national progress, and both have received strong emphasis under the Modi government.



Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurating the interactive session with the Civil Services trainees on NACIN campus in Palasamudram in Sri Sathya district on Sunday as Minister for HRD, IT and Communications Nara Lokesh looks on.

Calling GST a "landmark reform that streamlined India's indirect taxation", the Vice-President said tax evasion must be curbed decisively. Laws, he noted, are meant for societal welfare and must be enforced effectively by administrators. "The responsibility of upholding the rule of law rests squarely on your shoulders," he told the trainees.

He urged officers to embrace emerging technologies – AI, natural language processing, machine learning and blockchain – to strengthen transparency and governance.

Minister for HRD, IT and Communications Nara Lokesh was also present.

INBRIEF

Depression over the Bay of Bengal likely tomorrow

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its bulletin on Sunday said a cyclone is very likely to form over the Bay of Bengal around November 26. However, the latest forecast does not predict heavy rainfall for Andhra Pradesh. According to the IMD, the low-pressure area over the Strait of Malacca and adjoining south Andaman Sea intensified into a well-marked low-pressure area at 5.30 a.m. on Sunday and remained over the same region till 8.30 a.m. The associated cyclonic circulation extended up to 7.6 km above mean sea level.

BEE gears up for National Energy Conservation Awards

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is geared up to present the 35th National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) on December 14. The BEE is working in close coordination with the Union Ministries concerned, State Designated Agencies (SDAs), and stakeholders across public and private sectors to make the event a success. The 35th edition of NECA will honour outstanding accomplishments in energy savings, innovation, and sustainability across multiple categories.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (November 24, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- How can State PSCs be reformed? **bit.ly/statepscs**
- The rational ape: study says chimpanzees reason through their beliefs **bit.ly/apestudy**

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One killed, two injured as diesel tanker catches fire

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

One person was killed and two others suffered burn injuries when a diesel tanker caught fire near a petrol bunk at Paluvai Junction in Rentachintala in Palnadu district on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Rasheed of Gurajala, and the two injured were rushed to hospital. Fire and police teams rushed to the spot and put off the flames.

There was chaos at the accident site, and people ran in different directions to escape the fire.

'Govt. going all out against drugs'

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta appealed to the people to join hands to curb ganja and drug use across the State.

The DGP, along with the Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE) Head and IGP Ake Ravi, Collector G. Lakshmisha and Police Commissioner S.V. Rajashekar Babu, participated in a cycle rally against drugs, in Vijayawada on Sunday.

The DGP said: "The Government is going all out against drugs to curb ganja cultivation, peddling, consumption and use of other drugs." He urged the youth not to consume drugs and spoil their lives.



DGP Harish Kumar Gupta and other police officers participating in the Eagle Cycle Rally held in Vijayawada on Sunday.

EAGLE head Mr. Ravi Krishna said that the team is deplying drones, using satellite mapping and dog squads to check the cultivation and smuggling of ganja.

"If any person has information about those using ganja or drugs, they must alert the EAGLE squad or the police by calling 1972," said NTR District Collector G. Lakshmisha.

Representatives of Indian Red Cross Society, Cycle Club, Rotary Club, APSP, students of various educational institutions, SPF and other organisations participated.

Spl. Judicial Magistrate posts to be filled on temporary basis

The Hindu Bureau
ELURU

Combined West Godavari District Judge S. Sridevi announced that eligible candidates are invited to apply for temporary appointments to the vacant Special Judicial Magistrate of Second Class posts in erstwhile West Godavari district.

Currently, four posts are vacant. Those interested can submit their applications in the prescribed format along with attested copies of qualification certificates and three recent passport-size photographs. Applications should reach the office of the District Judge, West Godavari District, Eluru, by 5 p.m. by December 12.

In the press statement, the District Judge noted that selected candidates will be paid a monthly honorarium of ₹45,000. Those eligible to apply include retired or resigned officials from the Andhra Pradesh State Judicial Service; individuals from the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Ministerial Service in the Superintendent (Category-3) cadre who hold a law degree; officers from the Andhra Pradesh High Court Service in the rank of Section Officer or above with a law degree; and advocates with a minimum of five years of practice. C

Applicants must also be at least 18 months away from reaching the age range of 45 to 65 years as of the date of notification.

Drop PPP plan for new medical colleges: PAV

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Praja Arogya Vedika (PAV) has written to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, urging the government to develop the proposed new government medical colleges entirely with public funding and administration rather than through the Public-Private Partnership model.

Health activists have expressed concern over the possible privatisation of the State's healthcare system. Although Minister for Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Satya Kumar Yadav earlier assured that the administration of the colleges would remain with the government, PAV says the apprehensions persist.

In their letter dated November 22, PAV members questioned the need to involve private entities when the government already owns the land, has budgetary allocations, and has statutory mechanisms for faculty recruitment and regulatory oversight. If full administrative control is to stay with the government, they asked, what purpose would private participation serve. They argued that a fully government-funded and government-run model ensures full public accountability and prevents profit-driven decisions from influencing admissions, fees, quality of education, or patient care.

Citing concerns, PAV requested Chief Minister to withdraw the proposal to construct 10 medical colleges under PPP model and to cancel ongoing tender process for four colleges. They urged the State government to adopt the proven model followed in existing government medical colleges.

PGRS in Eluru to proceed tomorrow as planned

The Hindu Bureau
ELURU

The Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme will be conducted as scheduled on November 24 in Eluru district, according to a statement issued by District Revenue Officer (DRO) V. Visweshwara Rao. He clarified that despite the district tour of Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan on the same day, the PGRS programme at Eluru Collectorate will not be affected. However, the DRO informed that District Collector K. Vetriselvi and Joint Collector Abhishek Gowda will not be available at the PGRS venue due to their participation in the Deputy Chief Minister's tour. The programme will be held at the Collectorate as per schedule.

Timings
VIJAYAWADA

MONDAY, NOV. 24		
RISE	06:16	SET 17:33
RISE	09:35	SET 20:49
TUESDAY, NOV. 25		
RISE	06:16	SET 17:33
RISE	10:21	SET 21:44
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26		
RISE	06:17	SET 17:33
RISE	11:05	SET 22:37

Vijayawada Weather	max	min
Machilipatnam	32	25
Guntur Town	33	21
Vijayawada City	33	24

Vijayawada City Today
33°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Vijayawada City Tomorrow
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD YEAR REMEMBRANCE IN LOVING TRIBUTE



Sri. N. JAYARAMAN (NJ)
(Retired Lecturer, A.M Jain College, Chennai)
Time moves forward, yet your presence remains woven into every facet of our lives.
Your values, your warmth, and your quiet strength continue to inspire us each day. Your values forever bind our family.
Wife: Jayam, Sons: Karthik & Ganesh, Daughters-in-law: Ramya & Jayashree, Grandsons: Vidyuth, Prahlad and Suhruth, Brother: Mohan & Sister: Meena

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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SP/T-0728/1025 **RFx 7000038009 (3rd Call)** for SITC of ± 200 MVAR STATCOM along with 400kv Outdoor GIS bay with BCU & allied works at 400kV Dhule S/s under EHV PC O&M Zone, Nashik.	Rs. 34182.01 Lakhs / 25,000.00	20.11.2025 17:00 / 20.11.2025 17.30	11.12.2025 18:00 / 11.12.2025 18.15

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-VII) Tel. No.: 022-69852717/69852720
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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. UMA G** W/o Late No. 15675422 L/Nk GANTA RAMESH, resident of Door No.16B-14-93, Sivagopalapuram, Tangellamudi, Eluru - Village and Post and Mandal, Eluru District, Pin: 534 005, Andhra Pradesh., have changed my Name from the existing **UMA G** to **GANTA UMA** as per Affidavit 14-11-2025 executed in presence of Notary Public, Eluru.

CHANGE OF NAME & DOB
I, **K SANTHA, spouse of Army No 14521945W Rank HAV Name (Late) M DEVARAJU presently residing at House No 1-12, Nadimur (Village), Nadimur (Post), Kuppam (Taluk), Chittoor (District), Andhra Pradesh (State), PIN-517425,** have changed my name from K SANTHA and DATE OF BIRTH 24 NOV 1964 (Existing Name and date birth of spouse as per NOK POR/Service Records) to D SANTHI RAJU and DATE OF BIRTH 07 DEC 1966.

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CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SAHITYA.G** D/o Late No.15675422 L/Nk GANTA RAMESH, resident of Door No. 16B-14-93, Sivagopalapuram, Tangellamudi, Eluru-Village and Post and Mandal, Eluru District, Pin: 534 005, Andhra Pradesh., have changed my Name from the existing **SAHITYA G** to **GANTA SAHITYA** as per Affidavit 14-11-2025 executed in presence of Notary Public, Eluru.

LOST & FOUND

PASSPORT MISSING
I, **SHAIK FAREEDA BANU**, W/o. Shaik Haneef urf Nayab Mohammed Haneef, H.No: 28-759-194, NGOs Colony, Nandyal town Post and District, Andhra Pradesh - 518501, Indian. Would like to inform general public that i have lost my original passport **(Passport No: N5263497, Dated: 26-11-2015)** on **14-11-2025** while I was travelling in an motor bike from House to MRO office Nandyal. Inspite of my best efforts, I am unable to trace it, and it is lost beyond recovery. If anyone find in kindly contact me:
9701428742

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S.D.T. Rao at 55-1-4, 100 Feet Road, Industrial Estate, Autonagar, Vijayawada-520007 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

EDUCATIONPLUS

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GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Design for the future

Designer-educator Sandy Speicher explains why design thinking is an effective tool to promote multi-sectoral learning across disciplines.

Soma Basu

Steve Jobs revolutionised our lives with smartphones by applying the principles of graphic design to personal computing. The Welsh School of Architecture is delving into how design can shape a supportive and nurturing end-of-life environment.

Closer home, Bengaluru-based preventive healthcare service, NURA, works with hospitals to train and empower family caregivers to improve patient outcomes in healing at home.

This ability to synthesise and formulate creative solutions is a skill increasingly in demand and necessary to shape the future, says American designer-educator Sandy Speicher, who emphasises that design is the next big thing in education. Usually understood in terms of fashion, interiors, and aesthetics, design is also about creating human-centred, sustainable experiences that work in favour of people.

"Design education is not for self but public service; it is about how to make communities happy and prosperous," said Speicher, during an interview while on a visit to India to forge connections with institutions willing to integrate innovative design thinking with different academic streams. "It is the only way forward to navigate modern complexities."

Systemic and savvy

The former CEO of the global design firm IDEO, Speicher is currently an advisor at the BITS School of Design in Mumbai. She feels that, while India provides abundant opportunities for future careers and is a fantastic place to brainstorm ideas, "the country lacks a design identity. There is a need to harness the power of design thinking across all disciplines."

Design has to be systemic and savvy to community needs and offer real-time benefits to people. "In the social space, human-centred designing is happening, but it is not visible yet in the education sector. Learning about what support people need is how design ought to be taught and understood."

Take the case of pollution in Delhi. How can design thinking address the root causes, which come from population, human behaviour, geographical landscape and vagaries of weather?

The issue is not – and should not be – the concern of environmentalists or scientists alone. Experts cutting across specialisations should feel the pain, imagine what can be done to alleviate the situation, execute a pro-active plan, and keep sharing the same.

"This is how design thinking operates: feel, imagine, do, and share. Every curriculum should sensitise students and turn them into mini-investigators in their respective fields of knowledge and steer them to problem-solving at every level, from local to global," says Speicher. According to her, the skills to bridge knowledge gaps independently, collaboratively, and resourcefully are most relevant today. A heart to build livelihoods and being sensitive to who is left out should be at the core of one's development.

Everybody thinks and acts like a designer; teachers are designers, but they neither know it nor have the language for it. When design keeps the human being at the centre of education instead of being more engineering or policy focussed, it is then sustainable.

Speicher says recognising design as a process creates deeper understanding and empathy. "It is vital to be attuned to people's needs, feel for the community, and support with simple solutions," she says, highlighting the success of a project in Latin America where she helped scale a network of schools in Peru and made education affordable for the country's growing middle class.

Successful projects

"We introduced a blended learning approach with indoor and outdoor classrooms and did away with rote learning. Students were given 'me time' to develop other skills or pursue research of their interest. The classrooms were turned into flexible spaces to accommodate more or fewer students. We also developed a database of 18,000 lesson plans for the teachers," she explains. Since 2011, Innova has grown to 80 schools with 80,000 students, expanded to Mexico, and has inspired similar education models worldwide.

> Every curriculum should sensitise students and turn them into mini-investigators in their respective fields and steer them to problem-solving at every level, from local to global



In India, she worked with Kiran Bir Sethi on the Design for Change challenge for the preteens (10 to 13 years). The outlines are processed for children to create new ideas with innovative solutions. "To feel for another community and see another world beyond theirs imparts the power of 'I can' to the students."

Today, creative leaps are crucial without losing sight of the intersection of design, leadership and social impact. The pandemic taught us to focus on our relationships with everything – our work, organisations, other humans, and the planet – and is also shaping learning environments.

"The best breakthroughs come with empathy and creativity. Good design projects bring the shared intent, vision and aligned commitments to improve the world and solve complex problems."

According to her, programmes that provide students with holistic transdisciplinary education practised through future-forward human-centred research will have an edge over others in the coming years. "Future design leaders have to be creative thinkers, problem identifiers and solvers, and aesthetically sensitive to responsibly simplify work in multi-disciplinary groups."

SCHOLARSHIPS

Nikon Scholarship
An initiative from Nikon India
Eligibility: Indian citizen who has passed Class 12 and is pursuing a professional photography-related course (minimum three months) and has an annual family income not exceeding ₹600,000. Children of Nikon India and Buddy4Study employees are not eligible.
Rewards: Up to ₹100,000 based on the actual fee structure
Application: Online
Deadline: November 28
www.b4s.in/edge/NIKON13

Aditya Birla Capital Scholarship
Instituted by the Aditya Birla Capital Foundation
Eligibility: Girls who are studying in school (Classes 9-12) or in graduation programmes (three- or four years) or PG courses at premier institutions and have scored minimum 60% in previous academic year and have an annual family income not exceeding ₹600,000.
Rewards: Up to ₹60,000
Application: Online
Deadline: December 7
www.b4s.in/edge/ABCC13

AICTE PG Scholarship
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Rewards: ₹12,400 per month for two years or for the duration of the course, whichever is lower.
Application: Online
Deadline: December 15
www.b4s.in/edge/AICT2

Courtesy: buddy4study.com



OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Master time management

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

I was admitted to Hansraj College in 2022 but had to opt for a distance course due to family reasons. I am preparing for government exams, but what opportunities do I have compared to my peers from regular colleges? Praveen

Dear Praveen,

While you may have missed out on the social aspects of campus life, you are gaining immense self-discipline, time management, and independence. Utilise these critical skills for your government exam preparation. Ensure that your degree is eligible and valid. Your score in the government exam is what matters. Focus on your goal and structure your day around exam prep without other distractions. Create a study schedule that suits your peak productivity hours. Use the time to build a powerful profile through online courses, certifications, and self-driven projects.

Excel in your course and aim for a high percentage, as it speaks volumes about your academic capability. Work on digital literacy and language, communication, public speaking, and interpersonal skills.

Look for online or part-time internship in content writing, research assistance, data entry, social media management, or with NGOs, as this shows initiative and gives you real-world experience. Build a professional LinkedIn profile. Connect with professionals, alumni from your school, and people in fields that you are interested in. Attend free online workshops, webinars, and seminars to keep you updated about your field and network.

I am a B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture graduate. I have a strong interest in finance. How can I switch my domain? Vijay

Dear Vijay,

While it is possible to switch, you will need to acquire the foundational knowledge first. NSE's Certification in Financial Markets (NCFM) has modules like fundamental analysis, mutual funds, and currency derivatives, which are great short-term accredited certifications. The CFA, a rigorous and globally recognised qualification, is the gold standard for investment roles. The Post Graduate Certificate in Business Finance from NISM is another good option.

Take online courses such as Introduction to Corporate Finance, Financial Markets, Financial Modelling, and Investment Management from top universities. If you enjoy all this, consider an MBA in Finance or a Master's in Finance. Your unique profile can be a great differentiator in the admission process.

I am in Class 10. I want to study at IIT, but not Engineering. Are there other courses? Also, I want to join the Indian Army. What should I do for that? Reitha

Dear Reitha,

The main non-Engineering programmes in IITs are B.Sc. in Pure Sciences (a four-year programme in Physics, Chemistry, and Maths), the five-year Dual Degree Programmes (B.Sc. + M.Sc.), five-year Integrated M.A. in Development Studies or English Studies, and online degrees such as B.S in Data Science and Application. There are also many new Interdisciplinary programmes that are technically under the 'B.Tech' umbrella, but are less traditional and more science-oriented.

To join the Indian Army, you have to take the National Defence Academy (NDA) entrance exam after Class 12 for a three-year training programme, followed by specialised training at other national academies. You need to be 16.5 to 19.5 years old and should have passed or appeared in Class 12 with Physics, Chemistry, and Maths (PCM).

If you do not make it to NDA, you can take the Combined Defence Services Examination (CDS) after graduation. The eligibility is a Bachelor's degree, and the age limit is between 19 and 25 years). Graduates from any stream can apply, but, for the Army, a PCM background is beneficial.

I finished B.Sc. in Environmental Chemistry with Water Management. I want to do a PG in Environmental Science from a Central University. Are there good job opportunities after this? Sreelakshmi

Dear Sreelakshmi,

In India, there are opportunities across water and wastewater treatment, solid and hazardous waste management and environmental consulting. Almost every large corporation has an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) team to manage its environmental footprint, ensure regulatory compliance, and prepare sustainability reports. The CSR departments often fund and manage many environmental projects.

In the public sector and government, jobs are available in pollution control boards for scientists, environmental engineers, and analysts. The Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jal Shakti, and Urban Development hire consultants and permanent staff for various projects. NGOs and international agencies also hire experts.

A Master's degree from a reputed foreign university is the most effective way to secure a job overseas. Job opportunities abroad are more structured and well-paying.

North America and Europe have stringent environmental laws that drive demand in consulting, government agencies, corporate sustainability, and the clean or greentech sector. Australia and West Asia offer roles in desalination, water recycling, and mining environmental management. Southeast Asia's rapid industrialisation needs environmental consultants to manage pollution and water resources.

Choose your PG specialisation wisely and look for programmes that are application-oriented and align with high-demand areas. Prioritise universities with strong placement records and industry connections. If you have a passion for research, a Ph.D. opens doors to advanced roles in academia, government labs, and the corporate sector.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge.

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From Page One

Sai Baba's teachings highlight of fete

Mr. Chandrababu Naidu described November 23, 1926, as the divine advent of a figure who transformed millions through unconditional love. Calling Prasanthi Nilayam a "divine energy centre," he said people from around the world were drawn to Sathya Sai Baba without any outreach, purely by the power of his message. He reiterated Baba's universal declarations – "Love All, Serve All" and "Help Ever, Hurt Never" – and highlighted the 75th anniversary of Prasanthi Nilayam's inauguration. Mr. Naidu lauded the immense educational, medical and drinking water projects undertaken by Sai institutions and urged devotees to carry Baba's message around the world.

Mr. Revanth Reddy praised Sathya Sai Baba for achieving what even governments struggle to accomplish, citing free education from kindergarten to postgraduate level, life-saving medical services and major drinking water schemes benefiting Palamuru, Anantapur and Tamil Nadu. Though physically absent, Baba's philosophy continues to inspire lakhs of people, he said.

Earlier, the celebrations opened with the spectacular Swarna Rathotsavam, featuring chanting of Vedas, Nadaswaram, contingents from several countries, Bal Vikas cultural presentations and offerings from various wings of the Sai Organisation.

Dignitaries, including the Governor of Tripura N. Indrasena Reddy, and a special message from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin added to the solemnity of the occasion.

The session concluded with Mangala Harathi and the National Anthem.

A.P. outlines PPP plan to boost urban infra

Further, he said the department had proposed 33 PPP projects across key sectors such as Waste-to-Energy, urban mobility, housing, tourism, and renewable energy. Significant progress had been made in implementing Waste-to-Energy projects in the Nellore, Rajahmundry, Kakinada, Kurnool, Kadapa, Vijayawada, and Tirupati clusters. Major initiatives including MIG housing and Rushikonda land monetisation had entered the bidding stage, while several road, solar, mobility, and commercial PPPs had reached tender-ready and feasibility stages. The State government was also utilising major Government of India programmes such as the Urban Challenge Fund worth ₹10,000 crore and the Credit Enhancement Initiative of ₹400 crore. It was finalising the disbursal of nearly ₹2,000 crore in urban reform incentives under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment, he added.

INBRIEF

Four pilgrims from M.P. killed in Srikakulam accident

Four pilgrims from Madhya Pradesh were killed in a road accident near Etturallupadu in Kotabommali mandal of Srikakulam district on Sunday. Police said the van carrying the group rammed a stationary lorry, causing the fatal crash. The bodies were shifted to the Kotabommali hospital and their families were informed. The victims were identified as Singh Pawar, 60, Kushal Singh, 62, Vijay Singh Tomar, 64, and Santoshi Bhai, 62. The group had visited major temples in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha and was on its way to temples including Simhachalam and Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh. Police have registered a case against the lorry driver for parking the vehicle on the road.

Pawan Kalyan to inspect dying coconut groves

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan will inspect the coconut orchards that are dying along the stretch of Sankaragupatam drain in Razole assembly constituency in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district on November 26. Thousands of coconut trees have died, while the trees that are surviving have stunted growth across the 12 villages along the Sankarguptam. The damage is attributed to high salinity levels in the water of the drain. Razole MLA Deva Prasada Rao said that Mr. Pawan Kalyan will tour all the affected villages before interacting with nearly 200 coconut farmers to understand the environmental challenges on November 26.

Maoist encounter: A.P. police gain national acclaim

The State police are in the spotlight following the high-impact joint operation that eliminated top Maoist leader Madvi Hidma, a press release from the Chief Minister's Office read. A "meticulously planned encounter", executed by the A.P. police, Greyhounds and other special forces at Maradumilli, neutralised 13 extremists, including Hidma, long considered the most dangerous Maoist commander in the Dandakaranya region. Hidma (51) was responsible for over 23 major attacks that claimed the lives of over 300 security personnel and civilians.

Change of guard likely in Nellore civic body

Minister P. Narayana and rural MLA Sridhar Reddy firm up plan to unseat Mayor Potluri Sravanthi; NDA secures majority signatures and to submit its plea to the District Collector today

A.D. Rangarajan
NELLORE

The proposal to move a no-confidence motion against Nellore Mayor Potluri Sravanthi is set to move forward, with Municipal Administration Minister and Nellore City MLA P. Narayana meeting Nellore Rural MLA Mr. Sridhar Reddy to finalise the plan.

The corporation spans both constituencies, and the move has been expected since the change of government. The YSRCP won the corporation with a large majority in 2021, and the mayorship, reserved for an ST woman, went to Potluri Sravanthi, a close associate of Mr. Sridhar Reddy.

After Mr. Sridhar Reddy shifted from the YSRCP to the TDP in 2023, she continued to back the YSRCP. Following the 2024 elections, she reportedly tried to reconnect with her former mentor, but he showed little interest in taking her back. Her attempts to approach the BJP and the Jana Sena Party also did not yield much response, eventually prompting her to realign with the YSRCP.

She completed four years in office on Sunday, but her history of shifting loyalties appears to be working against her, with party leaders deciding to move firmly on the matter.



Minister for Municipal Administration and Nellore City MLA P. Narayana holding a crucial meeting with Nellore Rural MLA K. Sridhar Reddy in Nellore on Sunday.

Mr. Narayana and Mr. Sridhar Reddy held a key meeting at the latter's office on Sunday with the Deputy Mayors and senior corporators, signalling that the process is now under way. NDA leaders have already secured the required signatures and will meet the Collector on Monday to submit the no-confidence plea. "The TDP has 41 corporators in the 54-member council, so the move should sail through smoothly," Mr. Sridhar Reddy told *The Hindu*, adding that a change in leadership is likely within two weeks. The meeting also discussed increasing the number of divisions from 54 to 71 to reflect the city's expanded limits, a proposal that has already sparked interest among those eyeing positions in the new divisions.

Some media outlets trying to undermine democracy: YSRCP

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

YSR Congress Party general secretary and former Additional Advocate General Ponnavolu Sudhakar Reddy slammed what he called media-driven governance in Andhra Pradesh, accusing certain media outlets and the Telugu Desam Party of attempting to weaken democratic institutions.

Speaking to the media in Hyderabad on Sunday, he said sections of the media had crossed constitutional limits and were trying to exercise control over state authority.

He claimed that the huge public response to Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during his November 20 visit to Hyderabad had unsettled political rivals, prompting what he described as a wave of malicious propaganda by TDP supporters and yellow media.

He asserted that thousands had gathered voluntarily to welcome the YSRCP chief and rejected allegations that people were mobilised from Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Sudhakar Reddy alleged that some Telugu channels hosted provocative debates, including remarks implying harm to Mr. Jagan, and cautioned that such conduct could invite legal action.

He also criticised the unauthorised recording and sharing of court proceedings during Mr. Jagan's recent appearance, calling it a clear instance of contempt of court, and questioned the lack of similar scrutiny in cases involving TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Issuing a warning to media organisations, he said continued personal attacks, distortion and irresponsible commentary would face firm legal and political action from the YSRCP.

Revised fitness fees: lorry owners urge State govt. to act

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Members of Andhra Pradesh Lorry Owners' Association (APLOA) urged the government to convey to the Centre their concern over the revised vehicle fitness test fees, which they say would compound their financial woes.

In a statement, association general secretary Y. V. Eeswara Rao cited notification BSR 850 (E) on fitness fee issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on November 11, 2025, and said the State government was gearing up to collect the revised fees.

He said though the State government had the option of making alterations and offer concessions to vehicle owners, it chose to go ahead with implementation of the Centre's notification without making any changes. Mr. Rao said the Centre's decision would not only burden the transport sector, but it will also severely impact the States. The State Transport Departments cannot implement these norms suddenly without any preparation. State-level transport operations will be disrupted, causing serious inconvenience to vehicle owners, drivers, officials of the Road Transport Department, and even to the movement of goods, he said. The APLOA leader said vehicle owners were already struggling with rising diesel prices, toll charges, spare parts costs and uneven tax structures. Small lorry owners were finding it difficult to survive. Implementing these norms in such a situation would only worsen their financial condition, he added. He said it was unfortunate that the government did not do anything to prevent diversion of Andhra's revenue to the neighbouring States of Telangana and Karnataka.

Rathnakar reaffirms faith in Sathya Sai Baba's continuous legacy

The Hindu Bureau
PUTTAPARTHI

Managing trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust R. J. Rathnakar said that Sri Sathya Sai Baba had personally imparted to him several valuable lessons, and narrated instances of how Sathya Sai Baba guided his destiny at every step, shaping both his life and path of service.

Addressing a massive gathering of devotees at the centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba here on Sunday, Mr. Rathnakar said that Baba's work should be publicised extensively. "Do we need to tell the world that there is light when the sun rises? When good is done, it shines on its own."

Mr. Rathnakar recalled Baba's words, and the promise he made to his mother that he would remain in Prasanthi Nilayam and dedicate his life to spread the message of Baba. Reaffirming Sathya Sai Baba's continuing presence, he said the mission remains vibrant because devotees across the world experience Baba's guidance and protection every moment.

Drawing an analogy, he recalled Baba's teaching that just as bathing in the Ganga does not sanctify the river but purifies the individual, service through Sai institutions transforms the devotee more than the organisation itself.

With this conviction, he noted, 7.5 lakh members of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation are engaged in continuous service activities with dedication and faith.

He expressed gratitude to all the dignitaries who attended despite their demanding schedules, saying their presence added special significance to the centenary celebrations.



Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, and Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh during the celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 100th birth anniversary, at Puttaparthi on Sunday.

Bandh called by Maoists passes off peacefully in

The Hindu Bureau
CHINTOOR

The one-day bandh called by the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) against the Maredumilli encounters ended peacefully in Alluri Sitarama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday.

However, 'Operation Sambhav', in which top Maoist leader Madvi Hidma was killed in the Maredumilli encounter on November 19, remains active in the Maredumilli Agency. At least 13 Maoists have been killed in the operation during the two encounters in Maredumilli Agency on November 18 and 19.

Rampachodavaram Deputy Superintendent of Police G. Sai Prasanth told *The Hindu* that there was no response from the public to the bandh call given by the Maoists in the Rampachodavaram division on Sunday.

Tenant farmers assail government over unmet poll promises

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers' Association has launched a sharp attack on the ruling coalition, questioning with what "face or moral right" the government plans to approach farmers during its upcoming State-wide outreach programme scheduled from November 24 to December 2.

In a statement on Sunday, association State president E. Katamayya and general secretary P. Jamalayya accused the government of completely abandoning the promises it made to tenant farmers during the election campaign.

They said coalition leaders had repeatedly assured that, once in power, they would repeal the earlier Tenant Farming Act, issue identity cards easily to tenant farmers, and extend the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme to all landless tenant cultivators. "Eighteen months have passed, and not a single promise has been implemented," they alleged.

The leaders said tenant farming has become central to the State's agriculture, with nearly 80% of land being cultivated by tenant farmers. Despite the Chief Minister's announcement at the State-Level Bankers' Committee meeting that banks would offer low-interest crop loans to tenants, three agricultural seasons have passed without any progress, they said.

They further charged the government with scrapping the free crop insurance scheme and burdening tenant farmers with high premiums, while failing to ensure minimum support price (MSP), forcing farmers to sell produce at distress prices.

CRDA seeks input to shape Amaravati capital plan

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority has invited suggestions and opinions from the public for incorporating in the Capital Development Vision 2047.

The idea is to involve people in shaping Amaravati into a world-class, sustainable city with modern infrastructure designed for future generations.

CRDA Commissioner K. Kanna Babu said in a press release that as part of preparing Vision 2047, APCRDA is gathering advice, suggestions, and opinions from people.

Those interested in taking part can join the survey by scanning the designated QR code or clicking the links https://tinyurl.com/4razy6ku for Telugu and https://t.co/h7DnyblHIH for English, or by visiting the CRDA website by November 30.

CPI seeks immediate release of ₹6,400 cr. fee arrears in State

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Communist Party of India State secretary Gujjula Eswaraiah has written an open letter to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, urging the government to immediately release the long-pending ₹6,400 crore in fee reimbursement arrears that he says are severely affecting students from SC, ST, BC, minority and economically weaker sections.

In the letter dated Sunday, he criticised the alliance government for failing to deliver on its election promises and on the assurances given during Nara Lokesh's Yuvagalam padayatra, where it was stated that the dues would be cleared within 100 days of taking office. He said that 18 months have passed and not even a single rupee has been released, apart from a claim in a press note that ₹600 crore was cleared.

Mr. Eswaraiah alleged that because of the non-payment of dues, nearly 60 degree colleges across the State have shut down as they are unable to pay salaries, rents or meet operational costs. The CPI leader accused Education Minister Nara Lokesh of restricting his response to issuing warnings to college managements and holding meetings with associations instead of resolving the crisis.

He also criticised the government's decisions in the medical education sector, alleging that handing over 10 of the 17 government medical colleges to private entities under a 33-year PPP model would hurt poor students. He questioned why the government has not cancelled G.O. 107 and G.O. 108, which permit high-fee B and C category seats.



Gold-clad plates being removed for scientific examination as part of the probe into the alleged gold theft at the Sabarimala temple. PTI

SIT probing shifting of Sabarimala panels to homes for worship

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala High Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the misappropriation of Sabarimala Ayyappa temple artefacts is reportedly inching closer to fixing legal accountability for chartering the gold-plated copper panels to wealthy worshippers for private veneration at their homes and business premises.

Social media videos showing the main suspect Unnikrishnan Potti offering puja to the gilded panels covering the doorway of the sanctum sanctorum on the private premises of celebrities, notably actor Jayaram, in 2019 had gone viral after the Vigilance wing of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), flagged the issue in October 2025.

Likewise, the TDB Vigilance also yielded evidence, including video footage of Mr. Potti offering puja to the gold-plated copper moulds encasing the *Dwarapalaka* figurines at the homes of his wealthy patrons in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai.

Given the High Court's order forbidding the public disclosure of information concerning the case, officials were non-committal on whether the SIT would serve notices on Mr. Jayaram and others.

However, the officials noted that the High Court had frowned on the use of the TDB-owned artefacts, which they said fall within the broad category of government property, for personal gratification, and that such misuse entailed substantial legal jeopardy. Hence, they said the SIT needed to summon those connected with the offence for questioning.

Meanwhile, the SIT is also reportedly investigating the possibility, flagged by the court, that the suspects had replicated the panels to sell the originals to collectors, while returning the replicas as originals to the temple after "restoration" at a factory in Chennai.

High command will take a call on leadership: Kharge

Day after Siddaramaiah meets him, Congress chief states he has 'nothing to say' on 'political developments', he puts ball in Gandhi family's court as power tussle in Karnataka intensifies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Though his Bengaluru residence turned out to be a hub of intense political activity, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday washed his hands of from any decision-making with respect to the leadership tussle in the Congress government in Karnataka, throwing the ball into the "high command's" court.

While Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met him on Saturday night during which current political developments were discussed, several legislators and Cabinet Ministers also met him on Sunday.

"I have nothing to say about the current political developments. Any decision will be taken by the high command," Mr. Kharge said, putting the ball in the Gandhi family's court.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, who has to take a call on the leadership issue, is travelling abroad and is expected to return on November 28, days before the Winter Session of Parliament commences.

A speculated meeting between the Congress president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar did not take place.

Those close to Mr. Shivakumar said that no appointment had been fixed with Mr. Kharge for Monday as well.

"Mr. Shivakumar, along with his brother D.K. Suresh, has told Mr. Kharge what he has to say during their meeting in Delhi last week. However, if a last-minute meeting is scheduled, the two leaders could meet," sources said.



Tussle for power: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during an event in Bengaluru on November 22. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Upping the ante

The intra-party activities from both camps have increased to build pressure and optics on the leadership during the last week as the government crossed the half-way mark of its tenure on November 20.

Mr. Shivakumar and his associates have been insisting on a purported power-sharing formula agreed by the Chief Minister.

A Minister told *The Hindu* that it appears Mr. Shivakumar could be building pressure on the leadership, and there seemed to be confusion even among Ministers.

"With the Chief Minister likely to reshuffle the Cabinet, many legislators are also meeting Central leaders. Ultimately, it is the high command that takes a call," he said.

Stating that he did not see any circumstances that could force the party to change the Chief Minister, G. Parameshwara, Home Minister, told presspersons in Bengaluru that "when the Congress Legislature Party elected the Chief Minister we were not told about two-and-a-half years' power sharing pact. AICC observers had also come then."

Leadership change may take time: Jarkiholi

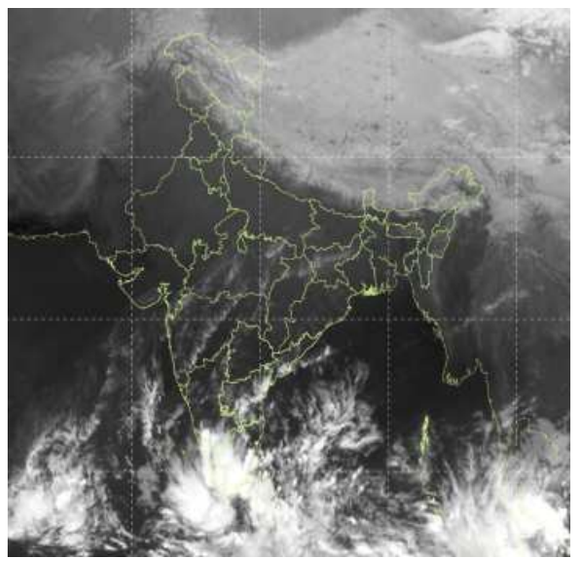
The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

"There has to be a change in Congress leadership in the State. But it may take some time," Minister and KPCC working president Satish Jarkiholi said on Sunday.

Speaking to presspersons he said, "Mr. Shivakumar is right about a change in leadership in the KPCC... There will be a change in the party State president. It may happen now or a year later."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu Puducherry & Karaikal and Kerala & Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with Lightning very likely at isolated places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala & Mahe, Lakshadweep and Tamil Nadu.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.0	15.8	Kozhikode	045.0	34.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	31.5	15.1	Kurnool	--	33.3	22.8
Aizawl	—	25.5	12.1	Lucknow	--	26.8	13.4
Allahabad	—	28.6	13.0	Madurai	009.0	31.5	23.6
Bengaluru	—	26.6	19.0	Mangaluru	017.0	31.6	21.9
Bhopal	—	27.4	9.4	Mumbai	--	32.6	23.5
Bhubaneswar	—	31.2	20.5	Mysuru	--	29.0	--
Chandigarh	—	24.0	9.0	New Delhi	--	26.5	10.4
Chennai	—	31.0	25.6	Patna	--	26.5	17.2
Coimbatore	012.0	29.8	23.0	Port Blair	--	30.8	26.1
Dehradun	—	24.8	9.1	Puducherry	008.0	29.3	24.0
Gangtok	009.0	15.0	8.9	Pune	--	33.2	19.1
Goa	—	33.5	24.5	Raipur	--	31.0	14.6
Guwahati	—	28.5	16.9	Ranchi	--	25.9	13.4
Hubballi	—	29.4	20.5	Shillong	--	17.3	9.0
Hyderabad	—	30.2	19.4	Shimla	--	19.0	8.0
Imphal	—	25.2	15.3	Srinagar	--	15.1	-2.8
Jaipur	—	27.2	13.3	Thiruvananthapuram	013.0	28.6	23.6
Kochi	—	30.0	25.2	Tiruchi	005.0	30.1	23.4
Kohima	—	16.4	12.1	Vijayawada	--	33.3	24.3
Kolkata	—	29.2	17.5	Visakhapatnam	--	31.0	24.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.23	..22	..8	... 283	...209	
Bengaluru	...6	..13	68	..... —	91	
Chennai	...5	4	57	 10	64	
Delhi	.11	125	86	... 464	...454	
Hyderabad	...4	..28	76	... 138	...100	
Kolkata	.11	..18	24	... 332	...201	
Lucknow	...9	..44	75	... 250	...265	
Mumbai	.10	119	95	... 289	...166	
Pune	..—	..61	73	... 177	...142	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..13	16	 70	78	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 437 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 13.

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Seven feared drowned in separate incidents

The Hindu Bureau
ANAKAPALLI

Two persons, including a Forest Protection Watcher, went missing and one person drowned after their boat reportedly capsized in the Raiwada Reservoir in the district on Sunday.

In Parvathipuram-Manyam district, three persons are feared to have drowned in the Jhanjhavati rubber dam in Komarada mandal. According to police, they were members of a group of people from Sivuni who visited the dam on Sunday.

In Kadapa, two boys from Ashok Nagar in Kadapa city are feared to have drowned in the Penna river at Water Gandi on Sunday. A search was on.

Revanth reviews global summit preparatory work

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reviewed preparations for the Telangana Rising Global Summit, scheduled to be held on December 8 and 9 at Bharat Future City.

During his inspection, the CM directed officials to ensure that all arrangements meet international standards, stating that the summit will attract delegates from across the world, including the possibility of participation from ambassadors of various countries.

He instructed the administration to ensure hassle-free movement and services for all visiting representatives. "Delegates should not face any inconvenience at any stage," he said stressing on stringent security protocols.

Mr. Revanth Reddy also reviewed plans for a department-wise entry system for officials and promised that he would continuously monitor the progress of the arrangements. He instructed the police to implement tight security measures, ensure adequate parking facilities and appropriate arrangements for the media, ensuring smooth coverage.

The Telangana Rising Global Summit is being positioned as a flagship event to project the State as one of India's most dynamic and emerging global destinations for investment and innovation.

Seventh accused arrested in Bengaluru ATM van heist

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

₹6.2 crore has been recovered and the remaining amount will be traced, says Home Minister

The Bengaluru city police on Sunday arrested a seventh suspect in the ₹7.11-crore cash van robbery reported on November 19.

The accused, identified as Rakesh, was related to one of the suspects arrested earlier.

He was arrested in Bengaluru late on Saturday night and further recovery is yet to be made, a police officer who is part of the probe team said.

The police had earlier arrested six persons involved in the heist and recovered a total of ₹6.2 crore from them. Among those arrested earlier were former employees of CMS Info Systems, a man working as fleet in-charge responsible for operating the cash-transport vehicles, and Annappa Naik, a police constable attached to the Govindapura police station.

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who congratulated the Bengaluru city police team for cracking the case in record time, also bemoaned the involvement of a police constable as a prime accused in the case.

He congratulated the Commissioner, two Joint Commissioners, two DCPs and more than 200 staff members involved in the investigation.

So far, ₹6.2 crore of the stolen cash has been recovered. The remaining amount will also be traced. The accused had executed the plan with extreme caution, but the police have solved the case using advanced technical methods, he said.

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
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BGRR/PvtSale/Q3/2025-26 NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD 21/11/2025

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-12-2025 as shown below:

Br. Anakapalle: Door no 12-4-61, Lakshmi Narayana Towers, Pudimadaka Road, Beside Ramalayam, Anakapalle, Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh - 531 001, Ph. No. 08924-222910 :- 13536400034300,13536400060370,13536400035240,13536400060404,13536400036453, 13536400060529,13536400031173,13536400060628,13536400024160,13536400060644,13536400060321,13536100393311,13536400060339,13536900005909, 13536400060933,13536400052781,13536900007228,13536900006576,13536900007269.

Br. Bhimavaram: First Floor, Viyaan Plaza, D No: 1-1-11, Vamsi Krishna Nagar, Opp. Sita Towers, JP Road, Bhimavaram, West Godavari-Disrict, Andhra Pradesh- 534 202, Ph: 08816 231000 :- 22796400049919,22796400065022,22796400063423,22796400057672,22796400066707,22796400050917, 22796400063415,22796400040983,22796400057714,22796400034812,22796400057680,22796900000750,22796400064884,22796100000683,22796900000768.

Br. Budampadu : Door No 165/A4, Near Ramalayam, Budampadu Village, Guntur, AP- 522 017 :- 22486400060971,22486100004717, 22486400061474,22486400042078,22486400066622,22486100004568,22486400067398,22486400067406,22486900000337,22486400062225.

Br. Gajuwaka: D.NO:10-3-3, Kailash Nagar, 60 Feet Road, Old Gajuwaka, Vishakhapattanam,- 530 026, Ph. No. 0891-2709828 :- 16876400050709,16876800021086,16876400069501,16876100109078,16876400072307,16876400072315,16876400063397,16876900000584,16876400059650, 16876400068057,16876900000907. **Br. Kakinada: Ayyappa Towers(Phase II), D.No. 5-1-76, Main Road, Kakinada, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh- 533 001, Ph. No. 0884-2363611 :-** 16266400105911,16266100116325,16266400106588,16266900000646,16266400106133.

Br. Vijayawada: Door No.29-7-50,Ground Floor, Ramakrishna Towers, Prakasam Road, Suryaraopet, Vijayawada- 520 002, Ph. No. 0866-2436163 :- 11526100574681,11526100574871,11526400101888,11526400118346,11526400118536,11526400119323,11526400119336,11526800032543,11526900002123, 11526900002131,11526900002271.

Br. Vijayawada/Patamata: Door.No: 59-14-1/2, Below Sankar Netralaya Hospital, Myneni Centre, Patamata, Vijayawada- 520 010, Ph. No. 0866-24775442 :- 14606900004712,14606500035405,14606900004696,14606500034861,14606900003292,14606500035470,14606800020198,14606500035504,14606400215776, 14606500035694,14606500035041,14606500035793,14606500035108,14606500033962.

Br. Visakhapatanam: D. No: 12-1-16, Naga Chambers, Waltair Main Road, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 530 002, Ph. No. 0891-2744377 :- 12356800043699,12356900007826,12356400041812,14696100038628,12356400040103,12356900007842,12356400041853,12356100495029,12356900006224, 12356900008063,12356400041481,12356100495847,12356900007271,12356400038172,14696100037877,12356900011323,12356900007610,12356900009939, 14696100038289,12356900011620,12356100495904. **Br. Atmakuru: D.No. : 3-224/15, Vijetha EM High School Road, Ganapathi Nagar, Atmakur, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh- 522 503 :-** 22506900000548,22506900000589,22506900001207.

Br. Chittoor: 20-543/2, Sri Balaji Complex, Opp. Raghava Theatre, Jailkhana Road , Mittoor, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh- 517 001, Ph. No. 08572-229177 :- 16736400127461,16736900004590,16736400130523.

Br. Guntur: D.No.6-14-36, 14th Lane, 1st Cross, Arundel Pet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh - 522 002, Ph. no. 0863-2332277 :- 16716400093335,16716400095694,16716400094101,16716900001457,16716400097807,16716400093343,16716400095702,16716400096635,16716900004956, 16716900003289,16716400096775,16716400096023,16716400097864,16716900004949,16716900003248,16716400096858,16716400094267,16716400096957, 16716400095694,16716400096866,16716400096510,16716100054553,16716400095702,16716400096908,16716400098722,16716100054280,16716400096023, 16716400091750,16716400074632,16716400094390,16716100053720,16716400094390,16716400091073,16716400091750,16716900003743.

Br. Kadapa: # 21/648-1, Prasad Towers, Salf Felf Street (Old Municipal Office Road), Near Ramesh Theater, Kadapa, AP- 516 001:- 23246400010239,23246400020501,23246900001209,23245600000180,23246900001407,23245100000045,23246100000399,23245600000156,23246900001332, 23246900001696,23246400021160,23246400022374,23246900002520.

Br. Kurnool: Plot No.14, Sy. No.714/A Nagi Reddy Revenue Colony, Beside Vijaya Hospital, Rajeswari Nagar, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh- 518 002, Ph. no. 0851-274331:- 22986900000252,22986400018242,22986900000260,22986900001201,22986400017871, 22986400018283,22986900001805,22986400018317,22986400018184,22986400018218,22986400018291,22986100000797,22986100000888.

Br. Tirupati : D.No.6-7-587, A K Nilayam, Sripuram Colony, Iskon Road, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh- 517 507 Ph: 91-877-2231361 :- 16836900001990,16836900002592,16836900005850,16836900002030,16836900003145,16836900006148,16836900006254,16836400089511,16836400087127, 16836400077573,16836900002444,16836400087473,16836400085949,16836400077581,16836900005207,16836400088349,16836100077626,16836400087093, 16836400088612,16836400088596,16836100077220,16836900005645,16836100077584,16836400089180,16836900006106,16836400081070,16836900002022, 16836900003871,16836900007161,16836400088331,16836900005330,16836900004671,16836900007807,16836400082524,16836900005348,16836400086921, 16836400082722,16836900002378,16836400088208,16836400088604,16836900002337,16836400088216,16836900002501,16836400088414.

Br. Gosala : D.No 8-149, RS No.33/2, Raja Gari layout, Kobbari Thota, Gosala Village, Penamaluru Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, 521 151 Ph. No. 0866 2822080 :- 22636100006746,22636400075227,22636100003545,22636100003651.

Br. Rajahmundry: D No 35-2-1, Kepee Arcade, Kanchumarti vari Street, Opp Big Mosque, Rajamundry, East Godavari- 533 101 Andhra Pradesh, Ph: 91-883-2461457 :- 13416400058213,13416300069732,13416300110676,13416300114009,13416400058221,13416300070193, 13416300112037,13416300114017,13416400060334,13416300070292,13416300112045,13416300114025,13416900001523,13416300106708,13416300112227, 13416300114579,13416300067363,13416300106716,13416300112250,13416300114587,13416300067439,13416300106724,13416300112268,13416300114595, 13416300067538,13416300106757,13416300112276,13416300114728,13416300068072,13416300106765,13416300112680,13416300114801,13416300069500, 13416300106773,13416300112698,13416300114819,13416300069542,13416300109462,13416300112912,13416300114827,13416300069559,13416300109470, 13416300112920,13416300115204,13416300069609,13416300109488,13416300113027,13416300115212,13416300069641,13416300110106,13416300113035, 13416400057678,13416300069674,13416300110221,13416300113126,13416300069682,13416300110668,13416300113993.

Br. Krishnayapalem : Near Door No. 1-57, Oppo. Panchayath Office, Krishnayapalem, Mangalagiri Mandal, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh- 522503 Ph: 08645 259113:- 22866400039002,22866400039952,22866900000157,22866900000140.

Br. Vizianagaram : Door No.19-6-10, Fort Road, Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh-535 002 :- 23446400030670,23446400027189,23446400034540,23446400025613,23446400028518,23446400035877,23446400030498,23446400029953,23446900002815, 23446100000759,23446100000775,23446100000551,23446100000551,23446100000759,23446400014005,23446100001724,23446400019277,23446900002435, 23446400029300,23446900002989,23446100000775,23446400034136.

Br. Srikakulam: D. No: 5-7-6, Ground Floor, Krishna Park Junction, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh- 532001 Ph. No. 7012045140 :- 23436400042338,23436400042379,23436400041249,23436400043104,23436400031745,23436400043187,23436400033907,23436400042791,23436400036058, 23436400043229,23436400041199. **Br. Nidumukkala: 6-212, Beside Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Main Road, Nidumukkala, Tadikonda Mandal, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh- 522 016 Ph. 9966295666 :-** 22876400026719,22876400025521,22876100011151,22876400025331.

Br. Ongole : Sukhadhamam, D. NO. 5-35/1, Opp. Power Office, Kurnool Road, Ongole, Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh- 523 002 :- 13516100098987,13516400050225.

Br. Koppuravuru: 6-90, Opp to Ananjaneya Temple, Pedekakani Mandal, Koppururavuru, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh- 522 508:- 22856400063219,22856900001024,22856100004471,22856900000588,22856100008621.

Br. Visakhapatnam / Madhurawad: HIG -1262,PM Palem, Madhurwada, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 530 041:- 23526400012537,23526400012669,23526400012644,23526400012651.

Br. Prodattur: No.22/296, Gandhi Road, Revenue Ward No.22, Prodattur, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh- 516 360 :- 23716900000708.

Br. Nandyal: Sujoy Paradise, HNO: 26/613E, Near Y Junction, Nandyal, AP- 518 502:- 23686900000075,23686900000083, 23686400011200.

Br. Palamaner: Ground Floor, D. No. 6-1/2, Madanapalli Road, Sai Nagar, Gangavaram, Palamaner, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh- 517408 :- 25026100000039,25026400005357,25026900000122.

Br. Visakhapatnam / Sujatha Nagar: Door No.: 7 -190/1/15, Chankya Nagar, BRTS Road, Sujatha Nagar, Pendurthi Mandal, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 530 051 :- 25496400005790,25496400008240,25496400011335,25496900000333,25496900000408,25496400006608,25496400010626,25496400009958,25496900000489.

Bangalore 21-11-2025 Vice President & Zonal Head

The Council of BJP

Nitish Kumar and the JD(U) are no longer in command in Bihar

The composition of the newly sworn-in Council of Ministers in Bihar, and the distribution of portfolios, reflect the ongoing realignment of power between the BJP and the JD(U). JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar retains the post of Chief Minister, even though his party finished second to the BJP in the Assembly election. However, for the first time in his nearly 20 years as Chief Minister, he is not in charge of the Home Department. Samrat Choudhary, one of the two BJP Deputy Chief Ministers, now controls this administratively powerful ministry. Vijay Kumar Sinha, the other Deputy Chief Minister, has been assigned revenue, land reforms, mines and geology, further consolidating the BJP's control over critical administrative levers. The BJP holds 14 of the 26 ministerial berths and controls key departments including health, law, road construction, urban development, and agriculture. The BJP has effectively taken a decisive step in formally inverting the hierarchy of its alliance with the JD(U) in its favour. While the BJP was the larger party even in 2020, Nitish Kumar retained crucial ministries. The social justice plank and the composition of the previous Assembly gave the JD(U) room to keep an alliance with the RJD open. But the overwhelming sweep of the National Democratic Alliance this time has not only placed the BJP firmly on top but has also made any exploration of alternatives by the JD(U) difficult, if not impossible.

Nitish Kumar is battling ill-health; while he remains indispensable for the BJP, the party is also carefully planning its long-term path. It has built a wide and deep caste coalition, seeking to reach communities that have traditionally viewed the JD(U) as their platform. The induction of Ram Kripal Yadav, a former Lalu Yadav loyalist who joined the BJP, signals that Yadavs too can have a place in the party. Through clever social engineering and administrative manoeuvring, the BJP has now positioned itself at the pole position of Bihar politics. But the real challenge ahead is good governance. The BJP may claim that its repeat victory is a popular endorsement of its previous government, but the State remains behind on many development indicators. The true test for the new Council will be whether it can pull Bihar forward. Bihar is home to nearly a tenth of India's population, and the State's development can positively influence the entire country. The Council should confront the substantial governance deficit honestly and work to address it with active support from the Centre.

Difficult choices

Ukraine and its allies must seek to build on Trump's proposals

The Trump administration's draft peace proposal for Ukraine has triggered predictable unease in Kyiv. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Ukraine now faces a "very difficult choice", risking the loss of its dignity or a key partner. U.S. President Donald Trump has urged him to accept the proposal by Thanksgiving (November 27). Ukraine's apprehensions are understandable. According to the leaked draft of Mr. Trump's 28-point plan, Kyiv would be required to cede territory in Donetsk and recognise Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk as de facto Russian. In the other two oblasts annexed by Russia (Kherson and Zaporizhzhia), the conflict would be frozen along the line of contact, effectively allowing Moscow to retain the areas it has seized. Russia would withdraw from the territories it has captured outside the five oblasts and pledge not to attack neighbouring countries again. The plan also demands Ukraine cap its armed forces at 6,00,000 personnel and formally renounce its bid to join NATO. The bloc's eastward expansion would be halted, sanctions on Russia lifted, while Ukraine would receive "reliable security guarantees". The plan does not elaborate on these guarantees, but U.S. media said that the Trump administration has circulated a separate three-point plan, promising NATO-style security assurances to Kyiv. Russian President Vladimir Putin has positively responded to the proposal, but Ukraine and its European partners are scrambling to craft an alternative proposal to achieve what they call "peace with dignity".

Several elements of the Trump plan mirror Russia's long-standing demands, including the halt of NATO's eastward expansion. On the other hand, the proposal that Ukraine cede territory is not going to be easy for any Ukrainian leader to implement. This makes it enormously difficult for any mediator to craft a peace blueprint that provides genuine common ground for the warring parties. Any meaningful push for peace must take into account at least three dimensions. First, the reality on the battlefield; second, Ukraine's need for credible and lasting security assurances; and third, the creation of a new security framework in Europe. The military balance currently favours Russia, which now controls over 20% of pre-2014 Ukraine. Mr. Zelenskyy's regime, on the other hand, is grappling with corruption scandals. The tragedy of Ukraine is that it is trapped in the great power rivalry between the West and Russia. Trust has evaporated, and the post-Cold War European security order lies in tatters. A peace deal must address this lack of trust and seek to build a new security equilibrium in the region, addressing Europe's fears and Russia's concerns. None of these goals can be achieved through an open-ended war. Mr. Trump's plan, though imperfect, at least offers a structured framework for dialogue, involving the U.S., Europe, NATO, Ukraine and Russia.

The letter has won but the spirit has not lost



Gopalkrishna Gandhi

was Secretary to the President, and a Governor of West Bengal and Bihar

The Republic of India has had 15 Presidents over 16 presidencies, its inaugural President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad having served two terms. Of the number of Governors appointed since 1947, the figure is too large to be counted.

The holders of these two high offices can do great good, sometimes not a little harm and very or most often, prefer an almost Advaitic selflessness that leaves no mark whatever – a self-protecting mechanism. It is better to be not remembered at all than remembered negatively. I have often wondered why these high functionaries, when they are males as they invariably are, carry pens in the pockets of their coats. The pen is almost a piece of their essential 'getting ready'-ness. It makes them seem ever-ready to sign the paper put up to them, wherever they are.

The master cartoonist, Abu Abraham, immortalised the 1975 moment when the then President signed the proclamation of the national emergency by a searing cartoon that showed him signing the paper when it was brought to him (this time with the stylus) at a very odd moment. Signatures can be affixed all too easily, when what is required is saying, 'No, very sorry, but no.' The reason may be plain gratitude for being where the Excellency wants to be.

Equally, when a signature is declined not out of genuine reservations but out of bias, an Abu Abraham or an R.K. Laxman is needed to depict the scene. Assents when given in fear or refused out of bias are infractions of Constitutional responsibility.

Reflections from the past

As one who knows that sometimes a signature (and more) can be affixed by a President on his own, without 'aid or advice' and without a care on whether what he was doing would 'go down well or not', I must recall here President R. Venkataraman (his years in office: 1987-92) and President K. R. Narayanan (years in office: 1997-2002). The pen was used by RV, confidently. It was used by KRN, independently. No cabinet as much as whispered disquiet. Morality was not coy with them, nor fairness halting.

The Prime Ministers RV's term coincided with – Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar – were all strong-willed men but they were first-time incumbents of their pivotal office while RV's experience of political and constitutional office was infinitely bigger. It was natural that they deferred to him when on Bills or other recommendations he had a view contrary to the cabinet's; he put it across to them in one-on-one confidential discussions, that being his way. The fourth Prime Minister who overlapped with RV, P.V. Narasimha Rao, thought-partnered him more than he did his own cabinet colleagues. There was no scope for friction.

In 1997, the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister I.K. Gujral recommended to KRN the dismissal of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttar Pradesh headed by Kalyan Singh. KRN's world view and that of the BJP did not match. But he was the President of India, not just a resident of Rashtrapati Bhavan, answerable to the values of the Constitution. He did not agree with the recommendation of dismissal and sent it back for reconsideration. The recommendation did not come back.

By 1998, the BJP was in power at the Centre and the newly appointed Governor of Bihar recommended that the government of Rabri Devi be dismissed and President's Rule imposed under Article 356 of the Constitution of India. The Governor had sent what was claimed to be a fool-proof case showing financial mismanagement and poor law and order markers. KRN demurred, and sent the recommendation back. Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee's cabinet did not repeat the recommendation. KRN's action in returning these recommendations had no politics to it. Zero. It had only fairness, Constitutional fairness. It had only morality, Constitutional morality. Fairness and morality are unmistakable. As are their opposites.

RV and KRN could be frank with the government when frankness was called for and they were not misunderstood for the government knew that the frankness came from a desire to caution and correct, not to criticise.

'Alert and alive'

Presidents and Governors are meant to be men and women with minds that are alert and alive to the letter of the Constitution and to its spirit in an evolving nation. They should see that recommendations made to them adhere to the letter, knowing that the letter can be used sometimes to subvert the spirit – an irony that the framers of the Constitution could not have anticipated. Would Babasaheb Ambedkar have thought that could have happened? The Constitution of India has been made by honest intentions for honest actuation.

No file was held by RV and KRN for more than a few days. They did not have to be detective-Presidents. No delay was orchestrated during which confabulations could be held, and opinions sought in huddles, and given in whispers. No pocket was deepened for a pocket-veto to be exercised.

But their sense of Constitutional morality and fairness did not make them look out for flaws or faults or fallibilities as a full-time occupation, 24X7.

The President and Governors are neither robots, nor are they ring-masters. They are not inert rubber stamps that are pressed gently or not-so-gently onto any parchment that the government of the day places before them; they would make laughing stocks of themselves if they were that. Nor are they pens that can choose any colour of ink or any vocabulary of their choice when expressing a Constitutional view.

In the 16th Presidential Reference, the top court has upheld the letter and the spirit of the Constitution

Conservative and realistic

The 'answers' of the five-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai, and including CJI-designate Surya Kant, to President Droupadi Murmu's 16th Presidential Reference is imbued with this verity. The Bench has said that Governors cannot have a date-line fixed by the Supreme Court of India for their study of Bills – upholding the letter of the Constitution. The Bench has also said unambiguously that 'evasive inaction' is not 'on' either – upholding the spirit of the Constitution.

In saying the former, the Bench has been conservative. In saying the latter, it has been realistic. The Bench has made it clear that it knows that action and inaction by Governors may not be because they are studious and industrious but because they may be politically predispositioned. The answers of the judges have said that no calendar can be hung on a Governor's wall that says 'This is your deadline'.

Their answers have also placed a clock on their desk that ticks loud and clear and has an informal alarm that can ring if the 'study' has prolonged beyond normal study hours, leaving it open for the delay to be raised in court.

The Constitution of India , especially in matters concerning Centre-State relations – or to put it differently, on matters affecting India's federal polity – takes two to work it, but just one, on either side, to wreck it. Ultimately, the working of a Constitutional arrangement depends on the two – legislature and the Governor/President – playing their roles with respect for the Constitution and for each other.

It is remarkable that the five judges unequivocally declined to school either side, or to assume the role of tutor. They have given neither side victory or defeat. The letter of the law has won, but the spirit of the law has not been defeated. In what is an opinion, not an order (for they were not handling an appeal), they have said what is exactly right: the Supreme Court should not, will not, say how a President or Governor should or should not act. That would amount to 'clutching at a jurisdiction' (a favourite phrase of RV's) which is not their's.

Has the Bench done an exercise in balancing? It has not. It has done an exercise for balance between the power to do right and the right way to do it.

The Indian polity needs to be run not by power games played by adroit players. It needs to be governed by men and women who, when in high office, rise above their limitations. Some incumbents make their offices great, some offices make their incumbents great. The tragedy, as the judges have seen, is that the opposite is equally true.

Safe processing matters more than zesty flavours



Arpita Mukherjee

is Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

There is a shadow – of doubt – over India's food landscape. In recent years, a string of high-profile food adulteration cases has shaken consumer confidence. As a result, many are now more cautious about their everyday food choices. Street food, once a beloved symbol of India's rich culinary culture, is facing growing scrutiny that is related to safety and hygiene.

In July 2024, raids on 58 *pani puri* stalls in Chennai revealed alarming practices. Officials found vendors using contaminated water and dipping their hands into chutneys. These cases are not isolated instances but highlight a troubling gap in food safety across India's informal food sector. While street food brings tradition and community to life, its hygiene standards often remain unchecked.

Food safety and standards for both packaged and unpackaged foods fall under the purview of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). However, the vast number of unpackaged food vendors makes it more challenging for the regulator to enforce safety standards consistently. In contrast, packaged foods allow for stricter enforcement of traceability, transparency, and reliability standards, due to clearer labelling and standardised processing protocols.

Packaged foods, safety and trust

India's packaged food industry is often associated with convenience. But it also reflects a structured system of food production shaped by science, regulation, and evolving consumer expectations. Compared to the informal food sector, the organised packaged food industry operates within a framework of clearer oversight. Regulatory guidelines set by the FSSAI span the entire production cycle – from sourcing raw materials to packaging the final product.

Modern processing techniques further reinforce this reliability and shelf-life amidst variable weather conditions. Methods such as pasteurisation, vacuum sealing and aseptic packaging are widely adopted across the industry. These techniques help reduce microbial risks while aiming to retain flavour and nutritional value. They also support broader distribution and storage needs, particularly in urban and working populations.

There is a troubling gap when it boils down to ensuring uniform food safety across India's informal food sector

Transparency is another area where packaged foods provide clarity. From listing allergens and ingredients to providing manufacturing and expiry dates, packaged foods offer consumers, especially parents, elderly individuals, and health-conscious individuals, the tools to make informed dietary decisions.

Importantly, the industry is responding to growing consumer priorities around processed foods. Driven by market demand and growing health awareness, companies are evolving their product portfolios by introducing a wider range of offerings that cater to health-conscious consumers, thereby expanding the choices available to them. Simultaneously, there is a surge in fortifying foods with vital micronutrients to combat widespread nutritional deficiencies. These shifts mark a responsible and forward-looking approach that aligns commercial interests with consumer well-being.

A part of culinary landscape, but with risks

Street food remains a vibrant and integral part of India's culinary landscape. It reflects cultural heritage, supports millions of livelihoods, and continues to be a popular choice for both locals and tourists. However, beneath this rich and flavourful surface lies a series of systemic risks that cannot be ignored.

A recent analysis by the Observer Research Foundation paints a grim picture, estimating that India records a staggering 100 million cases of food-borne illnesses annually, leading to approximately 1,20,000 deaths. A significant portion of these illnesses is linked to contaminated food from informal sources, including street vendors, small eateries and roadside stalls. These are not just statistics. They represent a significant public health burden that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable sections of society.

The quality of street food often deteriorates due to incorrect cooking practices. The reuse of cooking oil, for instance, is a common practice that not only diminishes the nutritional value of the food but can also lead to the formation of harmful trans fats and other toxic compounds. Similarly, the incentive to use cheaper, adulterated ingredients is high. These practices frequently trigger localised outbreaks of food poisoning and other gastrointestinal illnesses, which often go unreported, further masking the true scale of the problem.

The FSSAI has introduced initiatives to train, certify, and integrate these vendors into the regulatory framework. In collaboration with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) it launched a food safety training programme for street food vendors in Mumbai. The training modules include personal hygiene, safe food handling, storage protocols to prevent contamination and proper waste disposal. At the same time, the unorganised nature and sheer scale of the sector make this a gradual and ongoing effort.

Foster a commitment to safety

While packaged foods go beyond convenience and reflect a science-led, structured approach to addressing food safety concerns, it is important to ensure that street foods are safe and hygienic through training and rating of street vendors under national-level campaigns such as the Eat Right India movement or the Clean Street Food Hub (CSFH).

As India progresses on its path of modernisation and urbanisation, ensuring access to safe and hygienic food must become a top priority for all stakeholders involved. While the romance and tradition of street food remain integral to India's cultural fabric, the associated health risks cannot be overlooked especially when public health is a national priority. The future of food in India must be shaped not by sentiment, but by an unwavering commitment to safety.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Managing Dhaka

The crisis surrounding Sheikh Hasina's conviction and her presence in India has complicated one of New Delhi's most important neighbourhood equations. Extradition is impossible, yet indefinite refuge risks becoming a diplomatic burden. Bangladesh's interim government is already recalibrating foreign policy, slowing India-backed projects and signalling openness to Beijing and Islamabad. In this fluid landscape, India must ensure that the "Hasina question" does not eclipse broader national interests. The real lesson is India's overdependence on a single leader. Long-term stability in bilateral ties requires political diversification, discreet engagement with all stakeholders in Dhaka, and restraint from public messaging. Bangladesh's political turbulence will pass, but the underlying interdependence will endure.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Toxic air, strange apathy

Delhi's air quality has crossed from seasonal discomfort into a full-blown public health emergency. Yet, our response remains strangely casual. What worries me the most is our growing tolerance for poison in the air. It is time we treat clean air as a right that demands accountability.

Harshita Singla,
Jalandhar. Punjab

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The future of health lies in harmony



Prataprao Jadhav

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

As the world grapples with rising lifestyle diseases, environmental degradation, and social fragmentation, there is a growing realisation that restoring the balance between people and the planet, progress and sustainability, innovation and intuition is a necessity.

Health, in its truest sense, has always been a reflection of harmony – within the human body and between humanity and nature. This is the principle that is at the heart of traditional medicine systems worldwide, which view health not merely as the absence of illness but as the presence of equilibrium. The science of well-being, therefore, is not new. It is the rediscovery of a traditional understanding, now being reaffirmed through evidence-based research.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that around 90% of WHO member-states have reported on the use of traditional medicine. For billions of people, it remains the first line of care, particularly in low- and middle-income nations where accessibility and affordability are paramount.

Its value, however, extends well beyond health care. Traditional medicine supports biodiversity, nutrition, food security and livelihoods, embodying the holistic concept of integrative health. Market analysts estimate India's AYUSH sector at $43.4 billion – a figure that tells a larger story. This surge is driven not only by consumer preference but also by a paradigm shift: health-care systems are evolving from reactive treatment models to proactive, preventive, and personalised ones. this global shift represents a shared realisation – that well-being cannot be achieved through fragmented approaches. It demands an ecosystem of balance – between mind and body, human and environment, science and spirit. It is a fact that India has emerged as a hub of innovative research and development initiatives, transforming the global traditional medicine sector.

To support this transformation, WHO's Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) serves as a knowledge hub for evidence-based collaboration and innovation. With its strategic focus on evidence and learning, data and analytics, sustainability and equity, the GTMC aims to optimise the contribution of traditional medicine to global health and sustainable development. It also upholds a guiding principle often overlooked in the age of globalisation – a respect for local heritages, resources, and rights.

Established in Jamnagar, Gujarat, with the foundational support of the Government of India, the GTMC is an expression of shared global leadership. It reflects WHO's vision that harnessing the potential of traditional medicine, when grounded in evidence, innovation, and sustainability, can be a game-changer for health.

India's commitment to this vision stems from the belief that knowledge must serve humanity collectively. The establishment of the Centre in India is a testament to this spirit.

Under the Prime Minister's emphasis on evidence-based research in the field, there have been initiatives such as a dedicated AYUSH department at the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), development of global standards in AYUSH Systems through ISO/TC 249/SC 2 subcommittee, paving the way for wider global acceptance of India's traditional medicine.

The growing recognition of traditional medicine as a scientific and social asset took a decisive step in August 2023, when the first WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, alongside the G-20 Health Ministerial Meeting. The gathering of Ministers, scientists, practitioners and communities from around the world mobilised political commitment, fostered data-driven action, and laid the groundwork for evidence-based integration of traditional medicine into national health systems. The Gujarat Declaration, adopted at the Summit called for the protection of biodiversity, fair benefit-sharing, digital innovation, and equitable access to traditional health knowledge.

The global community is now ready to take the next step – to deepen scientific understanding, encourage innovation, and align traditional medicine's potential with modern global health priorities. Thus, WHO and the Government of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to co-host the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine (New Delhi, December 17-19, 2025), marking a new chapter in global collaboration for health and sustainability. With its theme, "Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being", it will mobilise multi-stakeholder action in support of WHO's new 10-year Global Traditional Medicine Strategy (2025-34), adopted at the 78th World Health Assembly earlier this year.

These initiatives are designed not only to celebrate traditional medicine's heritage but also to propel it into the future – where it stands validated by science, empowered by technology, and guided by ethics. As the birthplace of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa, India's contribution lies in demonstrating how traditional knowledge can coexist with modern science.

Its approach is rooted in integration – uniting tradition with technology, research with community participation, and well-being with sustainability. As the world gathers once again under a shared commitment to restore balance, India's message is simple yet profound: health must heal, not harm; progress must sustain, not consume; and science must serve, not separate.

The summit is more than an event – it is a global convergence to reaffirm that the future of health lies in harmony.

The Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine will strengthen recognition of traditional medicine as a scientific and social asset

Calm returns to Sabarimala

For the government, the corrective actions have given it political oxygen

STATE OF PLAY

Hiran Unnikrishnan
hiran.u@thehindu.co.in

A week after the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple opened for the annual pilgrimage, there is an unusual calm at the hill shrine in Pathanamthitta Nearly six lakh devotees have completed the trek through the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

The tranquil scene of mist, rain-washed forest trails and an unhurried flow of pilgrims is in sharp contrast to the chaos of the first few days of the season. It began even before the temple opened, triggered by a High Court-monitored probe into alleged misappropriation of gold involving Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) officials. There was a flurry of reviews, security checks and confident claims about the arrangements followed.

As the crowds began to build, every system buckled under the pressure. Cleanliness and hygiene faded away, there were food and water shortages and queues froze. Images of exhausted pilgrims fainting along the trekking route poured in. Many bypassed barricades and used multiple points to make their way to the Sannidhanam. Even distant transit hubs such as Erumely and Pandalam were overwhelmed.

For a shrine known for its precise crowd management, Sabarimala was now close to facing a stampede-like situation. The TDB president, K Jayakumar, a former bureaucrat, who took over the reins of a scandal-hit TDB just days before the season began, called the situation 'dangerous' and 'unacceptable under any circumstances'.



The TDB and the police came up with explanations such as the heavy inflow through forest routes, poor handover by the outgoing administration and a surge in footfalls. Reports of devotees abandoning their journey made it clear that the situation was in danger of getting out of control. Efforts to divert the swelling crowds at the Sannidhanam through alternative gates prevented many from accessing the 18 holy steps, which is a core ritual of the pilgrimage. Extending darshan hours made little difference, as the surge of pilgrims continued at the steps – around 45 pilgrims per minute. The death of a 59-year-old pilgrim from Koyilandy in Kozhikode at Appachimedu, heightened tensions. The absence of central forces only added to the pressure.

There was also the politics. The Congress accused the CPI (M)-led government of gross negligence. The BJP amplified the attack. Right-wing social media lit up with allegations that the State was 'humiliating' Ayyappa devotees. And the Karnataka government formally sought Kerala's cooperation to ensure the safety and smooth movement of pilgrims from the State. The Devaswom Bench of the High Court stepped in once again, demanding urgent corrective action by the authorities.

While reviewing the Sabarimala Special Commissioner's report, which stated that over two lakh pilgrims had visited the temple in just 48 hours, the High Court noted that women and children could not face danger. Then came the most pointed question: why were preparations for the Mandalam-Makaravilakku season not initiated six months earlier?

The course correction was swift, with a clampdown on the crowd inflow. Though virtual-queue bookings remained unchanged, spot bookings were slashed from 20,000 to 5,000 a day. The effect was immediate. Footfalls from neighbouring States dropped sharply, perhaps affected by reports of the chaos.

But order returned. The forest trails became quieter. Pilgrims walked on with a sense of fulfilment. For a government heading into back-to-back elections, this return to normal was nothing short of political oxygen.

Even under the Model Code of Conduct, Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan sought special permission from the High Court to convene a review meeting – an indication of how critical the situation had become. A new consultative committee – the police coordinator, the TDB Executive Officer and the Special Commissioner – is in place. The movement rate up the holy steps has risen to over 70 pilgrims a minute, with plans to push it to 85. A 140-member Rapid Action Force team is to support crowd management. The relief in the corridors of power is unmistakable. If Kerala's political establishment has learned anything over the years, it is this: a crisis at Sabarimala never remains confined to Sabarimala. It spills into public discourse, onto political platforms and, eventually, to the ballot box. And with election season looming, that is a risk no government can afford to take.

Did SIR process decide the Bihar result? Data says 'no'

The NDA's advantage over the MGB remained mostly intact, despite a decrease in electorate numbers following the Special Intensive Revision exercise

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls became one of the most contentious issues in the Bihar 2025 Assembly election. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and allies welcomed the process as necessary to remove "infiltrators" from voter lists, while the Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal decried it as systematic disenfranchisement – part of what they termed as "vote *chori*"(vote theft), alleging collusion between the Election Commission of India and the ruling BJP to manipulate electoral rolls in the latter's favour. The controversy was not confined to campaign rhetoric. The SIR process required many interventions by the Supreme Court. The scale of the revision was unprecedented: approximately 68 lakh electors were deleted, while 24 lakh were added, resulting in a net deletion of around 44 lakh voters between January 2025 and October 2025.

A critical question emerges: did the SIR process actually influence the election outcome? A data-driven analysis comparing changes in vote share patterns with the extent of electoral roll deletions across Assembly constituencies suggests that it did not play a determining role in the NDA's victory.

The electoral outcome itself showed remarkable continuity with the 2024 general election. The NDA secured close to 46.6% of the vote share in the Assembly polls, a marginal drop of around 1.4 percentage points from the parliamentary elections held in May 2024. The Mahagatbandan's vote share declined more sharply, by approximately 2.2 percentage points from 39.2% to 37%. While these shifts favoured the NDA, the pattern suggests the alliance retained rather than expanded its existing advantage over the Opposition. To examine whether the SIR process contributed to these patterns, we analysed two key variables across Bihar's Assembly constituencies: the change in the vote share difference between the NDA and MGB from the 2024 general election to the 2025 Assembly elections, and the decrease in electorate numbers following the SIR as a percentage of the original electoral roll.

Map 1 illustrates the changes in vote share difference between the two elections at the Assembly constituency level. The darker red shading indicates constituencies where the NDA increased its advantage over the MGB, while the darker blue shading shows the opposite. **Map 2** depicts the decrease in the electorate across constituencies, with the darker red indicating larger percentage reductions in voter numbers following the SIR process. **Chart 3** plots these two variables against each other for every Assembly constituency in Bihar. If the SIR process had systematically benefited the NDA by removing Opposition voters, we would expect to see a clear pattern: constituencies with higher deletions showing greater increases in the NDA's vote share advantage. The scatter plot, however, tells a different story.

The correlation coefficient between these variables is 0.192, indicating an extremely weak positive relationship. To understand what this means, consider that correlation coefficients range from -1 (representing a perfect negative correlation), to +1 (representing a perfect positive correlation), with 0 (indicating no relationship whatsoever). At 0.192, the data reveal virtually no meaningful connection between the extent of electoral roll deletions in a constituency and the change in the NDA's advantage over the MGB. This is further confirmed by the R^2 value of 0.037 visible in the chart's trendline, which indicates that only 3.7% of the variation in the NDA's electoral performance can be explained by changes in the electoral roll. In practical terms, Assembly constituencies that experienced large-scale deletions were no more likely to see an increase in the NDA's vote share advantage than constituencies with minimal deletions. Similarly, constituencies with smaller reductions in the electorate showed no distinct pattern in voting behaviour compared to those with larger reductions.

The **scatter plot** itself is revealing. Points are dispersed widely across both axes with no clear upward or downward trend. The near-flat trendline and the clustering of points across the entire spectrum suggest that the SIR's impact, if any, was not a determining factor in electoral outcomes. Had the revision systematically disenfranchised Opposition voters to the NDA's benefit, the data would show constituencies with higher deletion rates trending toward greater NDA advantage – a pattern conspicuously absent from the analysis.

The conclusion is straightforward. There was no major increase in NDA vote shares relative to the decrease in the electorate across Bihar. The NDA's advantages from the 2024 general election remained largely intact, and the coalition's victory appears to have been based on the same factors that gave it an edge in the parliamentary polls rather than being a product of the SIR process.

This is not to diminish the concerns about the SIR process. After all, data revealed that there was a disproportionate decrease in the number of women in the electorate following the SIR, leading to the gender ratio dropping from 907 in the January rolls to a meagre 892 in the final rolls released in September. And yet, women turned out in much larger numbers when compared to men (four lakh more despite being forty lakh fewer in the rolls). However, the data also suggest that the SIR, despite being a political flashpoint, did not alone determine the outcome of Bihar's election.

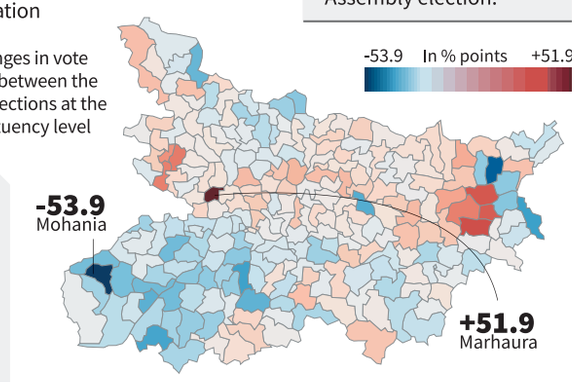


Little correlation

The data were sourced from the Election Commission of India's Bihar 2025 Assembly election results and constituency-wise elector information

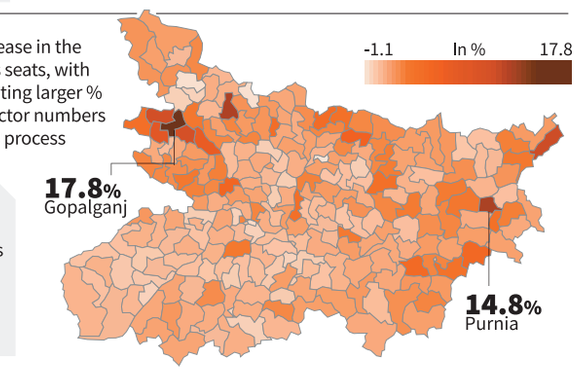
In both phases: Women voters were a force to reckon with in the Bihar Assembly election.

Map 1: The changes in vote share difference between the 2024 and 2025 elections at the Assembly constituency level



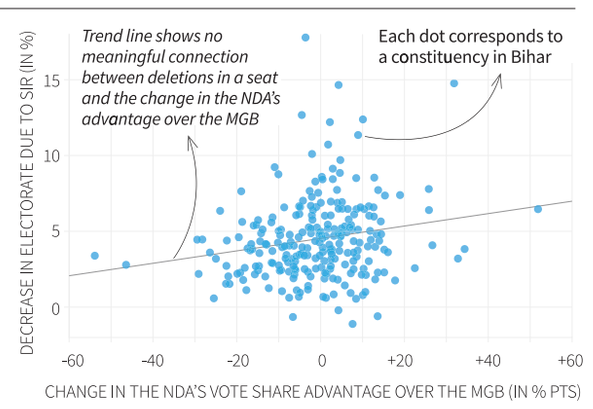
Darker red shading indicates seats where the NDA increased its advantage over the MGB, while darker blue shading shows the opposite

Map 2: The decrease in the electorate across seats, with darker red indicating larger % reductions in elector numbers following the SIR process



While these shifts favoured the NDA, the pattern suggests the alliance retained rather than expanded its advantage

Chart 3: The vertical axis shows the seat-wise decline in electorate due to the SIR process, while the horizontal axis shows the change in the NDA's vote share advantage (in %) over the MGB



VOTE SHARE DIFFERENCES WERE CALCULATED AFTER DISREGARDING NOTA

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 24, 1975

Cochin-Bombay Train from Jan. 26

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
COCHIN, Nov. 23

The Railways will introduce a weekly Jayanthi Janata express train between Cochin and Bombay from Jan.26 next (Republic Day).

The frequency of the present tri-weeekly Jayanthi Janatha Express between Mangalore-Cochin and New Delhi will be increased to five days a week from Jan 26, 1976.

The Bombay-Madras Mail and the Bangalore-Cochin Island Express will be dieselised from the next Republic Day.

An announcement to this effect was made here to-day by Mr. Mohamed Shafi Qureshi, Union Minister of State for Railways while inaugurating the 155.33-km long broad gauge link from Ernakulam to Quilon. Mr. Qureshi said this line represented an important railway link in India for it would eventually connect Cape Comorin in the South with Kashmir in the North. He expressed the hope that the opening of this broad gauge line would bring in more and more industrial and economic prosperity to Kerala.

Preliminary work on the Rs. 13.59 crore conversion project inaugurated on Dec.28,1971, by the former Railway Minister, Mr. K. Hanumanthaiya began early in 1972. The Ernakulam-Quilon section has now been thrown open to traffic and the conversion of 64.81-km.long Quilon Trivandrum section is expected to be completed by June 1976. Mr. Qureshi said Kerala possessed vast potentialities for further economic growth.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 24, 1925

Improving the Breed of Indian Horses

The efforts which are being made to improve the breed of Indian horses are of importance to large numbers of Indian agriculturists. It is expected that for 1930 it will be possible to supply Indian bred remounts for the Army at low prices than the horses can be purchased from Australia and that by the year, enough remounts will be available in India to meet the annual requirements for the Cavalry. This would effect saving in Indian revenues while the money expended on horses would be kept in the country. Advices from Australia meanwhile show that light-horse breeding in the Commonwealth is diminishing rapidly, which is an additional reason why efforts should be made to make the Cavalry from animals bred in India itself. – "The Pioneer."

From Page One

No plan to bring Bill on Chandigarh, says Centre

"No final decision has been made on this proposal. The proposal in no way seeks to alter Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure, nor does it aim to change the traditional arrangements between Chandigarh and the States of Punjab or Haryana," it said.

"A suitable decision will be made only after adequate consultations with all stakeholders, keeping in mind the interests of Chandigarh. There is no need for concern regarding this matter. The Central government has no intention of introducing any Bill to this effect in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament," the Ministry further stated.

Currently, the Governor of Punjab is concurrently the Administrator of Chandigarh, and if the Bill is passed, the Union Territory will be governed by a Lieutenant-Governor.

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh said that the Parliament Bulletin had listed for "the introduction of a Constitution Amendment Bill to enable the appointment of a full-time L-G for Chandigarh".

"This was immediately and aggressively opposed by the INC and other parties in Punjab whose Governor is also the Administrator of Chandigarh. The Union Home Ministry now says that it has no intention to introduce the Bill in the Winter Session. Yet another example of the Modi Govt's FAST approach to governance – First Announce, Second Think," Mr. Ramesh said.

Ex-CJI says opinion does not overrule judgment

"We have only relaxed the timeline. At the same time, we have balanced it by saying the Governor cannot sit on a Bill endlessly. We have also provided for a limited judicial review based on the facts and circumstances of each case. You cannot have a straitjacket formula that in every Bill, if assent is not granted, it would be deemed to have been passed. In a routine Bill, one month is sufficient for a Governor to clear it. However, in Bills concerning internal or external emergency, a Governor may not be able to take a call in a month. He may take three or four months," he said.

To a question if Justice B.V. Nagarathna's dissent to a Supreme Court proposal to elevate Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi had any merit, he said that "if it had, the four other judges on the collegium would not have agreed to the proposal".

He said he did not believe in the age-old adage that there should be "friction" between the judiciary and the government. "I do not believe friction is necessary, especially when we have to depend on the Purse for infrastructural development... I do not think continuous friction is necessary," he said.

Justice Gavai said the popular notion was that a judge was independent only if he decided against the government. "The decision of a judge is not based on whether the litigant is the government or a private person. You decide as per the papers before you. The government may succeed, or the government may lose in a given case. That is not the correct approach," he said.

When asked if he had ever come under pressure from the government, he replied, "No. I know when asked this question everyone in my position would say 'no'. But in my case, it is really a 'no'." He replied to a question about the large number of transfers of High Court judges during his tenure, saying they were largely made in the interest of administration of justice, but there were also complaints against some judges.

UNSC reforms necessity, Modi says at IBSA meet

Highlighting technology's crucial role in ensuring human-centric development, the Prime Minister proposed establishing an IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance to facilitate the sharing of digital public infrastructure such as unified payments interface (UPI), health platforms such as CoWIN, cybersecurity frameworks and women-led tech initiatives among the three countries.

Appreciating the IBSA Fund's work in supporting projects across 40 countries in sectors such as education, health, women empowerment and solar energy, Mr. Modi proposed the IBSA Fund for Climate Resilient Agriculture to further advance South-South cooperation.

Mr. Modi also invited IBSA leaders to the AI Impact Summit to be held in India next year, even as he emphasised the grouping's potential to contribute to the development of safe, trustworthy and human-centric AI norms. He said the IBSA can complement each other's development and become an example for sustainable growth.

He highlighted cooperation opportunities in areas such as millets, natural farming, disaster resilience, green energy, traditional medicine and health security.

Later, in a social media post, Mr. Modi said the IBSA reflects "our enduring commitment to strengthening the voice and aspirations of the Global South. IBSA is no ordinary grouping."

"Ours is a bond that is heartfelt, carrying with it diversity, shared values and shared aspirations. All three IBSA nations have held the G20 Presidency in the last three years and have used this opportunity to further the human-centric agenda, " he said.

PM calls for global compact on AI to prevent misuse

The pact must be based on certain core principles like effective human oversight, safety-by-design, transparency, and restrictions on AI use in deepfakes, crime, terror activities, says Modi at G-20

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG



Laying out a road map: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other world leaders during a session at the G-20 Summit held in Johannesburg on Sunday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called for a global compact to prevent misuse of artificial intelligence (AI), and made a strong pitch for critical technologies to be "human-centric", instead of "finance-centric".

Addressing the third session of the G-20 Summit on the topic "A fair and a just future for all – critical minerals; decent work; artificial intelligence", Mr. Modi said technology applications should be "global" rather than "national" and based on "open source" rather than "exclusive models". Mr. Modi said that this vision had been integrated into India's technology ecosystem, and it had resulted in significant benefits, be it in space applications, AI or digital payments, where it is a world leader.

"We must all ensure that AI is used for global good and its misuse is prevented. To do this, we must create a global compact on AI, based on certain core principles, including effective human oversight, safety-by-design, transparency, and strict restrictions on the use of AI in deepfakes, crime, and terror activities," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister said AI systems that impact human life, security, or public trust must be "responsible and auditable". "And most importantly, AI should enhance human capabilities, but the ultimate responsibility for decision-making always remains with humans," he added. He said that in this age of AI, the approach must rapidly shift from "jobs of today" to "capabilities of tomorrow". "Unlocking talent mobility is essential for rapid innovation. We made progress on this topic at the Delhi G20. We hope that in the next few years, the G-20 will develop a global framework for talent mobility," he said.

Mr. Modi said that under the India-AI Mission, accessible high-performance computing capacity was being built with the aim of ensuring that AI benefits reached everyone.

The Prime Minister said India would be hosting the AI Impact Summit in February 2026 with the theme "*Sarvajanam Hitaya, Sarvajanam Sukhaya*" [welfare for all, happiness for all]. He articulated India's message for global well-being, asserting that it stood for development that is sustainable, trade that is trusted, finance that is fair, and progress in which everyone prospers.

PM discusses trade, critical minerals with Ramaphosa

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

The two leaders agreed to work jointly to amplify the voice of the Global South

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday met South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit here.

The two leaders discussed cooperation in various areas, including trade, investment, mining, critical minerals, AI, and food security.

"Had an excellent meeting with President Cyril Ramaphosa during the G-20 Summit in Johannesburg," Mr. Modi posted on social media after his meeting.

"We reviewed the full range of the India-South Africa partnership, especially in boosting linkages of commerce, culture, investment and diversifying cooperation in technology, skilling, AI, critical minerals and more," he added.

Mr. Modi congratulated the South African leader on the successful presidency of the G-20 summit this year.

He appreciated South African efforts to take forward and build on the decisions arrived during the New Delhi G-20 Summit.

South Africa is hosting the first G-20 Summit being held in Africa.

Earlier, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in a post, said, "The leaders discussed initiating exchange of youth delegations for enhancing technology and people-to-people ties."

Recalling the historical ties that underpin India-South Africa relations, both leaders reviewed bilateral ties and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in various fields of cooperation, including trade and investment, food security, skill development, mining, youth exchange and people-to-people ties, the Ministry said in a statement.

They discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of AI, Digital Public Infrastructure and critical minerals, it added.

The leaders agreed to work jointly to amplify the voice of the Global South.

Mr. Modi appreciated the initiative taken by South Africa to hold the IBSA leaders meeting.

BJP urges J&K L-G to bar admission of Muslims at university

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The move evoked sharp reactions from several political parties

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha has accepted a memorandum of the BJP seeking to scrap the MBBS admission list, which has more Muslim qualifiers, and reserve all the seats for Hindus at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. The move has evoked sharp reactions from J&K parties.

A five-member BJP delegation, headed by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Sunil Sharma, met Mr. Sinha at the Raj Bhavan on Saturday. The delegation sought Mr. Sinha's intervention to amend the rules of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and reserve the seats for Hindus only. The L-G is also the Chairman of the Board.

"The varsity is a religious institution and people have faith and beliefs attached to it. Every devotee donates to this religious institution with a wish to see the promotion of their faith... We made it clear to the L-G that only those who have faith in Mata Vaishno Devi should get admission," Mr. Sharma said. The BJP and several right-wing parties in Jammu are up in arms against the admission list, in which 42 of the 50 qualified students are Muslims.

The move evoked sharp reactions from several political parties. "It is unfortunate that the L-G has accepted such a divisive and communal memorandum. Across the country, students of all religions study in minority institutions...No one has raised an objection to that ever," NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said. Another NC leader Tanvir Sadiq accused the BJP of "communalising institutions" and "dividing society".

Bangladesh seeks Hasina's extradition, sends letter

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Days after deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received a death sentence at the International Crimes Tribunal here, the interim government of Bangladesh has sent a letter to the Indian External Affairs Ministry seeking her extradition, said the Foreign Affairs Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government, Touhid Hossein, on Sunday.

Mr. Hossein said that the letter detailing the judgment on Ms. Hasina's role in the July-August 2024 crackdown on unarmed protesters has been sent to India.

The extradition letter was expected as the ICT sentenced Ms. Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death on November 17.

Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry urged India to hand them over without delay. The External Affairs Ministry had said that they had "noted" the verdict without indicating if India would consider it.

'Consensus on most recommendations of Assam Accord panel'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI



Himanta Biswa Sarma

The Assam government and the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) have reached a consensus on "most recommendations" of a panel to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

Clause 6 of the peace deal, which ended the violent six-year, anti-foreigner Assam Agitation, promised appropriate constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards to protect, preserve, and promote the cultural, social, and linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

Representatives of the government and the AASU held the third round of discussions on Clause 6 on Saturday. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma chaired the meeting.

New panel to be formed

"...Both the Assam government and the AASU reached consensus on most State-level recommendations of the high-level committee, with a new review committee to be formed for timely implementation," a statement from the CMO read.

The Union Home Ministry appointed the high-level panel in February 2020. Headed by retired Gauhati High Court judge Biplab Kumar Sarma, it was tasked with suggesting ways to implement the provisions of the touchy Clause 6.

The sub-committee submitted its report during Saturday's meeting.

ULFA(I) suffers setback as a top leader surrenders

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Paresh Baruah faction of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom, or ULFA (Independent), suffered a setback when one of its top leaders surrendered before troops of the paramilitary Assam Rifles on the Myanmar border on Sunday.

The self-styled 'major-general' Arunodoi Dohutia, alias Bijit Gogoi, one of the last extremists from the northeastern region to have been trained in Afghanistan and Pakistan by the Afghan Mujahideen and Inter Services Intelligence almost five decades ago, has been a close aide of ULFA(I) chief Paresh Baruah. Officials said he and his PSO, Francis Axom, surrendered at Pangsau Pass in Arunachal Pradesh. The two are likely to be brought to Guwahati.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma dismissed the speculation that the extremist leader would be taken to New Delhi for the ongoing peace process.

Experts warn against premature conclusion about Tejas crash

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The recent crash of an Indian Air Force (IAF) Tejas fighter aircraft at the Dubai air show has triggered a wave of speculation on social media, with many users terming the accident a setback for India's flagship defence export platform.

On Sunday, an IAF team reached Dubai to conduct a joint investigation with the UAE authorities. While no evidence of foul play has emerged so far, online discussions have intensified, demanding a thorough probe into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Several hashtags gained traction, amplifying theories about sabotage and external interference. A fabricated social media post also claimed that an oil leak had been detected on the Tejas before the flight. However, a PIB Fact Check clarified that the allegation was false, stating that the fluid seen in the video was part of a routine draining process, not a technical malfunction.

A senior official monitoring misinformation campaigns said numerous accounts – operating from neighbouring countries – were found circulating misleading narratives about the crash.

The heightened military cooperation between China and Pakistan, especially in defence technology, has also been frequently referenced in online discussions around the incident.



Wing Commander Afshan breaks down ahead of the last rites of her husband, Wing Commander Namansh Syal, in Kangra on Sunday. He lost his life in the Tejas crash at the Dubai air show. ANI

Aviation experts, however, cautioned against premature conclusions until the joint investigation report is released.

Impeccable record

"IAF has full confidence in the aircraft; that's why they are flying it. The only issue is HAL's inability to meet delivery timelines. If we cannot meet our own timelines, how can we export?" said Air Vice-Marshal Anil Golani (retd.), Director-General of the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS).

Air Vice-Marshal Golani added that incidents during development or early induction phases were not unusual. "Tejas has had an impeccable record. It was inducted in 2016, and till 2024 not a single incident occurred. Its safety record is excellent."

On the export potential of Tejas, he said India must first prioritise domestic requirements. "IAF has already placed orders for 220 Tejas aircraft. There are many powers in the world trying to pull India down."

According to the Ministry of Defence, India's indigenous defence production reached a record ₹1,27,434 crore in FY 2023-24, a 174% jump from 2014-15. India now exports military equipment to over 100 countries, including the United States, France, and Armenia. Defence PSUs accounted for 77% of total output, while the private sector contributed 23%.

With the retirement of its last MiG-21 squadrons, the IAF's strength has dipped to 29 fighter squadrons, its lowest since the 1960s, against a sanctioned 42.

To bridge the gap, the force is relying heavily on the phased induction of the Tejas. The upgraded Tejas Mk-1A, featuring advanced radar, enhanced electronic warfare systems, and improved maintainability, is expected to significantly boost IAF capability.



Justice Surya Kant

Justice Surya Kant to take oath as Chief Justice today

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Justice Surya Kant, who has been part of several landmark verdicts, will on Monday take oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India.

He will succeed Justice B.R. Gavai.

Justice Kant was appointed the next Chief Justice on October 30 and will remain in the post for nearly 15 months. He will demit office on February 9, 2027, on attaining the age of 65.

Born on February 10, 1962, in Hisar district of Haryana to a middle-class family, Justice Kant went from being a small-town lawyer to the country's highest judicial office.

Justice Kant, who penned several notable judgments in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, was appointed the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018.

His tenure as a Supreme Court judge is marked by verdicts on the abrogation of Article 370, free speech, and citizenship rights.

The judge was part of the advisory opinion on the recent Presidential Reference on the powers of the Governor and President in dealing with Bills passed by a Assembly.

He was part of the Bench that kept the colonial-era sedition law in abeyance. Justice Kant nudged the Election Commission to disclose the details of 65 lakh voters excluded from the draft electoral rolls in Bihar.

SIR is imposed oppression, a ploy to harass people, allow vote theft: Cong.

Rahul Gandhi says SIR aims to 'tire out genuine voters' by forcing them to sift through a 'jungle of paperwork'; Mallikarjun Kharge likens 'hasty, unplanned' revision to demonetisation and lockdown, he slams EC for standing as a 'mute spectator'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> SIR is a deliberate ploy under which citizens are being harassed and deaths of BLOs due to unnecessary pressure are being ignored as collateral damage. This is not a failure, it is a conspiracy
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader



Flagging the deaths of booth-level officers (BLOs) engaged in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in various States, the Congress on Sunday said the exercise was an "imposed oppression" and a "deliberate ploy under which citizens are being harassed".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi flagged the issue.

The SIR is likely to dominate the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament.

Mr. Gandhi said that chaos had been "created" across the country in the name of the SIR of electoral rolls. He shared a news report in Hindi, which said that 16 BLOs had lost their lives in 19 days due to heart attack, stress, and, in at least two cases, suicide. "SIR is not a reform, it is an imposed oppression," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

Mr. Gandhi said the Election Commission of India had created a system where citizens had to sift through thousands of scanned pages of 22-year-old voter lists to find their names. "The objective is clear: to tire out genuine voters and allow voter fraud to continue unabated," he alleged. He slammed the poll body for "creating a jungle of paperwork".

"If the intentions were clear, the list would be digital, searchable, and machine-readable, and the EC would have taken its time to focus on transparency and accountability instead of rushing through the work in a 30-day hurry," Mr. Gandhi said.

"SIR is a deliberate ploy under which citizens are being harassed and deaths of BLOs due to unnecessary pressure are being ignored as 'collateral damage'," Mr. Gandhi said, adding, "This is not a failure, it is a conspiracy; democracy is being sacrificed to protect power."

Congress president Mr. Kharge said the BJP's "vote *chori*" had now taken a deadly turn. "My deepest condolences to every family who has lost a loved one. Based on ground reality, this number is far higher than reported, which is extremely worrying. Who will provide justice to these families," Mr. Kharge asked in his post in Hindi. He accused the poll body of standing by as a "mute spectator" while the BJP enjoyed the "fruits of stolen power". "The hasty, unplanned forced implementation of SIR is reminiscent of demonetisation and the COVID-19 lockdown," Mr. Kharge said.

The BJP's "hunger for power" is driving institutions to force suicides, shredding of the Constitution, and weakening of democracy through misuse of power, he alleged.

"If we still don't wake up, no one can save the last pillars of democracy from collapsing. Those who remain silent on SIR and vote theft are responsible for the deaths of these innocent BLOs," he said.



Public outcry: Congress activists protest against the special intensive revision procedure, in Kolkata on November 20. PTI

Allay fears of people over SIR, West Bengal Governor tells EC

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Sunday urged the Election Commission (EC) to allay fears of people over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State.

"There are various fears among people about SIR. Incidents like suicide have happened. In this context, the EC and the State government should meet more to allay people's fears about SIR," the Governor said.

He added that he would do everything in his capacity to allay these fears. Speaking to presspersons, the Governor, who completed three years in office on the day, said that his priority remained a violence-free and corruption-free West Bengal. "I will work for Bengal, especially for women and children. I want to build a violence-free, corruption-free Bengal," he said.

On reports that people have gathered in large numbers along the borders with Bangladesh, particularly at the Hakimpur outpost, the Governor said that he would have to visit the field to understand the situation on the ground.

Over the past few days, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership has alleged that the demography of the State has been changed in border districts due to illegal infiltration from Bangladesh. Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, after meeting Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharati, raised the issue of "change of demography" in districts bordering Bangladesh.

On Sunday, BJP leader Amit Malviya, in a social media post, said that between 2002, when the SIR was last conducted by the EC, and 2025, West Bengal has seen a 66% increase in the number of registered voters from 4.58 crore to 7.63 crore.

"EC data shows that among the top 10 districts with the highest increase in voters, nine share a border with Bangladesh," Mr. Malviya said.

The BJP leader said that as per EC data, "the nine border districts that have seen the sharpest rise are: Uttar Dinajpur (105.49% increase), Malda (94.58%), Murshidabad (87.65%), South 24 Parganas (83.30%), Jalpaiguri (82.3%), Cooch Behar (76.52%), North 24 Parganas (72.18%), Nadia (71.46%) and Dakshin Dinajpur (70.94%)".

Mr. Malviya said that the only non-border district in the top 10 is Birbhum (73.44%).

"These illegal infiltrators are now spread across Bengal and the rest of India, forming the core of Mamata Banerjee's vote bank. This is why she is desperately trying to shield them – and why her virulent opposition to the special intensive revision is no surprise," the BJP leader said.

Sindh will always be a part of India's civilisational heritage, says Rajnath

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaks during the 'Sindhi Samaj Sammelan' in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said that while Sindh was no longer part of India geographically, it remained an integral part of India's civilisational heritage.

At a community event, he said, "Today, the land of Sindh may not be a part of India, but civilisationally, Sindh will always be a part of India. And as far as land is concerned, borders can change. Who knows, tomorrow Sindh may return to India again."

Referring to senior BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani, born in Sindh, Mr. Singh said Mr. Advani had written about how Sindhi Hindus of his generation had never fully accepted the separation of Sindh from India. "Not just in Sindh but throughout India, Hindus considered the Indus river sacred. Many Muslims in Sindh also believed that the water of the Indus was no less sacred than the Aab-e-Zamzam of Mecca," he quoted Mr. Advani's writing.

Mr. Singh reiterated that people of Sindhi origin would "always remain our own, no matter where they live".

Plight of minorities

The Defence Minister also spoke about the plight of minorities in neighbouring countries. He said these communities had suffered violence, forced conversions, and displacement, and criticised past "appeasement-seeking governments" for denying them proper rehabilitation in India. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi understood their suffering, which led to the introduction of the Citizenship Amendment Bill.

He noted that the government had permitted persecuted minorities from neighbouring nations to stay "without passports till 2024, enabling them to live with dignity".

Mr. Singh criticised the Congress leadership during Partition, saying it ignored the security concerns of Hindus in Sindh and discouraged their migration to India.

BJP predicts Opposition setbacks in Bengal, U.P.

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

A day after Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav accused the BJP government and the Election Commission of plotting to remove voters from select constituencies, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya suggested that the next electoral setbacks for the Opposition would come in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

Taking to X, Mr. Maurya posted, "During the Bihar elections, with Rahul Gandhi diving in and dragging Tejashwi Yadav along, the fate of the *Mahagatbandhan* was sealed." He added, "The next number is that of Mamata *Didi* and then Akhilesh Yadav."

Jamiat chief Madani's Al Falah remarks spark row

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani's remarks alleging discrimination against Muslims in the context of multiple investigations into Al Falah University, in connection with the Red Fort blasts, sparked a controversy on Sunday. The BJP responded by claiming the "*aatanki bachao* [save terrorist] *jamaat*" had become active.

"The world thinks that Muslims have been crippled and finished. I don't believe so. Today, a Muslim, Mamdani, can become the mayor of New York, a Khan can become mayor of London; whereas in India, no one can even become a university vice-chancellor," Mr. Madani said at a session at the Jamiat headquarters here on Saturday.

"And even if someone does, they will be sent to jail, like Azam Khan. Look at what is happening today with Al Falah. He [the founder] is in jail, and no one knows how many years he will be in jail," he said. The government is working relentlessly to ensure that Muslims never raised their heads, the chief of one of the two factions of Jamiat alleged.



Maulana Arshad Madani

BJP leaders slammed Mr. Madani for the remarks, and accused him of giving a communal colour to the Delhi blast probe.

The ruling party's spokesperson, Shehzad Poonawalla, said, "Arshad Madani*ji*, leave aside this talk of mayor; this country has seen Muslims becoming President, Vice-President, Chief Justice, Home Minister. The biggest artists and businessmen have also come from the Muslim community."

"When a terror act takes place, those people who say terrorism has no religion, start advocating on behalf of terrorists on the basis of religion," he said.

Reacting to Mr. Madani's remarks, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "In India, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who became the President, is the icon of Muslims. He always kept his head high. Why make others an icon?" BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain slammed Mr. Madani's statement as "very irresponsible".

Opposition demands EC action against Ajit Pawar's statement

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Opposition on Sunday demanded action by the Election Commission (EC) against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar over his recent comments during election campaigning for the Malegaon Nagar panchayat elections, alluding to an alleged threat to voters.

Mr. Pawar was seen at a public event saying, "If you elect all the 18 candidates, I will give you what I have committed. But if you cut on something, even I will put a cut. You have your vote in your hands, I have funds in my hands."

When asked about it, Mr. Pawar said, "Everyone says things during elections. That does not mean anything."

The Opposition asked why the EC had not taken cognisance of the remarks and sought action against Mr. Pawar. Supriya Sule, MP of the NCP (SP) and Mr. Pawar's cousin, said it was the moral responsibility of the EC to keep a check on such statements.

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Tender documents can be downloaded up to **08.12.2025**, **14:30** hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**

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INBRIEF



U.S. firms oppose demand on spectrum allocation

U.S. tech majors Apple, Amazon, Cisco, Meta, HP, and Intel Corporation have jointly opposed Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea's demand to allocate spectrum in the 6 gigahertz (GHz) band for mobile services. The tech majors sought the entire 6GHz band to be allocated for Wi-Fi services instead. In a response to telecom regulator TRAI's consultation paper for the next round of spectrum auction, the U.S. technology giants have said the technical and commercial readiness in the 6 GHz band is not established for mobile services. The tech giants said any upper 6 GHz spectrum remaining unused should be made available for unlicensed use in the interim. PTI

French Navy rejects *Geo TV*'s claims on loss of Rafale jets

The French Navy has issued a strong rebuttal of Pakistan-based *Geo TV*'s "misinformation and disinformation" on Operation Sindoor. French official statements described claims by the channel as "fabricated". The clarification came after *Geo* published an article on November 21 alleging that a French naval officer confirmed Pakistan's air superiority and claimed that Indian Rafale jets had been shot down during recent border skirmishes. According to the French Navy, the statements attributed to "Captain Jacquis Launay" were fabricated. The officer's correct name is Captain Yvan Launay, and he "never consented to any form of publication," the Navy said. It noted that Captain Launay holds no operational insight into India-related missions.

COP30 stresses 'adaptation' as path to fossil fuel-free world

Countries have called to 'at least triple' adaptation finance by 2035 and to hold a systematic dialogue, with existing UN trade forums on ensuring that measures to combat climate change do not impede trade or growth in developing countries

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI



André Corrêa do Lago, COP30 President, sits as Simon Stiell, UN climate chief, left, speaks with other UN officials during a plenary session in Belem, Brazil, on Saturday. AP

The deliberations at COP30, which concluded in Brazil on Saturday, underlined that while countries agreed upon transitioning away from fossil fuel, more emphasis ought to be laid on adapting to climate change rather than defining road maps to end use of fossil fuels.

As the text of the consensus, called the Mutirão (coming together) agreement, says, countries have agreed to establish a two-year "work programme" on climate finance; called for efforts to "at least triple" adaptation finance by 2035. They have agreed to a systematic dialogue with participation from United Nations' trade forums – for example, International Trade Centre, the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization – on how measures to combat climate change should not impede trade and growth of developing countries.

Climate finance refers to money that must be disbursed by developed countries to developing ones. The aim of COPs (Conference of Parties) has been on delivering climate finance evenly for mitigation (avoiding fossil fuel projects and funding renewable energy) and adaptation (building infrastructure to better shield against climate change, investing in resilient agriculture, and so on). However, mitigation projects are generally more business-friendly and have garnered more attention.

"While the adaptation finance decision wasn't what developing countries wanted, it helps ensure that funding for adaptation will continue to grow... Even though the deadline is a decade away, developed countries can't be complacent and must immediately get to work, scaling up adaptation support. Having this goal within the framework of the NCQG means that developed countries take the lead, with other countries encouraged to contribute voluntarily," Joe Thwaites, International Climate Finance Director, Natural Resources Defense Council, a global think tank, said in a statement. New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) refers to an agreement in COP29, Baku, by developed countries to mobilise $300 billion annually by 2035 and work towards expanding it to $1.3 trillion annually from all sources.

Ideological divide

The deliberations at the COP through the years have often been framed as a contest between two ideological blocs – those that want hard targets and road maps on phasing out of fossil fuels and those that resist them.

India, for instance, in the final leg of deliberations on Saturday, expressed "satisfaction with major outcomes" of COP30 such as a Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) and for "delivering the space" to discuss Unilateral Trade-restrictive Climate Measures. "These issues cannot continue to be brushed under the carpet. The Parties have made a beginning here to reverse this trend," a statement by a group of largely developing countries noted. The JTM refers to a process whereby labour systems can be made to adapt to a future away from fossil fuel in a way that promotes justice and equity.

The COP30 Mutirão agreement has no mention of 'fossil fuels' or a road map to end their use – meaning they are not part of the consensus agreement. COP President André Lago's commitment to creating two road maps– one on halting and reversing deforestation and another on transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner, is viewed as a placatory measure towards the European Union and countries demanding an end to use of fossil fuels.

ITBP to set up 10 all-woman border posts along LAC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI/JAMMU

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police force, which guards the 3,488-km-long India-China LAC, is establishing 10 all-woman border posts along this arduous and icy frontier, the Director-General of the paramilitary said.

The force, as part of its ambitious "forwardisation" plan, initiated post the 2020 military clash in Ladakh, has also moved its 215 border posts forward along the front on India's north and eastern flank so far. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) D-G Praveen Kumar said this during the 64th Raising Day parade of the force held in Jammu on Saturday.

"We have worked on the forwardisation plan and, as a result, the number of forward-deployed BOPs (border outposts) is now 215 as compared to 180.

The Centre had sanctioned seven more battalions and a sector office comprising about 9,400 personnel for the ITBP in 2023.

The ITBP is in the process of establishing two all-women BOPs in Ladakh's Lukung and Thangi in Himachal Pradesh. Eight more all-women BOPs will be made operational on this front, the D-G said.

State Forest Departments across India have no record of African grey parrot trade, reveal RTI responses

Rohan Premkumar
UDHAGAMANDALAM

There are no registered breeders or authorised pet shops to sell African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) - one of the most easily procurable animals in the country. While the bird is extensively available in pet markets, the Forest Departments in different States said no breeder had registered with them. The departments had responded to applications filed by *The Hindu* under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, to understand the trade in the exotic species.

The parrot, listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), requires special permits, including individual CITES registration and import certificates, for their trade in the domestic and international markets.

Extensive capture for the international pet trade has decimated the bird's populations in their home ranges encompassing parts of Central Africa. The species is also listed as 'Endangered' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.



African grey parrot is listed as 'Endangered' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RTI findings

Out of 19 States and Union Territories to which applications were sent asking about the trade in the species, only Kerala's Forest Department reported receiving 17 applications for the registration of breeders' licences for the species. The State also said registration of pet stores was delegated to the State Animal Welfare Board. Meanwhile, most other States gave generic responses stating they did not have access to the data requested, while some forest divisions also responded individually, stating that the species was not found in their divisions.

Despite Tamil Nadu claiming that as per their records, there were no registered breeders, traders, or pet stores dealing in the commercial trade of African grey parrots, the Forest Department said it was compiling inspection reports and audits of breeding facilities, pet shops, and sellers of the species.

Breeding licence

To breed CITES Appendix I species like the African grey parrot, a valid breeding licence is required. To obtain this, an application must be submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden under the Breeders of Species Licence Rules, 2023. The applicant must also have the CITES import permit, a Directorate-General of Foreign Trade import licence number, and a no-objection certificate from the respective Chief Wildlife Warden for the import before applying for the breeding licence, a researcher familiar with the trade in exotic wildlife said.

Shekhar Kumar Niraj, the South Asia head of the Wildlife Justice Commission, said it was mandatory for each State's Forest Department to maintain records of exotic species. "Even prior to importing, buyers have to receive approval from their respective State's Chief Wildlife Wardens, aside from import certificates and CITES approvals," he said. "The trade in exotic species is on the rise, and maintaining registries of these species is extremely important as they pose a biohazard with the potential for spreading zoonotic diseases and also for becoming invasive species," he added.

Trade hubs

Chief Executive Officer at Wildlife Trust of India Jose Louies said Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have become hubs for the import and trade in exotic species.

However, he does not lay the blame on the Forest Department. "You cannot expect the Forest Department to go house to house and search for these animals," he said. People buy animals without paperwork, and also breed them illegally.

Opponents target BJP on emotive Chandigarh issue

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Political parties on Sunday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party even as the Union government clarified that it had no intention of introducing a Bill in the Winter Session of Parliament to bring Chandigarh within the ambit of Article 240 of the Constitution.

Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring rejected the Union government's clarification and termed it vague. "What is the guarantee that it will not bring it [Bill] in the next session?" he said.

"What was the need to propose an amendment at the first instance. If the BJP is really sincere about Punjab and Punjabis, it should initiate the measures to hand over Chandigarh completely back to Punjab instead of taking contrary steps," he said in a statement.

Malvinder Kang, Lok Sabha member from the Aam Aadmi Party, demanded that the BJP government declare Chandigarh as the rightful capital of Punjab. "There can't be a more appropriate moment for the BJP to clearly and finally declare Chandigarh as the rightful capital of Punjab," he said in a post on X.

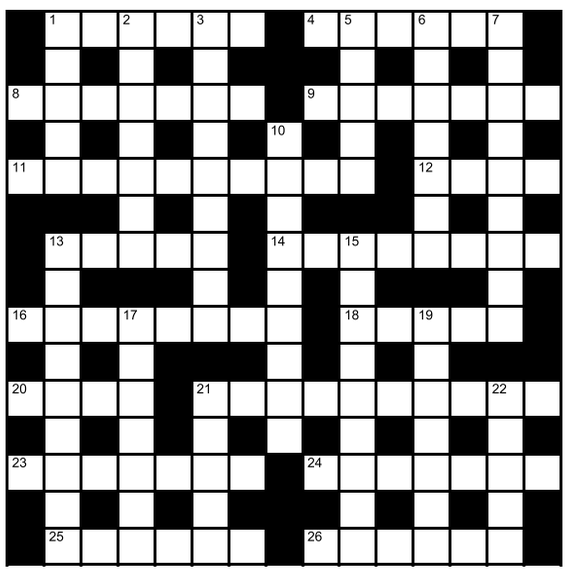
Shiromani Akali Dal vice-president Ravinder Singh Brahmpura, in a statement, termed the Home Ministry's clarification regarding the Chandigarh Bill as a "preliminary victory of Punjab's unity but a looming warning bell".

TH CROSSWORD + 14647

(set by Mythical)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Understand measure used by sailors (6)
4 A couple of seconds, and Chatgpt e.g. basically creates artwork (6)
8 Infected model blacked out after striking head (7)
9 Dame possibly wearing princess's ornaments (7)
11 Arm Britons! Perhaps, this might solve the problem (10)
12 It nurtures immense lands, Egypt primarily (4)
13 Join unit controlled by setter (5)
14 Reading about a plant with fragrant flowers (8)
16 Father a bit nostalgic after stories about fine years of existence (8)
18 Royal leaves - avoids parodies (5)
20 Essentially going around that US state (4)
21 Had guests shot?! (6,4)
23 Aristocrat admits lying about leading developer (7)
24 Discussed reports in stages (7)
25 In auditorium, noticed player in spectacles (6)
26 Song about alien traveller initially and princess in legendary ballet (6)

Down

1 Extremely frightful appearance and style (5)
2 Port is more acidic (7)
3 Fail to get up and go northward after cycling enthusiasts (9)
5 Dislike quietly replacing daughter's drug (5)
6 Like well-cooked pasta and beer around study time (2,5)
7 Criticises change, getting hold of member with note (9)
10 Friendly convict getting cocktail of gin and ale (9)
13 Takes care of leading saint abroad (9)
15 Esteemed doctor persecuted after rebuffing unionist (9)
17 Improve unit hospital area in front of new church (7)
19 Receive from Will, perhaps? (7)
21 Work in silence, they say (5)
22 Ultimately, outfits must satisfy local taste and fashion (5)

SUDOKU

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

No.SS6710 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

R	H	E	W	R	D	M								
A	D	A	M	S	W	I	N	E	I	N	R	O		
F	L	C	T	P	S	S								
F	A	L	L	O	N	H	A	R	D	T	I	M	E	S
L	O	R	I	I	A	O	I							
E	X	U	L	T	A	N	C	E	N	E	P	A	L	
T	M				V	C			I					
I	D	I	O	T	I	C	E	L	E	G	I	A	C	
C			H	O					N		O			
K	A	N	J	I	M	I	N	U	S	S	I	G	N	
E	I	N	E	O	E	T	C							
T	O	B	E	G	O	I	N	G	O	N	W	I	T	H
	B	A	N	G	S	A	I							
S	L	A	M	T	H	I	N	O	N	T	O	P		
E	Y	O	N	R	E	S								

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Inescapable play of fate

If one has performed good deeds in previous births, happiness and comforts naturally follow in this life. Conversely, sinful or harmful actions bring difficulties and sorrow. Our scriptures call this destiny or fate. No one can escape its influence. King Janamejaya, a descendant of the Pandavas, approached his family's Guru, sage Vedavyasa, a great Tapasvi endowed with divine vision. He asked why the Mahabharatha war had occurred, leading to so much deaths. He wondered why Vedavyasa had not forewarned Yudhishthira to prevent it. The sage replied that even he could not halt the grand design of destiny and that such events unfold as ordained. Vedavyasa then cautioned the king of a great sin he would incur in the coming days and urged him to avoid it. Nevertheless, despite the warning, Janamejaya was unable to prevent the event.

Similarly, when it was ordained for Sri Rama's incarnation, destiny worked swiftly: He was sent to the forest – a turn of events that could not be stopped. This inexorable force of fate intervened once more, drawing Rama to chase the golden deer, which ultimately led to Sita's abduction by Ravana. These stories reinforce the idea that the workings of fate transcend individual will.

Lanka Sri Jeyaraj explained in a discourse that our karmas fall into three categories: Sanchita Karma is the vast storehouse of deeds from many past births; Prarabdha Karma is the portion of these deeds that ripen for experience in the present life; Agamya Karma refers to the new actions, good or bad, that we perform in this life. These three types of karma work together to weave the fabric of our destiny, shaping the events we must undergo.

TP cover: necessary, but isn't enough

K. Nitya Kalyani

Last Monday, we looked at the human side of Motor Third-party (TP) Liability insurance. This compulsory cover is meant to protect peace of mind – and finances – by shielding you from the legal burden of compensating those who suffer losses in an accident involving your vehicle.

But to borrow from the old saying, a TP policy is 'necessary, but not sufficient.' It is necessary for every vehicle owner. Yet, the number of vehicles actually insured is far too small for the cover to function as a meaningful social safety net for accident victims and their families.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court asked the insurance regulator – the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) – to mull ways to improve motor insurance coverage, especially for TP cover, a statutory requirement under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Poor coverage

The Court is also expected to look at enforcement strategies and policy reforms, given the troubling fact that a majority of vehicles on Indian roads are uninsured for TP liability. Estimates suggest by late 2023, almost half of all vehicles – about 18 crore – had no active TP cover. Another study puts the uninsured share at 57%.

This is not a recent failure. Non-compliance has been recognised for decades, examined in committee reports, highlighted in the media and dissected in opinion columns – including this one. Numerous solutions have been proposed, and



Rough ride: A majority of vehicles are uninsured for TP liability. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

some even tried, yet the problem persists.

Ideas have ranged from adding a small cess on fuel to fund TP payouts, to collecting a lifetime TP premium alongside lifetime road tax. Long-term 10-year policies were introduced, but uptake remained low, partly because these policies were often not accepted by traffic police. In 2018, the Supreme Court mandated multi-year insurance at the time of registration – five years for two-wheelers and three years for private cars. This nudged up the number of insured vehicles for a while. But many owners simply let the policy lapse after the initial block of coverage.

Stark situation

Today, the situation remains stark: if you do not renew your TP cover, you risk personally bearing the cost of third-party property damage, injury or death. Compensation awarded by the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT) routinely runs into lakhs and crores.

Even diligent policyholders are indirectly affected. Every year, IRDAI reviews TP premiums. If total TP claims exceed the collected premium, rates are revised upward. And who bears this burden? Those of us who renew our policies on time! In effect, the compliant end up subsidising the non-compliant – hardly a reward for doing the right thing.

All the more reason to nudge that neighbour, friend or relative who ignores TP renewal.

Remind them that neglecting a mandatory policy doesn't just endanger others – it also costs the rest of us.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



In the genes: The pattern of spending is not a flaw but just natural flow. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

'Money-flow' matrix: fresh lens on spending habits

Every financial habit carries a hidden emotional script, so discover yours. Before fixing your finances, know your financial personality

MONEY MAPPING

Vaishali R Venkat

> Money habits react to your impulses, emotions, fears, greed and other inner patterns, and decide how money enters and escapes your wallet

> Drifters spend money without any purpose. They let their money adrift wherever the moment or life takes them. No rhythm, no planning

Money is like water. Water responds to gravity, pressure, obstacles and also to the shape of its channel.

Likewise, money habits react to your impulses, emotions, fears, greed and other inner patterns.

These invisible patterns decide how money enters and escapes your wallet. Engineers study water flow and predict where it speeds up, slows down or leaks. Similarly, you need to know your money habits to direct flow and plug leaks.

Battle within

The real battleground of money lies within, not outside. Benjamin Graham, considered the father of value investing, wrote: "The investor's chief problem– and even his worst enemy – is likely to be himself. The fault is not in our stars – and not in our stocks– but in ourselves."

Often, researchers see that people fall into the trap of the emotional wiring, regardless of income, education or background.

The Money-Flow Matrix helps you see your money habits clearly. Seven patterns show where you're strong and where you stumble. Let's follow the currents...

The Gusher

Gushers spend money as quickly as water gushes out of an open tap. It's the speed of spending that defines them. A Gusher feels a sudden urge to buy, and later realises that the money has flowed out faster than expected.

Author Daniel Kahneman explains that our brains have a fast, instinctive mode called System 1, which "operates automatically and quickly, with little or no effort and no sense of voluntary control." The upside? Instant gratification. The downside?

Money slips away before they consciously decide where it should go.

The Sipper

Every sip of a coffee is precious for sippers, they don't gulp it in one go. These types spend money penny by penny and rarely rush; they prefer value over impulse and take time to weigh their options.

Sippers compare choices carefully and often take longer time than others. With or without a formal budget, they have an internal sense of spending limits for food, travel, entertainment and leisure.

Their strength is thoughtful judgement but they postpone purchases that could genuinely improve their quality of life.

The Anchor

When an anchor is dropped, the boat stays steadily in one place. Being stable and steady is the hallmark of Anchors. Psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky showed that the pain of losing money feels far more intense than the pleasure of gaining it. Averse to loss, Anchors gravitate toward traditional investments such as FD, RDs, gold or real estate, missing growth opportunities.

The Drifter

Drifters spend money without any purpose. They let their money adrift wherever the moment or life takes them. No rhythm, no planning, no structure and no idea why or on what it was spent. The strength of a Drifter is flexibility, but the downside is that money often disappears without purpose.

The Filterer

Filterers filter too many choices and zero-in on the ones that they feel are apt to them. This behaviour aligns with psychologist Barry Schwartz's idea of 'The Paradox of Choice', which explains how having too many options creates decision pressure and makes selection harder.

Filterers don't resist spending but they want every purchase to feel genuinely worthwhile.

Their strength is discernment, but they have difficulty in deciding when choices are galore.

The Flooder

Flooders stay disciplined most of the time but release money in sudden, intense bursts of temptation. They indulge in shopping sprees during emotional peaks, festivals, celebrations or when they are stressed out.

This behaviour can be linked to 'ego depletion', a concept proposed by American social psychologist Roy Baumeister.

He explained that self-control can strengthen or tire, and once fatigued, it makes impulsive behaviour more likely.

The Blocker

Blockers stop the flow altogether and the flow stays blocked until a deadline forces them to act. They avoid dealing with money because they are highly uncomfortable with it.

Their strength is that they don't act impulsively, but the challenge is that delay often costs them more in the long run, from late fees to missed opportunities.

Whether you gush, sip, anchor, drift, filter, flood or block, your pattern isn't a flaw, it's just your natural flow. And once you recognise it, awareness becomes the valve that directs where your money goes.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Getting a taste of equity

THINKINVESTOR

Moving some savings from bank deposits to equity boosts expected returns on total investments; but if the funds so invested generate negative returns, you may regret moving to equity

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

If you hold a view that equity investments are risky and, therefore, parked your savings in bank deposits and real estate, you could be facing a dilemma now. The stock market has been vibrant, and IPOs have mostly listed at a premium to their offer prices. Has that tempted you to move some money from your bank deposits to the stock market? This week, we discuss the rules you can apply when you move some money from deposits to equity investments.

Asset class bet

Bonds as an asset class provide lower post-tax expected returns than equity. So, moving some savings from bank deposits to equity improves the expected returns on your total investments. But if the funds you invested in generate negative returns, you may regret the decision to move into equity. To moderate such future regret, it is better to take a bet on equity as an asset class. That means, selecting a broad index available in the country where you make the investments. For instance, the NSE 500 Index in India.

The next decision would be to choose between a passive fund and an active fund benchmarked to that index. Whether an active fund generates positive alpha (the excess return of the fund over its benchmark index) or negative alpha will only be known with time. The issue is that negative alpha can cause more pain than the same magnitude of positive alpha can give you happiness! So, you may want to settle for a passive fund. Within a passive fund, you have a choice between an index fund or an ETF. The latter is cost efficient.

Conclusion

You may have observed your friends and family members hold large-cap funds. These funds primarily invest in top 50 or 100 stocks out of the NSE 500 Index. Should you consider them as a substitute for the NSE 500 Index? You could, if you are dissatisfied with the performance of the funds offered on the NSE 500 Index.

Then, an ETF, being a low-cost alternative, can be considered on the Nifty Index. You must be mindful of SEBI's definition of large-cap active funds. These are funds that must invest not less than 80% in large-cap stocks. So, such funds typically invest some money in mid-caps. For someone shy of the equity market, taking exposure to mid-cap stocks may not be optimal.

That leaves you with passive products on the Nifty 50 Index should you choose that benchmark.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.5%
State Bank of India	10.05-15.05	10,636-11,908	2,127-2,382	NIL till 31st january 2026
ICICI Bank	10.45 onwards	10,735 onwards	2,147 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.10	10,722-12,724	2,144-2,545	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.10-16.15	10,896-12,199	2,179-2,440	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-15.40	10,611-12,000	2,122-2,400	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1.80%
HSBC Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.45	10,710-11,751	2,142-2,350	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.85-14.10	10,587-11,660	2,117-2,332	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.20-13.45	10,673-11,492	2,135-2,298	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.00-13.80	10,379-11,582	2,076-2,316	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	9.90-11.80	10,599-11,072	2,120-2,214	Up to 1%
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.5% (2% for instant personal loans for limited period)

*Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance.

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.15-11.60	10,174 - 11,021	Up to Rs. 2,000
Canara Bank	7.70-11.70	10,067 - 11,047	100% waiver till 31.12.2025
Bank of India	7.85-12.15	10,102 - 11,160	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
UCO Bank	7.60-10.25	10,043 - 10,685	NIL on all cars, EV loans
State Bank of India	8.75	10,319	Rs 750 - Rs 1,500
IDBI Bank	7.95-9.10	10,126 - 10,403	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-12.00	10,067 - 11,122	0.25% (Rs 1,000 - Rs 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.50 onwards	10,258 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs. 3,500 - Rs. 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.00-11.69	10,379 - 11,044	Up to 0.60% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 11,000)
Punjab and Sind Bank**	7.75-14.25	10,078 - 11,699	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Indian Bank	7.75-9.85	10,078 - 10,587	Rs. 1,200
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	Up to Rs. 10,000
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	10,102 - 10,489	No processing fees till 31.03.2026

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing home loan borrowers/other existing customers with at least 6 months of relationship with the bank. **Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on November 19 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

COLOMBO

Rajapaksa's party vows to topple Sri Lankan govt. at 'first chance'



AP

Accusing the NPP government of failing to deliver on its pre-election promises, Sri Lanka's SLPP, led by former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, has warned that it would topple the administration at the "first opportunity". Since sweeping the 2024 polls, the NPP has pursued cases against members of the previous administration. PTI

LAGOS

50 schoolchildren escape captivity in Nigeria; several still being held



REUTERS

At least 50 of the more than 300 children snatched by gunmen from a Catholic school in one of the largest mass kidnappings in Nigeria have escaped their captors, a Christian group said on Sunday, as the President announced the rescue of 38 worshippers seized in a separate attack last week. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran's adversaries trying to target Khamenei: Intelligence Minister



AFP

Iran's Intelligence Ministry has warned of attempts by foreign adversaries, including the U.S. and Israel, to target supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Minister Esmail Khatib cautioned "the enemy seeks to target the supreme leader, sometimes with assassination attempts, sometimes with hostile attacks". AFP

YANGON

Myanmar junta says nearly 1,600 foreigners held in scam hub raids



AFP

Myanmar's military said on Sunday it arrested nearly 1,600 foreign nationals in five days in a highly publicised crackdown on a notorious Internet scam hub on the Thai border. Sprawling fraud factories have mushroomed in war-torn Myanmar's border regions generating tens of billions of dollars annually. AFP

U.S., Ukraine and European officials discuss Trump's proposal to end war

Europeans seek better deal for Kyiv before Thursday deadline; talks under way between U.S. team led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Ukrainian delegation; Donald Trump's ingratitude jibe prompts Ukrainian officials to stress their gratitude

Reuters
GENEVA

Ukrainian, U.S. and European officials met in Geneva on Sunday to discuss a draft plan presented by Washington to end the war in Ukraine, after Kyiv and its allies voiced alarm over what they saw as major concessions to the aggressor Russia.

On Friday, Mr. Trump said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had until Thursday to approve the plan, which calls on Ukraine to cede territory, accept limits on its military and renounce ambitions to join NATO.

On Saturday, Mr. Trump said the current proposal for ending the war is not his final offer.



Taking stock: U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio (centre), next to special envoy Steve Witkoff, faces the Ukrainian delegation. AFP

With the U.S. delegation led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the main talks between U.S. and Ukrainian officials got under way in Geneva on Sunday afternoon in a stiff atmosphere at the U.S. mission, soon after Mr. Trump complained in a Truth Social post that Ukraine's leadership had shown "zero gratitude" to the U.S. for its efforts and Europe continued to buy Russian oil.

Mr. Rubio interrupted the meeting to speak to reporters, saying that the talks had been probably the best the U.S. had held with Ukraine since Mr. Trump returned to power.

He said changes would be made to the plan to work towards a solution that both Ukraine and the U.S. were comfortable with.

"Obviously this will ultimately have to be signed off with our Presidents, although I feel very comfortable about that happening given the progress we've made," said Mr. Rubio, who arrived in Geneva with U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff.

Andriy Yermak, head of the Ukrainian delegation, was at pains to thank Mr. Trump for his commitment to Kyiv during the brief remarks, before he and Mr. Rubio returned to their talks.

Minutes later, Mr. Zelenskyy himself offered thanks to Mr. Trump.

'Allies not consulted'

Since the U.S. plan was announced, there has been confusion about who was involved in drawing it up. European allies said they had not been consulted.

Europeans have submitted a modified version of the U.S. plan for Ukraine that pushes back on proposed limits to Kyiv's armed forces and territorial concessions, according to a document seen by *Reuters* on Sunday.

Israel launches air strikes in latest test of Gaza ceasefire; hospitals report 24 deaths

Associated Press
GAZA STRIP

Israel's military on Saturday launched air strikes against Hamas militants in Gaza in the latest test of the ceasefire that began on October 10, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said five senior Hamas members were killed.

Health officials in Gaza reported at least 24 people killed and 54 wounded, including children.

The strikes, which Israel said were in response to gunfire at its troops, came after international momentum on Gaza, with the UN Security Council on Monday approving the U.S. blueprint to secure and govern the territory.

Israel has previously carried out similar strikes after reported attacks on its forces during the ceasefire.



Benjamin Netanyahu

At least 33 Palestinians were killed over a 12-hour period on Wednesday and Thursday, mostly women and children, officials said.

One of Saturday's strikes targeted a vehicle, killing 11 and wounding over 20 Palestinians in Gaza City's Rimal, said Rami Mhanna, managing director of Shifa Hospital, where the casualties were taken.

'Will keep striking'

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted on Sunday that Israel would do "everything necessary" to stop Hezbollah and Hamas.

"We are continuing to strike terrorism on several fronts," Mr. Netanyahu said as he opened a cabinet meeting.

"This weekend, the IDF struck in Lebanon, and we will continue to do everything necessary to prevent Hezbollah from re-establishing. This is also what we are doing in the Gaza Strip. Since the ceasefire, Hamas has not stopped violating it, and we are acting accordingly."

(With inputs from AFP)

Israel says it killed Hezbollah 'chief of staff' in Beirut strike

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israel said it killed Hezbollah's Chief of Staff in an air strike on Lebanon's capital on Sunday, hitting an apartment building in an operation the militant group said crossed a red line.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said the attack in Beirut, which came after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed Israel would "do everything necessary" to prevent the pro-Iran movement from regrouping, killed five people and wounded 28 more.

The Ministry did not give the identities of those killed in the strike in the Haret Hreik area in Beirut's southern suburbs, a densely populated area where Hezbollah holds sway.

In a statement after the strike, the Israeli military said it had "eliminated the Haytham Ali Tabatabai, Hezbollah's chief of general staff".

U.S. to launch new phase of operations in Venezuela as tensions rise: sources

Reuters
WASHINGTON

Officials say options under consideration include attempts to overthrow Maduro

The United States is poised to launch a new phase of Venezuela-related operations in the coming days, four U.S. officials told *Reuters*, as the Trump administration escalates pressure on President Nicolas Maduro's government.

Two of the U.S. officials said covert operations would likely be the first part of the new action against Mr. Maduro.

A senior administration official on Saturday did not rule anything out regarding Venezuela.

"President Trump is prepared to use every element of American power to stop drugs from flooding into our country and to bring those responsible to justice," said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The Trump administration has been weighing Venezuela-related options to combat what it has portrayed as Mr. Maduro's role in supplying illegal drugs that have killed Americans. He has denied having any links to the illegal drug trade.

Two U.S. officials told *Reuters* the options under consideration included attempting to overthrow Mr. Maduro.

Mr. Maduro, in power since 2013, has contended that Mr. Trump seeks to oust him and that Venezuelan citizens and the military will resist any such attempt.

A military buildup in the Caribbean has been under way for months, and Mr. Trump has authorised covert CIA operations in Venezuela. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration on Friday warned major airlines of a "potentially hazardous situation" when flying over Venezuela and urged them to exercise caution.

Three international airlines cancelled flights departing from Venezuela on Saturday after the warning.

Japan 'crossed a red line' with remarks on Taiwan: China's Wang

Reuters
HONG KONG

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday it was "shocking" for Japan's leader to openly send a wrong signal concerning Taiwan, the latest remarks in a row that has shaken relations for more than two weeks.

Mr. Wang, the most senior Chinese official to have commented publicly on the issue, said Japan was crossing a red line that must not be touched, according to an official statement.

He accused Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi of attempting to intervene militarily in Taiwan. Mr. Wang was referring to comments on November 7, in which Ms. Takaichi told a questioner in Parliament that a hypothetical Chinese attack on democratically governed Taiwan could trigger a military response from Tokyo.

Sport

Wei to battle Sindarov for the crown

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

A cool breeze blew across Resort Rio, bringing relief to an oppressively warm Sunday evening. That comforting breeze may have done little to calm Andrey Esipenko as he came out of the playing hall and walked swiftly towards his room.

The conditioned air inside the room may not have helped, either. The 23-year-old Russian had just blundered a place in the Chess World Cup final, and missed a confirmed ticket for the flight to Cyprus, which will host the Candidates in March-April next year. Esipenko could still make it to the Candidates, by winning the playoff for third place at the World Cup, but his 56th move against Wei Yi in the second tie-break game of the semifinal will haunt him for long. It was a gentle pawn push on the 'c' file to the sixth rank, but it was also an irretrievable step to self-destruction.



Costly blunder: Disappointment is writ large on Esipenko's face after making the move that led to his downfall against Wei. FIDE

As a result of that move, Esipenko lost his rook that had been left hanging on the other half of the board. Wei immediately captured the hapless rook with his knight, and suddenly, from a very tough position – he was two pawns down – found himself in the World Cup final, and in the Candidates. Esipenko resigned immediately, and looked for a few seconds incredulously at the board before getting up.

In the final starting on Monday, the seventh-seeded Wei will meet Javokhir Sindarov. In the all-Uzbek semifinal, the 16th seed scored a crucial win against Nodirbek Yakubboev in the first game, riding on his advanced passed pawn. Sindarov then only needed a draw in the second game, and got that. In the other match, Esipenko and Wei had drawn the first game, setting up the dramatic second.

The results (semifinals, tie-breaks): Wei Yi (Chn) bt Andrey Esipenko (Rus) 1.5-0.5; Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) bt Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb) 1.5-0.5.

Verstappen wins big; McLarens disqualified

LAS VEGAS GP

Agence France-Presse
LAS VEGAS

Formula One World champion Max Verstappen produced a masterful drive to win the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Saturday and his title hopes were boosted further with the McLarens of championship leader Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri both being disqualified. Norris finished the race in second with Piastri fourth but the skid blocks on both cars were found after the race to be less than the minimum depth.

The disqualifications mean that with two race weekends remaining, four-time defending champion Verstappen is now level on points with Piastri in the title race, just 24 points behind Norris.

The results:
1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:21:08.429, 2. Russell (Mercedes) +23.546, 3. Antonelli (Mercedes) 30.488, 4. Leclerc (Ferrari) 30.678, 5. Sainz Jr. (Williams) 34.924, 6. Hadjar (Racing Bulls) 45.257, 7. Hulkenberg (Sauber) 51.134, 8. Hamilton (Ferrari) 59.369, 9. Ocon (Haas) 1:00.635, 10. Bearman (Haas) 1:10.549, 11. Alonso (Aston Martin) 1:25.308, 12. Tsunoda (Red Bull) 1:26.974, 13. Gasly (Alpine) 1:31.701.
+1 lap: 14. Lawson (Racing Bulls) and 15. Colapinto (Alpine).
Did Not Finish: Albon (Williams), Bortoleto (Sauber) and Stroll (Aston Martin).
Disqualified: Norris and Piastri, both McLaren.
Standings:
Drivers: 1. Norris 390; 2. Piastri 366; 3. Verstappen 366; 4. Russell 294; 5. Leclerc 226.
Constructors: 1. McLaren 756; 2. Mercedes 431; 3. Red Bull 391; 4. Ferrari 378; 5. Williams 121.

THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS AFTER THE 50-LAP RACE IN LAS VEGAS

Lights to flag

1 Britain becomes the first nation to record 800 podium finishes

2 Verstappen and Red Bull are the first driver and team to notch up multiple wins at the Las Vegas GP

3 Verstappen is only the third driver, after Schumacher and Hamilton, to win eight times in one country

7 The Dutchman has ended a seven-race streak of Grands Prix won from pole position

8 It is Verstappen's eighth consecutive podium finish this season, the third-longest streak of his career

33 Number of times Verstappen has won when not starting on pole, pulling him level with Alain Prost in third place



Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

SEVEN MAXIMUMS

Jansen hits the most sixes in a Test innings by a visiting batter in India



RITU RAJ KONWAR

South Africa's Marco Jansen smashed seven sixes in his 93 in the second Test in Guwahati to go past Viv Richards and Matthew Hayden's record of six, the most by a visiting batter in a Test innings in India. He also equalled the record for most sixes in a Test innings by a South African, held by AB de Villiers and Quinton de Kock.

FIGHTING BACK

'Wasn't sure if I would ever play Tests again after 2019 tour of India'



RITU RAJ KONWAR

Senuran Muthusamy felt he wasn't sure he would ever get to play Test cricket after a bruising maiden tour of India in 2019. "There were times, especially after 2019, when I wasn't sure if I'd ever play Test cricket again and certainly not in India after we lost that series. I am grateful for the support I have received back home," he said.

THRILLING CLIMAX

Pakistan pips Bangladesh-A in Super Over, takes the title



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

Pakistan Shaheens beat Bangladesh-A in the Super Over to win the Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament in Doha on Sunday. **The scores:** Pakistan Shaheens 125 in 20 overs (Masood 38, Mondol 3/25) tied with Bangladesh-A 125/9 in 20 overs (Sufiyan 3/11); **Super Over:** Bangladesh 6/2 (0.3 overs) lost to Pakistan 8/0 (0.4 overs).

ON A ROLL

Tariq performs a hat-trick as Pakistan seals berth in final



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Usman Tariq's hat-trick propelled Pakistan into the T20 tri-series final with a 69-run win over Zimbabwe in Rawalpindi. Zimbabwe was bowled out for 126 in reply to Pakistan's 195 for five. **The scores:** Pakistan 195/5 in 20 overs (Babar 74, Farhan 63) bt Zimbabwe 126 in 19 overs (Burl 67 n.o, Tariq 4/18, incl. a hat-trick).

Muthusamy and Jansen put South Africa in the box seat

The former scores his maiden Test century while the latter misses out by seven runs; the duo's 97-run partnership for the eighth wicket powers the visiting team to a massive score; the Indian bowlers struggle to make an impression

SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI



Sunday special: Muthusamy's century contained 10 boundaries and two sixes. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Senuran Muthusamy has a strong bond with India. His forefathers were from Nagapattinam (Tamil Nadu) and he made his Test debut during South Africa's tour of the country in 2019.

Muthusamy, though, had a forgettable time in the two matches he played six years ago and figured in just five more Tests after that.

The 31-year-old, back in India again, found a place in the playing XI for the second and final Test at the ACA Stadium. He made it count with a maiden century to power his team to a massive first innings total of 489 on Sunday.

India's openers, Yashasvi Jaiswal and K.L. Rahul, survived a testing spell by the Proteas' new ball bowlers to end the day at nine without loss.

Muthusamy, who displayed resolute defence and capitalised on the loose deliveries, found a perfect partner in Marco Jansen, who swung for the fences and smashed a career-best knock of 93 (91b, 6x4, 7x6).

The duo, which added 97 off just 107 deliveries for the eighth wicket, put the visitors in a commanding position after they resumed at 247 for six.

When the day began, the home team would have fancied its chances of knocking over the South African lower-order given that it had a relatively new ball at its disposal.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS
Aiden Markram b Bumrah 38 *(81b, 5x4)*, Ryan Rickelton c Pant b Kuldeep 35 *(82b, 5x4)*, Tristan Stubbs c Rahul b Kuldeep 49 *(112b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Temba Bavuma c Jaiswal b Jadeja 41 *(92b, 5x4)*, Tony de Zorzi c Pant b Siraj 28 *(59b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Wiaan Mulder c Jaiswal b Kuldeep 13 *(18b, 2x4)*, Senuran Muthusamy c Jaiswal b Siraj 109 *(206b, 10x4, 2x6)*, Kyle Verreynne st. Pant b Jadeja 45 *(122b, 5x4)*, Marco Jansen b Kuldeep 93 *(91b, 6x4, 7x6)*, Simon Harmer b Bumrah 5 *(17b)*, Keshav Maharaj (not out) 12 *(31b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-8, lb-8, nb-4, w-1): 21; Total (in 151.1 overs): 489.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-82 (Markram, 26.5 overs), 2-82 (Rickelton, 27.2), 3-166 (Bavuma, 57.2), 4-187 (Stubbs, 63.1), 5-201 (Mulder, 67.2), 6-246 (de Zorzi, 81.1), 7-334 (Verreynne, 120.3), 8-431 (Muthusamy, 138.1), 9-462 (Harmer, 143.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 32-10-75-2, Siraj 30-5-106-2, Nitish 6-0-25-0, Washington 26-5-58-0, Kuldeep 29.1-4-115-4, Jadeja 28-2-94-2.

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal (batting) 7 *(23b, 1x4)*, K.L. Rahul (batting) 2 *(14b)*; Total (for no loss in 6.1 overs): 9.

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Jansen 3.1-1-9-0, Mulder 3-3-0-0.

Instead, what followed over the next two hours was good old attritional cricket as the overnight batters, Muthusamy and Kyle Verreynne, dug their heels in.

Growing in confidence

Verreynne was far from confident against the quicks, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, who kept targeting the stumps.

The wicketkeeper-batter managed to survive and grew in confidence once the spinners were introduced. Verreynne punched Kuldeep Yadav off the backfoot through covers and followed it up with two cuts to the boundary off Ravindra Jadeja.

At the other end, Muthusamy was decisive in his footwork, getting on to the frontfoot and nudging the ball around.

Though the pitch was at its best for batting, Rishabh Pant's defensive fields did not help as it allowed the opposition to take singles without much risk.

The spinners, too, could have been more aggressive and relied on their guile to snare the batters, but instead let the game drift.

Only 69 were scored in the morning session as Muthusamy and Verreynne negotiated it without being separated, setting the platform for the carnage that followed in the next two sessions.

Post-tea, Jadeja had Verreynne stumped, giving the hosts a small opening. But Jansen had other ideas and turned the contest on its head by employing the long handle. He was so brutal that he broke three bats during his innings!

The 25-year-old made his intentions clear right from the start, sweeping Jadeja over wide midwicket and long-on for two maximums. Against Kuldeep, he put on his dancing shoes to loft the ball over the bowler.

Muthusamy soon joined the party, depositing Washington Sundar over the fence for a six. A slog-swept six and a flick to fine-leg off Kuldeep quickly took him to 98, and he brought up his century with a couple off Siraj in the next over.

The early sunset has already cost vital overs in this Test. India now needs to come up with something extraordinary in the remaining three days to avoid a dark shadow from engulfing its fortunes.



Fantastic feat: The Indian players with the glittering trophy. AFP

India emerges champion in T20 Blind Women's WC



Skipper Deepika... tears of joy.

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

India won the inaugural T20 Blind Women's World Cup on Sunday, defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the final at the P. Sara Oval.

India restricted Nepal to 114 for five after opting to bowl and then coasted to 117 for three in just 12 overs to claim the title.

Such was India's dominance that Nepal managed just one boundary in its innings. Phula Saren top-scored for India with an unbeaten 44.

India had defeated Australia while Nepal put it across Pakistan in the semi-finals on Saturday. Co-host Sri Lanka could win only one game – against USA – out of the five preliminary round games.

Pakistan's Mehreen Ali, a B3 or partially-sighted player, was the star batter in the six-team tournament, scoring over 600 runs, including a 78-ball 230 against Sri Lanka. She also cracked 133 against Australia.

Rahul to lead India in ODIs against SA

Sports Bureau

K.L. Rahul will lead India in the three-match One-Day International series against South Africa starting on November 30.

Rahul will substitute for regular skipper Shubman Gill, who suffered a neck spasm in the first Test against the Proteas in Kolkata and is currently out of action. Rishabh Pant, who is leading India in the ongoing second Test in Guwahati, will be Rahul's deputy. He last played an ODI in 2024 in Sri Lanka.

Pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj have been rested, while Ravindra Jadeja has been recalled ahead of Axar Patel, who played in the three-match series in Australia last month. The other new addition is Tilak Varma, seen as a possible replacement in middle-order for the injured Shreyas Iyer.

One of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has been recalled to the ODI set-up, is set to partner Rohit Sharma at the top.

Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, and Harshit Rana will form the pace attack.

The squad: K.L. Rahul (Capt. & wk), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rishabh Pant (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Harshit Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, and Dhruv Jurel.

The schedule: November 30: Ranchi; **December 3:** Raipur; **December 6:** Visakhapatnam.

Arsenal rides on Eze's treble to blow away Tottenham



Hitman: Eze fires in the second of his three goals. REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
LONDON

Eberechi Eze scored a majestic hat-trick for Arsenal as it trounced north London rival Tottenham Hotspur 4-1 to open up a commanding six-point lead at the top of the Premier League on Sunday.

For 36 minutes, the North London derby was a cagey contest with Tottenham managing to frustrate Mikel Arteta's side, but the hosts struck three times in 10 minutes either side of half-time.

Arsenal, unbeaten in nine league games, has 29 points from 12 games, with second-placed Chelsea on 23.

Tottenham's first away league defeat of the season left it ninth on 18 points.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Newcastle dented Manchester City's title challenge as Harvey Barnes' brace sealed a controversial 2-1 victory.

AS Roma went provisionally on top of the Serie A standings with a 3-1 victory at Cremonese on Sunday.

Roma is on 27 points, two points ahead of Napoli which beat Atalanta 3-1 on Saturday.

The results: On Sunday:
Premier League: Arsenal 4 (Trossard 36, Eze 41, 46, 76) bt Tottenham 1 (Richarlison 55); Leeds 1 (Nmecha 8) lost to Aston Villa 2 (Rogers 48, 75).
LaLiga: Real Oviedo 0 drew with Rayo Vallecano 0.
Real Betis 1 (Gomez 75) drew with Girona 1 (Vanat 20).
Serie A: Cremonese 1 (Folino 90+3) lost to Roma 3 (Soule 17, Ferguson 64, Wesley 69).
On Saturday:
Premier League: Newcastle 2 (Barnes 64, 70) bt Manchester City 1 (Dias 68).
LaLiga: Osasuna 1 (Catena 42) lost to Real Sociedad 3 (Mendez 53, Guedes 59, Barrenetxea 82).
Villarreal 2 (Moreno 6, Oluwaseyi 83) b Mallorca 1 (Costa 8).
Serie A: Fiorentina 1 (Mandragora 48) drew with Juventus 1 (Kostic 45+6).
Napoli 3 (Neres 17, 38, Lang 45) bt Atalanta 1 (Scamacca 52).

The surface was a road: Kuldeep

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI



Jansen... on a six-hitting spree. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Kuldeep Yadav was India's best bowler with a four-for, but couldn't do much damage on day two of the second Test against South Africa here on Sunday.

"I felt during the first session on Saturday, there was a bit of moisture in the wicket and I got some turn. Today, I hardly got any turn and it was much better for batting. (Ravindra) Jadeja and I have been talking about how the wicket was very good to bat on," said Kuldeep.

"I think it's clear that the Kolkata wicket was different... this was a road," he chuckled.

The 30-year-old defended the bowlers. " You need a lot of discipline, especially on a wicket where you will get only limited opportunities. "In the second session, Marco Jansen batted well and took his chances.

"This happens generally when the partnership is long and when, in a stable position, the other team wants to capitalise," he added.

Awesome experience, says Muthusamy

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

It is never easy being on the fringes and making a mark in the limited opportunities one gets. Senuran Muthusamy knows all about it.

He landed in India after winning the Player-of-the-Series award against Pakistan in the two-Test series last month, but had to miss the first game in Kolkata last week as the team already had Keshav Maharaj as the primary left-arm spinner.

Though he is regarded as a bowling all-rounder, Muthusamy showed he could be a handy batter as he guided the Proteas through a tricky situation, scoring a maiden Test century here on Sunday.

> I am really grateful for the opportunity to be in India

In fact, it was his unbeaten 89 in Rawalpindi in the second Test that proved instrumental in the visitors winning the game and sharing the honours 1-1.

"It's fantastic, especially having come to India in 2019. After we lost the series pretty badly, I went back to domestic cricket and managed to work my way back into the national set-up," revealed Muthusamy. "I am really grateful for the opportunity to be in India. And to put in a performance like that in the first innings is an awesome experience".

INBRIEF



Murad and Taijul spin Bangladesh to a series sweep

Left-arm spinners Taijul Islam and Hasan Murad led Bangladesh to a 2-0 series sweep over Ireland with a commanding 217-run victory in the second Test in Mirpur on Sunday.

The scores: Bangladesh 476 & 297/4 decl. bt Ireland 265 & 291 in 113.3 overs (Campher 71 n.o. Tector 50, Murad 4/44, Taijul 4/104). **PoM**: Mushfiqur. **PoS**: Taijul.

Abhinav wins men's 25m pistol gold at the Deaflympics

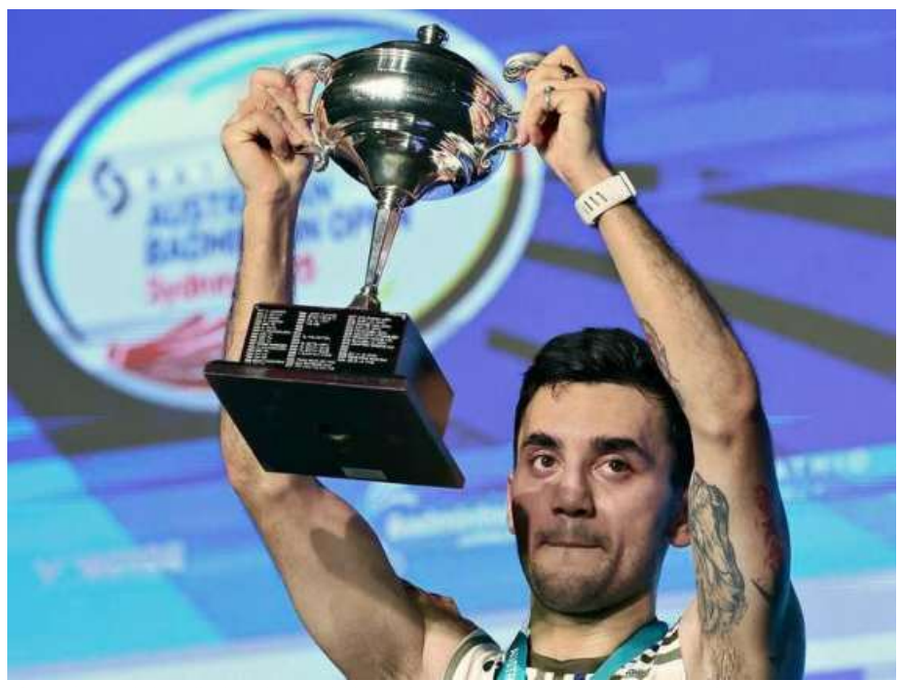
Abhinav Deshwal won India's 15th medal in shooting at the Deaflympics, clinching the gold in the 25m pistol event in Tokyo on Sunday with a record in qualification. He shot a score of 44 in the final to edge out South Korea's Seung Hwa Lee, who finished with 43. Serhii Formin of Ukraine won bronze while the other Indian shooter Chetan Hanmant Sapkal finished fifth.

East Bengal bows out of AFC Women's Champions League

East Bengal was on Sunday eliminated from the AFC Women's Champions League group stage after a 0-3 loss to PFC Nasaf of Uzbekistan in Wuhan. Diyorakhon Khabibullaeva (18th and 90+8) struck a brace while Zarina Norboeva found the target in the 52nd minute.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs South Africa: 2nd Test, day 3, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 9 a.m.
Chess World Cup: FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)



Champion: Lakshya displayed control, sharp placement and clean execution to claim the crown. AFP

Lakshya clinches Australian Open

The 24-year-old, enduring a tough phase after finishing fourth at the Paris Olympics, caps a resurgent week with a win over Japan's Tanaka

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Affluent Lakshya Sen ended a difficult stretch on the international circuit by clinching his first title of the 2025 season, defeating Japan's Yushi Tanaka in the Australian Open men's singles final, here Sunday.

The 24-year-old, enduring a tough phase after finishing fourth at the Paris Olympics, capped a resurgent week with a commanding 21-15, 21-11 win over 26-year-old Tanaka.

After a 38-minute final of the $475,000 Super 500 event, the Indian celebrated the moment by putting his fingers in his ears.

"I have seen a lot of ups and downs this year, with a few injuries at the start of the season. But I kept my hard work going throughout the season and I am very happy to end the season on a good note," said Lakshya. "I'm very excited, looking forward to the next season now and I am really happy with the way I played today and this week."

Lakshya had last won a Super 300 title at the Syed Modi International in Lucknow in 2024. However, a top-tier crown had eluded him since his triumph at the Canada Open the same year, though he came close at the Hong Kong Super 500 in September when he finished runner-up.

Facing World No. 26 Tanaka, winner of two Super 300 titles this year at the Orleans Masters and the US Open, Lakshya displayed control, sharp placement and clean execution, wrapping up the contest without dropping a game.

Lakshya said making a good beginning to the match was important.

With this victory, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion became the second Indian to win a BWF World Tour title this season, following Ayush Shetty's maiden Super 300 triumph at the US Open.

Indian badminton in transition, need to give youngsters time: Saina

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI



Star-power: Kashyap, Aparna, Gade, Saina, Sayali and Pawar at the exhibition match. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Saina Nehwal hung up her racquet a while ago but she continues to follow the sport as closely as ever.

The former World No. 1 Olympic and World Championship medallist believes India is on its way to being a badminton powerhouse but admits it will take time.

"Every country goes through phases and I think Indian badminton too is going through a transition right now. There are talented players but yes there has been a slight dip in terms of results especially among the girls. But we need to give them some time before any judgement," Saina insisted on the sidelines of launching the New Delhi chapter of the Legends' Vision Legacy Tour 2025 and its community project 'A Racquet's Second Life' at the Siri Fort Sports Complex.

The launch was accompanied by on-court sessions for kids with Saina and former Danish star Peter Gade, one of the co-founders of the project, with the duo explaining the different angles, shots, grips, rallies and playing tips through live demo.

A series of exhibition matches were also played by the two along with other project ambassadors including P. Kashyap, Anand Pawar, Aparna Popat and Sayali Gokhale.

"As players, we want to promote this because we have played for so many years. Growing up as an Indian female player, I didn't have a role model whom I could dream of emulating. But now the kids have so many role models to look up to and we hope to give them a means to live their dream," said Saina.

Solid field for Syed Modi India International tournament

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

Former champion K. Srikanth, Olympians Nozomi Okuhara and H.S. Prannoy, along with a strong international field, will headline the Syed Modi India International HSBC World Tour Super 300 badminton championship beginning here on Tuesday.

The women's doubles team of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will return to defend its crown.

The field also includes emerging talents like Priyanshu Rajawat, Tanvi Sharma, Anmol Kharb and Unnati Hooda with India fielding the largest contingent of 152 players.

The Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association president Dr Navneet Sehgal on Sunday announced that a total prize purse of $240,000 would be on offer.

Each of the five events — men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles — will feature a 32-player (or pair) draw, with 28 direct entries and four qualifiers.

Each of the five events – men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles – will feature a 32-player (or pair) draw, with 28 direct entries and four qualifiers. The finals are scheduled for November 30.

Spectator entry will be free and the semifinals and finals would be broadcast live on DD Sports and the WAVE OTT platform.

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SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



There should have been more Indian shuttlers at the top now

Saina expresses her concern over the gradual slowdown of the sport in the country; the veteran player urges the new generation to train in groups for healthy competition and to resist the rush for instant success

INTERVIEW

Saina Nehwal

Uthra Ganesan

Saina Nehwal was a trailblazer for Indian badminton on the court and now she is ready to do the same off it. Nehwal has become the first women badminton star, along with Spaniard Carolina Marin, to associate with the Legends' Vision, an ambitious project by four legends of the sport.

Envisioned by Lin Dan, Lee Chong Wei, Peter Gade and Taufik Hidayat, the vision aims to go beyond competitions, trophies and prize money and focuses on four core ambitions: enhancing junior development, enriching communities, expanding participation, and driving innovation across the sport. Now in its 10th year and returning with its Legacy Tour to India, the project has launched 'A Racket's Second Life' in the country to spread the game among the less privileged kids.

Saina spoke to the *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the launch of the project. Excerpts:

What exactly is the Legends' Vision and how did your association with this tour come about?

It's a programme that has been around for 10 years but I only joined it last year. Their motto is to promote the game all over the world. And they are launching in India, for the first time ever, 'A Racket's Second Life', which invites donations of used rackets for someone who cannot afford to buy. We believe that even those who don't know much about the game will want to play and learn more about it if they get a racket in hand and start playing.

A game grows when everyone is learning and playing it regardless of the level. When I was coming up, Gopi sir gave me a racket and that meant so much for me, I wanted to prove myself worthy of it. I am sure there will be many youngsters who will think they can become something in the sport with a racket in hand.

But do you think that Indian badminton has hit a speed-breaker?

Yes, there is a little bump, especially among the girls. The boys are still doing well, Lakshya is doing extremely well. I think everybody is different; some bodies are capable of doing extraordinary early on, others take time. Maybe in 10 years, a new kid will come along with a group who is doing well.

I think we were very lucky that way, 10-15 years back, me, (P.V.) Sindhu, (Kidambi) Srikanth, (H.S.) Prannoy, (Parupalli) Kashyap, Sai Praneeth, Guru Sai Dutt, Ajay Jayaram, all of us were doing extremely well. Every time we participated in a Super Series event, we would be confident at least one of us would win a medal.

I feel it took them some time to come into the circuit but in the last one to two years, there has been a lot of improvement from some of the girls. Unnati (Hooda) and Anmol (Kharb) are doing well. We should give them some time. Every country goes through this, including China. In Korea, earlier there were no players, now suddenly one player is dominating. We will have to wait and see how it goes.

There are two ways of developing talent – cyclical, where one generation is brilliant across the board, like yours. Then there is a gap before the next generation succeeds. The other is continuous, where the next generation is already even as the previous one is still reaching its peak, something like China. What do you think we need to do to move from the former to the latter?

Honestly, it's a question for me too. Badminton has grown a lot in India, coaches have been coming for many years. Actually, more foreign coaches are entering now. And honestly, some more players at the top should have started by now. I think the coaches can give a better answer to where the mistakes are happening.

The players now have everything. We didn't have trainers or physios or even enough quality coaches, there would be one looking after 40 players. Competition exposure was also less, and moreover, we didn't have social media to be aware of what or how others were performing. It can't be that the players don't have the ability either; they are all very good. Maybe it's just taking a little time. There is also impatience. People want immediate results, they are not able to stay in one place for long, they keep changing their training venues and partners seeking instant success.

Most of them are not training in a group. If you train in a group, the results will come. Every player has a different game so you get to train against different players. And you keep pushing each other. There is also competition within the group.

Girls like Akarshi (Kashyap) and Malvika (Bansod) have been playing on the circuit for 5-6 years. I don't understand this because if you are not progressing, it's a big question. At the same time, I have seen Unnati who has improved a lot in the last one to two years, she is playing consistently in semis and finals of Grand Prix. Tanvi (Sharma) is also playing really well.

I feel we have missed the bus somewhere. We are getting a lot of support. There are so many foundations who are supporting, along with a lot of schemes. As a player, I can only think about where a player went wrong on the court. But the 'missing bus' part and why it is taking so much of time, maybe coaches can answer better.



What about you getting into full-time coaching, especially now that you already have one (Kashyap) in the family?

I can see his condition. He trains from 4 a.m. to 1 p.m. and everyday he is frustrated over someone or the other. Coaching is tougher than playing, you have to put so much effort and time and your entire self into it. But it's also about passion. I will just wait and see.

I have been in sports for so many years, played at the highest level, so we have already seen so much stress. I want to be with my family for some time. My parents didn't really do anything except be with me, now I want them to enjoy life. But you never know after three to six years, I might want to go back to the game. Now I do motivational talks and if any of the youngsters want, I try to support them, tell them to come and play.

Badminton is played by everyone but what do you think needs to be done to attract viewers?

I still feel the marketing can be much better. Both the Indian and the international federations need to do much more so that people come and watch tournaments. When you talk about cricket or football World Cups or the tennis Grand Slams, you see the events promoted almost a year in advance and there is constant talk about it, information and promotions.

We have the World championships next year and it is the biggest event in the sport. We are also hosting it after 16 years. Given all that, I just feel that maybe we are lacking a little in pushing the tournament across the country. Those who follow closely will know but does the common public know about the event or its importance?

The rational ape: study says chimpanzees reason through their beliefs

A series of five tests showed the chimpanzees didn't simply respond to the latest or loudest clues; instead, they evaluated how relevant and reliable each piece of information was, kept multiple possibilities open, and updated their choices in ways that resembled rational, evidence-based reasoning in humans; this raises fundamental questions

Ipsita Herlekar

When, in 1960, the British primatologist Jane Goodall first observed chimpanzees at Gombe National Park in Tanzania using twigs to fish termites out of anthills, she was making scientific history. Researchers had until then believed only humans could use tools. Goodall's discovery erased that line as well as raised important questions about what it means to be human.

Now, a study published in *Science* on October 30 has suggested that another supposedly uniquely human trait – the ability to weigh evidence, revise beliefs, and change one's mind – may not be ours alone. (This is, of course, setting aside machines.)

A team of experts from the Netherlands, Uganda, the UK, and the US observed 15-23 chimpanzees at the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda through a series of carefully designed behavioural tests. The question they were trying to answer was simple: when faced with conflicting clues about where food is hidden, do chimpanzees follow the most recent signal or do they combine information, remember it, and update their beliefs, much like humans do when they think rationally?



A group of chimpanzees in Uganda. USAID AFRICA BUREAU

THE GIST

The study suggests that another supposedly uniquely human trait — the ability to weigh evidence, revise beliefs, and change one's mind — may not be ours alone

Researchers, however, are unable to clarify what this rational thought process would look like among wild chimpanzees, since the study was carried out in semi-captive conditions and with rescued chimpanzees

Researchers say the study raises questions about the evolutionary roots of human rationality and prompts us to ask how much of this ability is shared with the great apes

Five tests

The researchers used five simple tests to examine how chimpanzees revised their beliefs.

"To run this study, we really had to break it down and ask: what is rationality at its roots?" Utrecht University assistant professor and the study's lead author Hanna Schleihauf said. "What are its most fundamental components? And how do you test this in a non-verbal way?"

The team used a Bayesian model to generate predictions about the great apes' decisions and compared them with their actual behaviour. A Bayesian model is a statistical way to understand or predict something by continuously updating one's beliefs with new evidence.

The first test checked how chimpanzees responded to strong and weak clues. A strong clue could be in the form of seeing food dropped into a container; a weak clue could be hearing food rattling inside the container. The researchers also switched the order in which these clues appeared.

This way, the team observed that when the strong clue came second, the chimpanzees were more likely to change their original choice, suggesting they weren't simply reacting to the most recent signal but were weighing how reliable each clue could be.

The second test examined whether this pattern held when the team swapped the clues. This time, the strong clue was auditory while the weak clue involved vague movements or traces of food. As before, the chimpanzees consistently favoured the stronger, more reliable clues regardless of when it appeared.

The third test explored how well the chimpanzees remembered the clues. The scientists introduced three containers, one with a strong clue, one with a weak clue, and a third with no clues.

After the chimpanzees picked the container with the strongest clue, the researchers removed it and presented them with the remaining two (somewhat like the Monty Hall problem for humans). The chimpanzees more often than not picked the container with the weak clue rather than the one with no information, suggesting they kept multiple possibilities in mind rather than focus solely on the strongest clue.

Next, the scientists checked whether the chimpanzees could differentiate between information they already had and something new.

The great apes were made to hear either the same sounds of food rattling in a can twice or a new sound the second time. The chimpanzees changed their choice only when the second signal added something new, indicating they could tell old information from genuinely new evidence.

The final test explored how the chimpanzees responded when their initial belief was undermined. When the scientists presented a "defeater" clue that directly contradicted a prior strong clue, for instance by revealing that a rattling sound had come from a pebble rather than food, the chimpanzees revised their choices. However, they ignored the same 'defeater' when it wasn't linked to previous positive evidence.

> This shows that they are aware of the reasons for their choices, a skill that has been believed to be uniquely human
>
> **HANNA SCHLEIHAUF**
>
> ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

Not uniquely human

Taken together, the tests show the chimpanzees didn't simply respond to the last or loudest clues.

Instead they evaluated how relevant and reliable each piece of information was, kept multiple possibilities open, and updated their choices in ways that resemble rational, evidence-based reasoning in humans.

"This shows [the study] that they are aware of the reasons for their choices, a skill that has been believed to be uniquely human," Prof. Schleihauf said.

How would this sort of rational thinking turn up in the everyday lives of wild chimpanzees? Since this study was carried out in semi-captive conditions and with rescued chimpanzees, the researchers could offer only hypothetical examples.

As Prof. Schleihauf said: "Imagine a chimpanzee sees a red fruit on the ground and walks towards a tree because it assumes the fruit must have fallen from there. But when it reaches the spot, it realises the 'fruit' was only a cluster of red leaves. In that moment, the chimpanzee should revise its belief: it should no longer think that this tree is full of ripe fruit."

'Bigger questions'

According to Tetsuro Matsuzawa, a primatologist and former director of Kyoto University Primate Research Institute (and who wasn't involved in the study), it would be extremely difficult to observe such traits in wild chimpanzees in their daily lives because researchers simply wouldn't be able to make enough repeat observations to show reliably that chimpanzees can revise their beliefs in ways demonstrated in the study.

Nonetheless, he added, "This study also raises bigger questions about the evolutionary roots of human rationality. It shows that rational thinking is not limited to humans, and prompts us to ask how much of this ability is shared with chimpanzees and other great apes, a question now brought to the forefront."

(Ipsita Herlekar is an independent science writer. ipsitaherlekar@gmail.com)

BIG SHOT



A handout photo taken in 2023 shows a researcher standing in front of the world's largest spiderweb inside the 'Sulphur Cave' at the Greece-Albania border, which scientists reported last week. The web measures over 100 sq. m and hosts some 1.1 lakh spiders. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Random forest: branching possibilities

Vasudevan Mukunth

Q: What is a 'random forest'?

A: A random forest is a machine-learning method that makes predictions by combining the decisions of many simpler models called decision trees. A decision tree works like a tree from bottom-up. At each node, it asks a question about the data, e.g. "is a person's age greater than 30?". Then, depending on the answer, it moves left or right until it reaches a final decision at a 'leaf.' While single trees are easier to understand, they can also overfit the data, i.e. they may learn small quirks of the training data that don't generalise well.

A random forest minimises this issue by building a large number of trees, each trained on a slightly different random sample of the data.

When asked to make a prediction, every tree gives an answer. For classification problems, the random forest picks the most common answer. For regression problems, it averages the numerical outputs. Because random errors and quirks tend to cancel out when the verdicts of many trees are combined, a random forest is often more accurate than any single tree while still being relatively straightforward to use.



A decision tree works like a tree from the trunk to the leaves. N UXIAB/UNSPLASH

In a study published on November 17 in the journal *PNAS*, for instance, scientists trained random forest models to learn the "chemical fingerprints" of fossils, then based on that made them predict whether some organic molecules present on rocks could have come from lifeforms or natural processes. Thus they reported evidence of photosynthetic microbes from 2.5 billion years ago.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of persons sentenced to death in Yemen's Houthi court

17 A Houthi-controlled court in Yemen's capital convicted 17 people of spying for foreign governments and sentenced them to death. The people convicted were part of "espionage cells within a spy network affiliated with the American, Israeli and Saudi intelligence," said the court. PTI

Villages being built under Vibrant Villages Programme in J&K

124 A comprehensive roadmap has been prepared for the focused development of 124 strategic villages across 43 border blocks in eight districts under the second phase of the Vibrant Villages Programme in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday. PTI

Number of lives claimed by earthquake in Bangladesh

10 Three jolts after a relatively major earthquake claimed at least 10 lives within a span of 32 hours. The quake caused damage to buildings mostly in central parts of the country, including the capital Dhaka, while a tremor rocked the country at around the same time on Saturday morning. PTI

Number of rare species of turtles recovered in U.P.

74 Two suspected wildlife traffickers have been arrested and 74 rare species of turtles recovered from their possession in the Dumila border area. During the interrogation, the accused told the police that they were taking the turtles to Uttarakhand to supply to local buyers. PTI

Foreigners arrested by the Myanmar junta in scam hub raids

1,590 Sprawling fraud factories have mushroomed in war-torn Myanmar's border regions, housing scammers who target internet users with romance and business cons worth billions of dollars annually. AFP

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How can State PSCs be reformed?

How did the Montagu Chelmsford report lead to the establishment of present-day Public Service Commissions? What is the role of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions? Is a periodical review of the examination syllabi necessary?

EXPLAINER

Gopalakrishna. V

The story so far:
The 2025 national conference of chairpersons of the State Public Service Commissions (PSCs) is being hosted by the Telangana State Public Service Commission on December 19 and 20. Every year, whenever State PSCs conduct examinations for recruitment, they are mired in one controversy or the other. Aspirants often have to seek judicial recourse, due to which the entire process is derailed, leading to a 'trust deficit'. This is an outcome of systemic lapses, both structural and procedural, which exist in almost all State PSCs. This conference would be an apt occasion to discuss such issues and more.

What is the history of PSCs?
The PSCs in India are a product of India's struggle for Independence. The entry of Indians into the civil services on the sole criterion of merit was embedded in the demand for 'self-rule'. The Montagu Chelmsford report accepted the demand and proposed a permanent office free from political influence to regulate service matters. The first Public Service Commission for the Union was formed in 1926. Later the Government of India Act, 1935 provided for the establishment of one PSC for each province. These provisions were continued by the framers of the Constitution, and so today we have a Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and PSCs in each State to primarily serve the needs of recruitment.

How are these commissions structured?
The UPSC functions in a relatively politically sterile environment. The members are appointed based on merit and rich prior experience in public affairs. Moreover, representation of members from of all zones of the country is ensured. While the Constitution does not mention minimum age or qualifications, most of the appointed members are at least above the age of 55, and enjoy a reputation of being apolitical. On the other hand, State PSCs operate in a politically osmotic environment and the proverbial 'spoils system' is visible in the appointment process. The conventional requirements of minimum age, qualifications and public experience are given a short shrift.

The Union government has vast manpower needs. This is matched by financial resources to meet the retirement obligations of the superannuated and the remunerative needs of fresh entrants. It has also created a dedicated ministry, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in 1985, to formulate all policies in the field of personnel management. This ensures regular declaration of vacancies by the government enabling the UPSC to notify, conduct and declare the results of the examinations conducted by it with regularity and precision.

In contrast, the manpower needs of the States are limited and not planned. Often, they lack the financial resources to meet the retirement and recruitment obligations of their employees leading to extension of the superannuation age and postponement of recruitment. Most State governments do not have a dedicated Ministry of Personnel. And therefore, vacancies are not notified regularly by the government which effectively means that State PSCs are not required to conduct the examinations regularly.



A revamp: Applicants of Telangana State Public Service Commission Group 2 exam stage a protest to postpone the exam, in Hyderabad in 2023. NAGARA GOPAL

How do they work?
The UPSC undertakes a periodical exercise of establishing committees comprising not only of academicians but also civil servants, social activists etc. to recommend changes in the syllabi and achieve a balance between academics and contemporary developments. They are able to tap the best talent from across the country to formulate question papers and also evaluate them. A time tested method of 'inter-se' moderation of scores is followed at different levels of the examination to minimise subjectivity. The UPSC ably balances conflicting interests of transparency and confidentiality by being quick to respond to any lapses and making systemic changes so that aspirants do not often have to seek judicial recourse for grievances.

On the other hand, State PSCs do not appoint committees regularly to redraft the syllabus; are constrained to tap academic resources from within the State; and are not able to achieve satisfactory 'inter-se' moderation in evaluation. They also have the daunting task of making complex calculations to accurately incorporate not only vertical reservations but also horizontal reservations. Meeting the demands of regional quotas in the form of zonal reservations adds to this complexity. All these lead to continuous litigation in one form or the other delaying the recruitment process.

These are some of the main reasons limiting the efficient functioning of State PSCs and their declining credibility. Often aggrieved students comment that they have lost faith in State Commissions and would like the UPSC to conduct the examinations. Time bound structural and procedural reforms are required to restore faith in State PSCs.

What can be done?
First, manpower planning should be systematised and a separate ministry should be created for personnel management. This Ministry should clearly layout a five-year road map for recruitment so that State PSCs are able to notify and conduct the examination process.

Along the lines of the 41st amendment of the Constitution (1976), which raised the maximum age limit of the members of State PSCs from 60 to 62 years in order to attract meritorious and experienced civil servants, there is a need for another amendment. The minimum age for appointment as a member should be fixed at 55 and the maximum age at 65. The stipulation of minimum age will enable appointment of experienced individuals while increasing the maximum age will enable State PSCs to benefit from the experience of senior civil servants who have retired at 60 for a longer period than under the existing provisions.

This amendment could also specify the necessary qualifications that members need in order to be appointed. For example, in order to be an 'official' member, experience as Secretary to a State government or a post equivalent to this rank should be stipulated while for 'non-official' members 10 years of practice in a recognised profession like law, medicine, or engineering should be stipulated. A mandatory pre-consultation with the leader of the Opposition before appointment may be considered for non-official members. Thus, a State wide panel of eminent people – those with high standing, integrity, merit and independence – should be constituted and periodically updated.

Secondly, the syllabus should be revised periodically, keeping in view the changing academic scenario and the syllabi for examinations as stipulated by the UPSC. Every proposal for revision should be placed in the public domain and changes can be made after public consultation. Knowledge on State specific areas like regional history, regional economy and regional geography, in which the availability of faculty is limited, should be tested in the objective type format so that there would be no scope for complaint on the grounds of asymmetry of information and value laden correction. Thus, while the preliminary examination may continue in the objective format, the main examination should be a mixture of objective and subjective papers. The process of translation of the questions from English to the regional language should not only involve technology for secrecy but also the human element so that the right meaning is conveyed. Care should be taken to regularly change the pattern of questions so that the role of AI-chat bots, as a source of information for formulating answers, is effectively countered.

Finally, the Secretary of the State PSCs should be a senior officer with prior experience as either Commissioner of School Education or Secretary of the Board of Intermediate education to enable effective supervision of the examination branch of the Commission. Transparency and confidentiality should be balanced on the lines of the UPSC.

If these changes are effected, one would have vibrant Public Service Commissions at the State level on par with the Union Public Service Commission.

The writer is the Founder Director of Brain Tree IAS Hyderabad and has been engaged in teaching public administration for the last 35 years.

THE GIST

- The entry of Indians into the civil services on the sole criterion of merit was embedded in the demand for 'self-rule'.
- The manpower needs of the States are limited and not planned. Often, they lack the financial resources to meet the retirement and recruitment obligations of their employees leading to extension of the superannuation age and postponement of recruitment.
- State PSCs do not appoint committees regularly to redraft the syllabus; are constrained to tap academic resources from within the State; and are not able to achieve satisfactory 'inter-se' moderation in evaluation.

CACHE



In shambles: Smoke rises following the Israeli military bombardment of Nuseirat, as seen from central Gaza strip, on November 21. AP

Why did Wikipedia lock the page titled 'Gaza Genocide'?

Wikipedia's co-founder criticised the use of the word 'genocide' to refer to Israel's actions in Gaza, further igniting a debate about political neutrality on Wikipedia. Protections on the locked-down page was enhanced by editors on July 2024 and May 2025, to prevent un-vetted edits

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

Earlier in November, the page titled 'Gaza Genocide', hosted on Wikipedia, was locked. A small lock icon at the top right corner of the page restricted users from making edits to the page's contents. The locked-down page made waves when Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales posted a statement disagreeing on how the term 'genocide' was applied to Gaza. He claimed, in his personal capacity, that the page failed to meet Wikipedia's high standards and needed immediate attention. While the page exists on the platform in its locked-down form, debates continue across the world on how to classify the conflict.

Why was Wikipedia's Gaza genocide page locked?

The 'Gaza Genocide' page begins by stating: "The Gaza genocide is the ongoing, intentional, and systematic destruction of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip carried out by Israel during the Gaza war. It encompasses mass killings, deliberate starvation, infliction of serious bodily and mental harm, and preventing births."

While multiple organisations and academics have described Israel's actions in Gaza as a genocide targeting civilians, pro-Israel supporters have pushed back against the use of the word as they claim that the militant organisation Hamas is using Palestinian civilians as human shields and that Israel has the right to self-defence following the gruesome October 7 killings.

Protections on the locked-down page was enhanced by editors (both humans and bots) on July 2024 and May 2025, to prevent un-vetted edits. More recently, it was locked on October 28 and November 4, so only verified editors with accounts older than 30 days and over 500 edits can access the page to make updates.

This is not the first time that Wikipedia has locked a page on a contentious topic. Thousands of such articles covering significant world events, key definitions, or celebrity figures have been temporarily locked in the past to prevent partisan edits by un-vetted editors as well as acts of Wikipedia "vandalism" that range from funny to hateful.

Not surprisingly, there have been hundreds of edits made to the 'Gaza Genocide' page on Wikipedia in recent days and weeks. Many of these are simple formatting and punctuation edits while more controversial changes deal with how to include and interpret sources, or even revise other contributors' edits.

What did Wikipedia's co-founder say?

Mr. Wales posted a personal statement in a talk page that discussed the nature of edits made to the 'Gaza Genocide' page as well as the reasoning behind the use of the term 'genocide.' There, he criticised how Israel's actions were being classified as a "genocide" and instead urged a correction to present this as a contested allegation.

Citing neutrality as the basis for his opinion, Mr. Wales said the article "fails to meet our high standards and needs immediate attention."

Furthermore, Mr. Wales said he was leading a group that was looking into issues of neutrality in Wikipedia across articles and topic areas, including "Zionism." He also claimed that much more work was needed, though he clarified that he was only speaking in a personal capacity.

"I assume good faith of everyone who has worked on this Gaza "genocide" article. At present, the lede and the overall presentation state, in Wikipedia's voice, that Israel is committing genocide, although that claim is highly contested," Mr. Wales stated, later noting, "A neutral approach would begin with a formulation such as: "Multiple governments, NGOs, and legal bodies have described or rejected the characterisation of Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide."

Though Mr. Wales' opinion is not a definitive decision or judgment, it has ignited debate across the Wikipedia editors community as they re-examine how they are collectively working to document Israel's violence against Palestinians.

Has a genocide in Gaza been confirmed?

A UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry reported on September 16 that Israel committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The investigation covers events since October 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked Israeli civilians, and Israel's military actions since then.

The Commission reported that Israel carried out four of the five genocidal acts as defined by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, including "killing, causing serious bodily or mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of the Palestinians in whole or in part, and imposing measures intended to prevent births."

The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) also published a resolution in August 2025 stating that Israel carried out war crimes and genocide, noting that its actions "have not only been directed against the Hamas group responsible for these, but have also targeted the entire Gazan population".

The Human Rights Watch stated in December 2024 that "Israeli authorities are responsible for the crime against humanity of extermination and for acts of genocide" by throttling Palestinian civilians' access to water.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 67,173 people have been killed as of October 7 this year, two years after Israel's offensive on Hamas began. This figure includes 20,179 children, who account for about 30% of the total, reported *Reuters*.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz to celebrate 100 years of the musical genius Salil Chowdhury

V.V. Ramanan

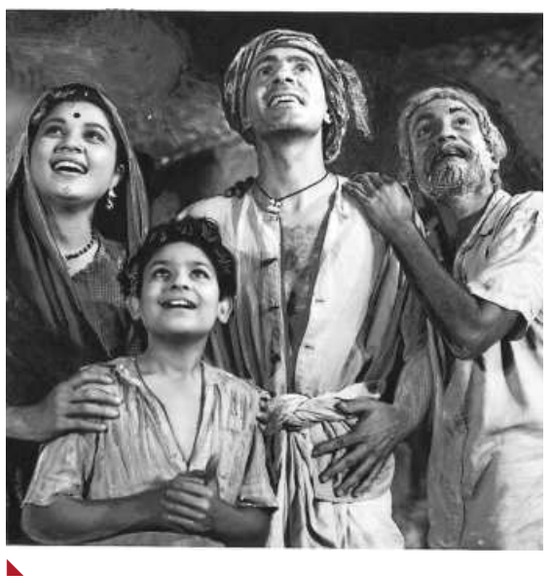
QUESTION 1
Where did Salilda go underground after arrest warrants were issued for his support to the peasant movement in the 1940s?

QUESTION 2
Which composition rendered beautifully by Talat Mahmood and Lata Mangeshkar was inspired by Mozart's 40th Symphony?

QUESTION 3
Salida became a household name in Kerala for his superb work in which award-winning film by Ramu Kariat based on a Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai's novel?

QUESTION 4
Can you name the song in *Half Ticket* set to tune by Salilda where actor-singer Kishore Kumar croons in both male and female 'voices'?

QUESTION 5
Admiring Salilda's versatility, which popular filmmaker once remarked 'He can play almost any instrument he lays his hands on, from the tabla to the sarod, from the piano to the piccolo'?



Visual question:
Name this Bimal Roy classic which is based on a story written by Salil Chowdhury.

Questions and Answers to the November 21 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This player has the highest partnerships from the 2nd to 6th wicket in the history of the Ashes. **Ans: Sir Donald Bradman**
2. The only bowler in Ashes history to pick more than 40 wickets in a series twice. **Ans: Terry Alderman (Australia), 42 wickets in the 1981 series and 41 in 1989**
3. This wicketkeeper holds the record for effecting most dismissals in a single Ashes series. **Ans: Brad Haddin (Australia); 29 in the 2013 series**
4. This neutral Umpire holds the record for having officiated in most Ashes Tests. **Ans: Aleem Dar (Pakistan), 23 Tests**
5. This English batsman scored 905 runs in 1928-29 Ashes series. **Ans: Wally Hammond**
6. This player holds the record for having scored the highest individual score in an innings in Ashes history. **Ans: Sir Len Hutton (364)**
7. This ground has hosted the most Test matches in Ashes history. **Ans: Sydney Crickey Ground (SCG)**
8. This player holds the record of being the only player to have scored more than 1,000 runs and taken more than 150 wickets in Ashes history. **Ans: Stuart Broad — 1019 runs and 153 wickets**
Visual: Name this player. **Ans: Peter Siddle (Australia)**
Early Birds: Piyali Tuli| Arun Kumar Singh| Suchit Narottam| Arjun Debnath| Sukdev Shet



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I climbed up and reached the pinnacle

Stop name-dropping when you are trying to make new friends. It will not help

S. Upendran

What is the difference in meaning between 'to drop names' and 'name-dropping'? (D. Aditya, Secunderabad)
In terms of meaning, there is no difference between the two. When you drop a name during the course of your conversation with someone, what you are doing is mentioning the name of some well-known individual. You talk about this individual as if you have known him for some time, and that he is a good friend of yours. This may, however, not be true. You may have seen the individual, but never actually talked to him; but during the conversation with your friend, you give the impression that the two of you are very close. People often resort to 'name-dropping' because they want to impress those around them – and in the process, hope to get preferential treatment. But this act of dropping names does not go down well with everyone – hence, the expression is often used to show disapproval.

I find her constant name-dropping highly irritating.

A person who frequently drops names is referred to as a 'name-dropper'.

Is it okay to say 'hang a right/left'? (G. Vasanthi, Kodaikanal)
The expression 'hang a right/left' is much more common in American English than British; it is seldom heard in our country. It is normally used when you are giving directions to someone who is driving. When you tell someone to 'hang a right', you are asking the person to turn right. 'Hang a right' and 'hang a left' have the same meaning as 'make a right' and 'take a left'. 'Hang a right/left' have been part of American English since the 1900s.

Once you cross the railway station, hang a left.

How is the word 'pinnacle' pronounced? What does it mean? (J. Kavitha, Kochi)
The word consists of three syllables; the vowels in the first two syllables sound like the 'i' in 'pin', 'din' and 'tin'. The final 'cle' is like the 'cle' in 'uncle' and 'cycle'; the word is pronounced 'PIN-i-kel', with the stress on the first syllable. It comes from the Latin 'pinnaculum' meaning 'peak', and it was originally used to refer to the top of a relatively high/tall mountain.With the passage of time, the word began to be applied to other objects which were relatively tall – for example, the highest point of a rather tall building can be referred to as 'pinnacle'. Nowadays, the word is used in everyday contexts to talk about the achievements of an individual – the highlight of our career, the greatest success that we have achieved can be referred as our pinnacle. It is always 'pinnacle' and not 'pinnacles'.

In Mala's opinion, getting a PhD from Harvard was the pinnacle of her academic achievement.

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Word of the day

Fructify:
become productive or fruitful; make productive or fruitful; produce fruit

Synonym: set

Usage: *The treaty, if fructified, will be a disaster.*

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfɹʌktɪfaɪ/

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