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Air quality across city deteriorates to hazardous levels on Deepavali

Serish Naniseti
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's air quality deteriorated to hazardous levels on Thursday night as citizens celebrated Deepavali with gusto, bursting crackers and lighting fire-works. The 10 p.m. outer limit for bursting crackers imposed by the Hyderabad Police went for a toss as aerial pyrotechnics lit up the sky.

The particulate matter pollution of 2.5 microns/m3 (PM2.5) reached a high of 475 at the U.S. Consulate observatory; in Kapra it reached 454, and in the partially functioning monitoring station of Sanathnagar, it was 472. Five of the Central Pollution Control Board real-time monitoring stations at Zoo Park, Bollaram, Patancheru, Somajiguda and Sanathnagar went offline just as the air



Motorists pass through a smoke-filled street as shopkeepers celebrate Deepavali by lighting firecrackers in Hyderabad on Thursday. NAGARA GOPAL

quality began to deteriorate around 10 p.m.

The PM10, or particulate matter of 10 microns/m3, reached a high of 605 at Ramachandrapuram on the fringes of the city. The pollution levels peaked after 10 p.m. before dropping back to the normal range. The Sanathnagar observatory logged the maximum of 472 PM2.5 after it came back online at 1

a.m. on Friday. It shows a blank between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. for PM2.5 while it was recording other parameters like nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone. In 2022, the Sanathnagar monitoring station was the only functioning monitoring station and it had recorded PM2.5 at 759 at 10 p.m. on October 24, Deepavali that year.

GST receipts' growth picks up again, but still off target

Revenues surpass ₹1.87 lakh crore in October, marking the second highest monthly collections; despite improved figure, the accruals so far continue to undershoot Budget 2024-25 estimates

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

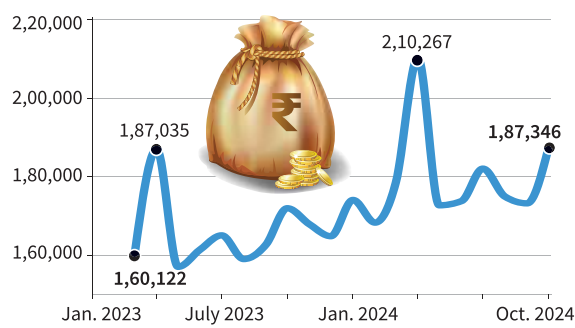
India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections surpassed ₹1.87 lakh crore in October, marking the second highest monthly collections on record, with growth rebounding to 8.9% in October from September's 40-month low uptick of 6.5%.

Net revenues, after factoring in refunds, grew at a slower pace of 7.9% to a tad over ₹1.68 lakh crore in October. However, this also marked a recovery from September's growth rate of 3.9% which was the slowest so far in 2024-25.

Last month's GST revenues were only eclipsed by the April 2024 collection of ₹2.1 lakh crore. Despite the improved growth figure,

Revenue resurgence

The chart shows India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections from March 2023 to October 2024 (in ₹ cr)



GST revenues so far continue to undershoot the Budget 2024-25 math, which factored in a rise of about 11% in net revenues.

In October, growth in gross revenues from domestic transactions improved to 10.6% from about 6% a month earlier, while import revenues

grew at a much milder pace of 3.9% in October, halving from September's 8% uptick. Net domestic receipts in October, from transactions in September, were up 8.7%, almost double the 4.5% recorded in the preceding month.

Overall revenues from GST, prior to refunds, in

the first seven months of this year, now stand at ₹12.74 lakh crore, 9.4% over the corresponding period of 2023-24. Net revenues, after refunds, are also up 9% at over ₹11.27 lakh crore, show official numbers.

Deep variations

Amid the headline improvement in domestic transactions, variations among States deepened significantly relative to the previous month, with a dozen States growing faster than the 10.6% national average growth in domestic revenues, a dozen underperforming that pace, and five States recording a contraction in gross GST receipts from a year ago.

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY



Call to focus on people's rights

HYDERABAD

More than a hundred civil society activists and intellectuals from various parts of the country, under the umbrella of the 'National Forum of Urban Struggles' have called for a review of the Musi Riverfront Development Project, which is being pursued by the government. » Page 5

Marathon public hearing

KARIMNAGAR

The State-wide household survey to will determine the socio-economic and caste details of the entire population in the State is slated to begin on November 6, Chairman Backward Classes Commission G. Niranjan said. » Page 6

Air quality turns 'poor' in 99 cities across India

The Hindu Data Team
CHENNAI

Ninety-nine of the 265 cities for which Air Quality Index (AQI) data were available on the Central Pollution Control Board website reported "poor" air quality on Friday (data for 24 hours prior to 4 p.m. on this day). An AQI value of 200 or above corresponded to "poor" quality.

Thirteen cities, including Delhi, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad in the National Capital Territory Region, recorded "very poor" air quality – AQI of 300 or above.

Defying firecracker ban
Ambala in Haryana recorded the highest AQI of 367 followed by Amritsar in Punjab (350), while Delhi's average AQI was 339.

These 24 hours corresponded to the period when Deepavali revellers took to burning crackers, defying a ban on it in places such as Delhi. People

Peak Pollution

Ambala in Haryana registered the highest AQI value of 367 on November 1 (24 hours till 4 p.m.)



Here is a list of cities that registered a "very poor" air quality, according to the Central Pollution Control Board

City	AQI value	Prominent pollutant	City	AQI value	Prominent pollutant
Ambala, Haryana	367	PM2.5	Gurugram, Haryana	309	PM2.5
Amritsar, Punjab	350	PM2.5	Ghaziabad, U.P.	306	PM2.5
Delhi	339	PM2.5	Kurukshetra, Haryana	306	PM10
Hajipur, Bihar	332	PM2.5	Lucknow, U.P.	306	PM2.5, PM10
Khurja, U.P.	320	PM10	Chandigarh	302	PM2.5
Moradabad, U.P.	320	PM2.5			
Bikaner, Rajasthan	312	PM2.5			

Source: Central Pollution Control Board

burnt crackers before 4 p.m. on Thursday as well.

On Thursday, the number of cities that had "very poor" and "poor" air quality was relatively fewer –

six, including Delhi (second highest AQI of 328), and 43, respectively. On Wednesday, a day prior to Deepavali celebrations, only Delhi registered "very

13 cities, including Delhi, Gurugram and Ghaziabad in the NCR, recorded 'very poor' air quality – with an AQI of 300 or above, on Friday

"poor" air quality with an AQI of 307. The number of cities with "poor" AQI was even fewer – 24, almost all of them in North India.

Large cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad registered a "moderate" AQI on Friday, but even among them, the AQI values had jumped from those registered on October 30. Data from 2023 corresponding to Deepavali celebrations show that Delhi's AQI was high at 358 on November 12, corresponding to a "very poor" air quality, jumping from 218 ("poor") the previous day.

Similar to this year, 53 and 85 cities had "very poor" and "poor" AQI res-

pectively on November 12-13 as compared with eight and 42 cities the previous day.

Pollution during winter

In cities such as Delhi and others in northern India, pollution levels peak during the winter season due to emissions from vehicles, industries, garbage burning, and construction work, besides stubble burning after the paddy season in neighbouring States, with particles being trapped in the cold air.

Unfavourable winds in the early winter months that don't flush the pollutants out also lead to a faster build-up. Firecracker burning has also contributed to exacerbating air quality during this period.

On Friday, Delhi's Anand Vihar station recorded its 10th highest concentration of PM2.5 this year (273.04 micrograms per cubic metre) if 24-hour values were considered.

Fire, police services attend 390 cracker-related distress calls on Deepavali day

Naveen Kumar
HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services received a total of 33 fire-cracker-related distress calls on Deepavali, including three major ones, said the officials from the fire control room.

One of the major mishaps was reported on Street Number 18 of Himayar Nagar, where a flat on the third floor was gutted. No major injuries were reported in any of the mishaps.

Officials said that they received 26 cracker-related calls in Hyderabad in the 24 hours till 12 a.m. on Deepavali. "We responded to 12 more calls after midnight," an official said.

Explaining the Himayat Nagar fire, officers said that the G+4 apartment was located in Street Number 18. The family left the flat with diyas still burning. Preliminary investigation suggests that clothing must have caught fire from there and the entire flat went up in flames, said an official.

Man rescued

Three fire tenders were rushed to the spot to put out the fire after a distress call was received at 10.34 p.m. Residents of the building spilled out upon noticing the smoke and flames. One person stuck on the same floor was rescued. He could not step out due to the heat from the fire, added the officer.

Two more major mishaps were reported in Saroor Nagar and Hayathnagar.

In Hayathnagar's Vinayak Nagar, a man sus-



People light firecrackers during Deepavali celebrations in Hyderabad on Thursday night. The city police responded to 357 calls about noise pollution on the festival day. G. RAMAKRISHNA

tained fire injuries on his hand and was rushed to hospital even before the fire tenders turned up. The mishap was a cracker-related incident and was reported on the first floor of a building, said the official.

Meanwhile, Eastwood Furniture in Saroor Nagar was gutted in flames on Deepavali night. The place was empty on the occasion of the festival.

Other mishaps were reported at an electrical shop in RP road, Secundrabad and a coconut tree caught fire in Domalguda.

Police attend 357 calls

The Hyderabad police responded to 357 dial 100 calls about noise pollution on Deepavali day on October 31.

DCP of (SMIT) K. Shilpavalli said that of the total 1,005 dial-100 calls, 357 were about noise pollution. "Of the 357, 25-30% were repeat ones," she explained.

As per the data shared by the police, the highest number of calls (68) were received from the West

Zone of Hyderabad, which includes areas such as Banjara Hills, Jubilee Hills and Panjagutta. The least number of calls (31), were from the South Zone, which includes Charminar, Mir Chowk, Chatrinaka and Falaknuma.

To curb noise pollution, Hyderabad City Police Commissioner C.V. Anand had issued a directive limiting the use of high-decibel crackers in public areas and on roads during Deepavali. As per the memo, crackers could only be burst between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., and even then, had to adhere to Supreme Court noise level guidelines. The decision came in response to numerous noise pollution complaints received by the police's 100 helpline.

The police categorised crackers into 'sound emitting' and 'sound and light emitting' types. While the former were banned in public spaces except during the specified hours, the latter could not exceed 55 decibels during daytime in residential areas.

Cracker injuries mar festivities for families in city

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

Deepavali, the festival of lights, turned somber for several Hyderabad residents this year, as government hospitals in the city reported cases of people suffering from firecracker injuries.

The air in the emergency block of Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital was quiet but tense on Friday (November 1, 2024) morning. Rows of beds lined the Female Ophthalmic Ward (FOW). Though most were empty, three young patients were in the ward, each admitted within the last 12 hours. They were young children,

each with bandages over one or both eyes—a silent testament to a night of celebration turned into pain.

Naresh sat beside one of the beds, watching over his six-year-old daughter, Srinidhi, as she rested. Just hours earlier, their Diwali celebration at their home in Kismatpur was filled with the usual excitement of sparkles and laughter. But in a split second, the joy had turned to alarm.

"She was holding a sparkler. Most of it was burnt, but a piece broke off at the end and lodged in her left eye. She started crying immediately, and we rushed her here late in the night," Naresh recalled.

Doctors at the hospital had attended to Srinidhi. "They ran some tests, and we're waiting for the results. If everything's clear, they'll discharge her by evening," Naresh added.

The Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital received 50 patients who suffered from firecracker injuries between Deepavali night and Friday morning. Among these, eight were admitted for further treatment. According to Superintendent of SD Eye Hospital Modini Pandharpurkar the admitted patients include five adults and three children.

While the adults sustained minor injuries, two children had foreign parti-

cles lodged in their corneas, necessitating minor surgical procedures.

Dr. Modini reassured that the admitted patients are in stable condition and expected to be discharged within the next two days. "Compared to last year, the number of cases is relatively low, but we anticipate a few more cases today and tomorrow, including possible referrals from nearby districts," she noted.

On October 31, the hospital recorded 213 outpatients, 100 inpatients, 16 new admissions, 62 discharges, and 35 emergency cases.

She further advised the public to either refrain

Timings			
HYDERABAD			
SATURDAY, NOV. 02			
RISE	06:15	SET	17:44
RISE	06:44	SET	18:10
SUNDAY, NOV. 03			
RISE	06:15	SET	17:44
RISE	07:38	SET	18:53
MONDAY, NOV. 04			
RISE	06:16	SET	17:43
RISE	08:33	SET	19:41

Hyderabad Weather	max	min
Sangareddy	32	23
Warangal	32	24
Hyderabad City	32	23

Hyderabad City Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Hyderabad City Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be little warm. Day will be little warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur. Morning will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Traffic diversions for today's Sadar Utsav

Visitors advised to park vehicles at Keshav Memorial College grounds which has a capacity for 400 four-wheelers and 400 two-wheelers

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

In view of the Sadar Utsav Mela at YMCA, Narayanaguda, scheduled from 7 p.m. on November 2 to 3 a.m. on November 3, the Hyderabad Traffic Police announced traffic diversions around the venue.

As per the advisory, traffic from Ramkote, Lingampally, Old MLA Quarters, Vittalwadi, RTC X Road, Narayanaguda X Road, Baghlingampally Colony, Barkathpura Chaman, and Lingampally X Road towards YMCA will be diverted via alternate routes.

The RTC buses travell-



Yadav community members getting ready to participate in Sadar festival in Hyderabad.
G RAMAKRISHNA

ing from Chilakalguda and Ashok Nagar towards Koti (DM&HS) will also be di-

verted. Visitors attending the Sadar Mela are advised to park their vehicles at Keshav Memorial College grounds, which has a capacity for 400 four-wheelers and 400 two-wheelers.

Plea to citizens

Citizens have been asked to plan their travel accordingly and use alternative routes to avoid congestion around the YMCA area during the aforementioned timings.

The Hyderabad Traffic Police urged cooperation from people and requested them to contact the Traffic Police Helpline number: 9010203626 for any commuting-related issues.

One killed, six injured in Gachibowli accident

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A day of revelry in the city turned fatal for a 23-year-old student who was killed after the car he was travelling in rammed into a divider on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) near Vattinagulapally on Thursday evening.

Six others sustained critical injuries in the accident.

The deceased was identified as Mohd Abdul Rehan, a student from Falaknuma of Hyderabad. Those injured include Asim Ahmed Khan, Syed Magdoom Masood, Shaik Sufiyan Ali, Md. Ibrahim, Abdul Wasif and Syed Saif, all aged between 20-25 years, who are undergoing treatment in private hospitals in the area.

According to the police, the men were travelling from old city to Sangareddy in a SUV driven by Md. Ibrahim.

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To Sir, with love

Shri AMM Murugappa Chettiar (1902 - 1965)

Fresh out of college, with dreams in my eyes, and ambition in my heart, I stepped into the portals of Dare House. The peacock welcomed me, as did the inspiring bust of Shri AMM Murugappa Chettiar. The goosebumps were generous, the legacy, humbling.

I came to know that he was a farsighted businessman, who saw opportunities even during casual conversations. That was how Ajax Products Limited came about. Eventually, he went on to establish robust businesses with unshakeable ethics.

I also learnt that he was as noble as he was astute. He furthered his father's interest in philanthropy, along with his brothers. Thus was born AMM Charities Trust, later called the AMM Foundation, the CSR arm of the Group.

I'm inspired by how the Group not just builds businesses, but also empowers communities.

As the Group observes Founder's Day, I pause to pay tribute to this great man. I'm truly awed at the conviction in his heart, the pursuit of excellence, and the fiery focus on growth and success...stellar values that time has indeed bowed down to.

Sir, your words, which you lived by yourself, will always inspire us - "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

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SPOTLIGHT



Pochampally Komuraiah, a traditional potter, at his shed in Bhupathipur village of Peddapalli district; toddy tapper Burra Srinivas Goud climbing a palm tree in Irukulla village of Karimnagar district. People pursuing traditional occupations are looking forward to the State government's comprehensive household survey, set to begin on November 6, will cover socio-economic, educational, employment, political, and caste details to better address needs of socially and educationally backward classes, SCs, and STs, as mandated by constitutional provisions. P. SRIDHAR



New survey offers a ray of renewed hope

Telangana government's announcement of an intensive socio-economic survey has sparked fresh anticipation among rural communities, rekindling memories of the 2014 Samagra Kutumba Survey — a tense, single-day event carried out by the then BRS government. **P. Sridhar, P. Laxma Reddy, and M. Rajeev** journey through rural parts of the State to gauge local sentiment and expectations surrounding the upcoming survey

Pochampally Komuraiah sits by his weathered kiln, the faint warmth from his Diwali *diya* sales already fading and his gaze fixed on an uncertain horizon. A potter from Bhupathipur village in Telangana's Peddapalli district, the 65-year-old's hands still shape clay with a skill honed across generations, yet his livelihood faces the threat of dwindling patronage. The number of potters in this village, once a bustling pottery hub, where 80 families used to thrive on their craft, has reduced to just two — Komuraiah is among the last, carrying the torch of tradition against the gusts of rapid urbanisation.

With his son having migrated to Dubai in search of greener pastures a few years ago, Komuraiah says he stands alone in sustaining his ancestors' craft. The Telangana government's upcoming statewide socio-economic survey from November 6 has given him a glimmer of hope, a potential boost for artisans like him who rely on pottery's quiet but essential presence in daily life — from clay pots for weddings to ceremonial earthenware for village goddesses. "I make clay pots for toddy tappers too," he notes underlining the importance of pottery intertwined with other traditional occupations.

The survey's promise of government intervention is a small ray in the veteran potter's life. "We are pinning hopes on the upcoming *kula ganana* to ascertain the socio-economic status of rural artisans and government's policy interventions to give a filip to traditional occupations," he says.

Weight of unfulfilled promises

The last intensive household survey — Samagra Kutumba survey — conducted on a single day in August 2014 by the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) regime, had also stirred hope among artisans like Komuraiah, promising new support for traditional crafts and livelihood opportunities. Yet, for many, those promises never materialised. Some potters, disheartened, turned to farming or other trades.

"My son, who was working for a private company in Hyderabad then, had to hire a vehicle and rush to our village, along with his wife and children, to participate in that household survey," he recalls, adding, "We, however, did not receive any benefit from it."

Bakkaiah, another resident of Bhupathipur, hopes that the new survey will document the percentage of Backward Classes (BCs) in the population, paving the way for determining quotas in local body elections — a step that he believes could lead to much-needed economic and political empowerment for BCs.

"I toil in the palm grove every day to earn a livelihood by tapping toddy, enduring the risks of falling from Thati (palm) trees that are 30 to 40 feet high. My daily earnings are less than ₹250," says 48-year-old Burra Srinivas Goud from Irukulla village in Karimnagar rural mandal.

"There are around 500 palm trees in and around our village, but only about 25 members of our community depend on toddy tapping for their livelihood. My son distanced himself from the traditional occupation due to the grueling, risky task of climbing tall palm trees," he rues, adding he will apply for safety kits that the Telangana government is distributing under the 'Kata-

There has been no scientific study on the number of BCs for long. The census has become imperative due to increasing social aspirations of these groups over the years.

TELAKAPALLI RAVI, Senior journalist and analyst

mayya Rakshaka Kavacham' scheme.

"The upcoming caste survey should be conducted scientifically to gather accurate data for implementing real welfare measures that uplift weaker sections, including BCs," suggests Narayana, another villager.

In a wave of migration a decade ago, many flocked to their native villages in Telangana to take part in the State government's Intensive Household Survey (IHS) on August 19, 2014. Aimed at compiling socio-economic data for targeted welfare programmes, the survey required residents to be physically present at their native residences, creating challenges, especially for low-wage workers who had moved to urban centers like Hyderabad in search of employment.

Thousands undertook long, arduous journeys with essential documents like Aadhaar, ration, and voter ID cards in hand to ensure their inclusion. Among them was autorickshaw driver Ratlavath Dasru, who travelled from Karmanghat in Hyderabad to Cherukupalle in Nalgonda district, about 120 kilometres away. "We had to go back to our village with all necessary documents, as directed by the government, to ensure our inclusion in the records," he explains.

Cherukupalle, a village of 6,000, saw an influx of residents returning from places like Kalvakurthy, Nalgonda, and Hyderabad, many of whom had to leave work temporarily to avoid the risk of exclusion.

For others, the fear of losing access to essential welfare benefits spurred even greater sacrifices. Uppula Ravindra Chary, who lives in Patancheru near Hyderabad, recounts making the trip to his native village, Nallabelli, in Warangal district with his family. "We rushed to our village as we feared that our names might be struck off ration cards or other essential records if we did not show up," he says, noting that many of his friends and acquaintances from Hyderabad and Warangal also returned to their respective hometowns.

M. Adinarayana Reddy experienced a similar urgency, returning to Nallabelli with his wife and two children, anxiously awaiting the enumerators at their ancestral home. "The government's intense publicity created a sense of urgency, and many feared future complications if their details weren't recorded. People waited at home, postponing other important work to ensure they didn't miss their turn," Reddy says.

He notes that one villager, Macherla Rajender, who works in Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, made the long journey back to Telangana to ensure his name remained in the records.

Jeevan Rao, another villager, shares that his nephew, a software engineer based in Bengaluru, had also travelled back for the survey.

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Jeevan Rao, another villager, shares that his nephew, a software engineer based in Bengaluru, had also travelled back for the survey.

Rushed efforts

The single-day survey, designated a public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act, presented severe logistical challenges. For those working far from their native villages, the requirement was especially demanding.

While some had family members to represent them, many migrants felt compelled to attend in person, fearing exclusion from welfare schemes. Despite promise of a thorough process, the rushed arrangement left many facing additional

financial burdens, from travel expenses to loss of work hours.

To gather accurate data from around 4 crore residents in just one day, the government mobilised nearly 4 lakh personnel, including Anganwadi workers and Accredited Social Health Activists, police, and other officials. They collected data on 94 items across eight broad categories, from Aadhaar and ration cards to caste certificates and vehicle registration details. Equipped with minimal training, the enumerators canvassed households, with each session lasting at least 15 minutes.

While the then BRS government touted the survey as a landmark effort to streamline welfare programmes and prevent leakages, the compressed timeline drew criticism. Many noted that the frontline workers, under significant time pressure, began collecting much of the data a day or two earlier.

An engineering college faculty member, roped in as an enumerator, shares that he, along with 150 colleagues, covered numerous households each, without receiving any honorarium. "I had to ask my sister to provide my documents at our native village while I was out on duty," he says, underscoring the logistical hurdles involved.

According to official sources, the then Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao introduced several

welfare schemes such as sheep distribution on subsidy, free fish seed distribution, and Rythu Bandhu, based on analysis of data collected through the 2014 survey.

Although the government maintained that participation in the survey was voluntary, many travelled from distant places, fearing that they would lose out on major welfare schemes.

NARAYANA, Resident, Irukulla village, Karimnagar rural mandal

A new approach

Now, the stage is set for the commencement of Telangana's first comprehensive socio-economic, educational, political, and caste census, from November 6. Over 80,000 enumerators, primarily teachers and 10,000 supervisors will survey every household across the State, creating a detailed database of all families. Data collection will take three weeks, followed by an additional three weeks for compiling explanatory notes, revisiting missing households, and distributing completed questionnaires with the signature of the head of the family. These records will then be stored at mandal headquarters for future reference.

Following the survey, there would be random household checks for two weeks to verify the authenticity of information. Altogether, the two phases, including data processing, are expected to take around eight weeks, based on a tentative schedule. This plan was prepared after reviewing similar survey processes and costs in Karnataka, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh.

In Karnataka, for instance, the government spent ₹162 crore to survey 1.35 crore households over 50 days, gathering physical data. Andhra Pradesh conducted a similar survey over 15 days in a fully digital format, though exclusive expenditure was not listed. In Bihar, the General Administration department covered 2.77 crore households, with 15 days allocated for house listing and 30 days for enumeration, totaling a 45-day survey period. Telangana has allocated ₹150 crore for its comprehensive survey, anticipated to be completed within two months.

Aiming for accuracy, inclusivity

During the Budget session in July, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced plans for a State-wide caste census and led the State Legislature to pass a resolution following a five-hour debate. The resolution committed to a comprehensive household survey across Telangana, encompassing socio-economic, educational, employment,

political, and caste details to better address the needs of socially and educationally backward classes, SCs, and STs, as mandated by various constitutional provisions.

The move aligns with senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's call for a caste census as the basis for equitable policymaking, advocating for community representation based on population. Addressing a rally in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, he stressed the need to revisit the 50% cap on reservations to ensure fair representation in government and education.

Inspired by Gandhi's stance, Chief Minister Reddy initiated steps after extensive consultations with officials, including the Backward Classes Commission. A detailed 50-point questionnaire has been prepared to collect data on each family's social, financial, and educational status, along with caste information, with a particular focus on enabling proportionate reservations for BCs in upcoming local body elections.

Analysts say a caste census has become essential, as population figures for BCs have been vague, often influenced by political calculations of respective ruling parties. While there is clarity over the SC and ST populations, the same is not true for BCs. This uncertainty complicates the equitable distribution of reservation benefits to these communities.

"There has not been a scientific study on the number of BCs for long. The census has become imperative due to increasing social aspirations of these groups over the years," says senior journalist and analyst Telakapalli Ravi.

A social audit is now necessary to provide statistical support through a comprehensive database, which the government's planned survey aims to achieve. Senior officials say this survey is intended to assess the social backward indicators of the backward sections, allowing for a detailed examination of their challenges and the development of targeted policy interventions.

The Samagra Kutumba Survey conducted in 2014 mobilised the entire State apparatus to build a comprehensive household database to aid various government departments in efficiently targeting welfare programmes. Its aim was to ensure that the benefits of schemes reached the right recipients and minimised leakages in implementation.

However, that survey excluded large sections of the population, such as those owning more than five acres of land, employees of State and Central governments, and PSUs, major business owners, income tax payers, outsourced staff, and those with homes having more than three rooms, thereby leaving significant gaps in the data.

Conducting the survey in a single day also drew criticism from officials, who argued that it was unfeasible. The five-page questionnaire required over 20 minutes per household, meaning that each official needed to work for around 18 hours non-stop to cover the 40-plus households assigned to them.

That impacted the credibility of the data, which remains unpublished, prompting some citizens to seek legal intervention to access it.

Learning from those challenges, the Congress government now is said to have taken steps to ensure that the current survey's schedule allows enough time for enumerators and supervisors to gather accurate details. The data collection will primarily be digital, with a printed questionnaire provided to each family.

This caste survey gains significance following the Supreme Court's recent approval to categorise SCs into A, B, C, and D groups. The government has formed a Cabinet sub-committee to work out modalities for its implementation. The proposed caste census, primarily for preparing a scientific database of different caste groups and population of the sub castes within the community, has become crucial as the data will also be useful for SC categorisation, making the job easier for the government.

BC Commission chairman G. Niranjan and other members have already started touring districts to conduct open sessions with different caste groups. "We should have comprehensive database of the communities in the State. The High Court has also sought the same," Niranjan says.

CM
YK

INBRIEF

32 students of tribal welfare school in Asifabad take ill

Thirty-two students of Tribal Welfare Ashram School in Asifabad fell ill allegedly after having contaminated water and food at a government hostel in Wankidi mandal on Thursday. The students complained of stomach ache, vomiting and diarrhoea after they had dinner on October 30. They were immediately taken to a Primary Health Centre (PHC) in the mandal headquarters, from where they were shifted to Asifabad Community Health Centre (CHC). Another batch of students complained of the same symptoms on October 31. One of them is in a critical state and is undergoing treatment in Mancherial, two are under observation at the Wankidi PHC and 29 others were discharged. Sources said that the issue could be triggered due to contaminated water. The borewell of the government school, run by the Tribal Welfare Department, is beside a drainage pipeline, the sources added.

21,000 enumerators across GHMC region for caste census

Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration Department M. Dana Kishore addressed enumerators and supervisors, who are taking part in the comprehensive survey for assessing socio-economic and caste status of the population, in Khairatabad zone on Friday, and asked them to ensure the survey is error-free. A total of 21,000 enumerators are being deployed across the GHMC region, with one supervisor for every 10 enumerators, Mr. Kishore said. He suggested that before carrying out the survey, the enumerators should be made to practice with photocopies of the survey forms. Zonal Commissioner Anurag Jayanti and Additional Commissioner K. Shivakumar Naidu took part in the training programme on Friday.

Diet, cosmetic charges for govt. hostel boarders raised by 40%

While current diet rate is ₹950 per boarder, per month, for students of Classes 3 to 7, the enhanced rate will be ₹1,330; for students of Classes 8 to 10 and Inter to PG level, increased diet charges will be ₹1,540, and ₹2,100, respectively

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The State government passed orders on Thursday to enhance the diet and cosmetic charges by 40% for boarding students in welfare and residential hostels of SC/ST, BC and Minority, and other institutions run by the Telangana Residential Educational Institutions Society (TREIS). While the current diet rate had been ₹950 per boarder, per month, for students of Classes 3 to 7, the enhanced rate will be ₹1,330 (i.e., ₹44.33 from the existing ₹31.66 per day), up by ₹380.

For students of Classes 8 to 10 and Intermediate to PG level, the increased diet charges will be ₹1,540, a hike of ₹1,100, and ₹2,100, a raise of ₹1,500, respectively.

The new order, being referred to as the 'Chief Minister's Deepavali gift for hostellers', came into effect from Friday. The revision is aimed at benefiting 7,65,705 students.



Most welcome: Minister Seethakka, Congress MPs Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and Mallu Ravi and other officials with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Friday.

The Chief Minister suggested to the authorities to make changes and additions in the diet so that students are served nutritious food. He said the new diet should be made available within 10 days.

According to officials, the need for improvement in charges was studied by a committee led by Principal Secretary (Education) Bura Venkatesham. The committee, while comparing different rates over the years, also examined the model being followed by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and as per

the dietary guidelines prescribed by the National Institute of Nutrition.

Cosmetic charges, to ensure students follow personal hygiene and health, saw a hike of over three times the existing rate. For girls of Classes 3 to 7, the allowed charges had been ₹55 per boarder, per

month, and ₹75 for those from Classes 8 to 10. As per revised charges, it is going to be ₹175 and ₹275, respectively.

For boys of Classes 3 to 7 and 8 to 10, including hair cut charges, the existing rate was ₹62 per boarder, per month, and the revised rate is ₹150 and ₹200, respectively.

Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao has instructed the authorities of the Marketing Department to prepare proposals for developing a model market in every district on experimental basis, keeping in mind the present day needs.

At a review meet with the officials of the department held here on Friday, he asked them to take steps for proper management of godowns with the market yards and utilise the unused space for commercial needs to improve the market committees' income.

In the wake of untimely rains, he told the officials of marketing and agriculture departments to take measures to safeguard paddy, cotton and other crops, from damage.

On the alleged irregularities that had taken place in the DCCBs and DCMs in the past, he wanted the authorities concerned to complete the departmental inquiry at the earliest and take disciplinary action against those responsible and recover funds.

Minister bats for model markets in every district

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

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KTR lauds Kharge's statement on guarantees

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao said that Congress owes an apology to four-crore people of TG for 'betraying' them on its pre-poll promises, including the six guarantees.

Reacting to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's statement that he had given an advice to the Congress leadership in Maharashtra not to give guarantees beyond the State's Budget, Mr. Rama Rao said on Friday that the Congress leaders had understood the reality at least now, after winning Assembly elections in three States by making promises left, right and centre in the name of guarantees.

He wanted to ask Mr. Kharge whether he or his party leaders in Karnataka were not aware of the State's Budget while making five guarantees there, or when the party had given six guarantees in Telangana. The indiscriminate promises had derailed TG's progress, he said.

Call of party duty: KTR to go on padayatra across State

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has announced that he will go on a padayatra, as a mass contact programme, in the days to come, as per the wishes of the party ranks.

He stated this while interacting with netizens on Thursday (on social media), who asked him about his view on padayatras, which are held by leaders of parties across the country to highlight governments' failures and strengthen the organisation (party).

Mr. Rama Rao alleged that the Congress Government, which claimed power in the name of the six guarantees, has become a curse for Telangana. The Congress rule is centred around Delhi as the Chief Minister and most of his Cabinet colleagues spend more time in the Capital to meet Central party leaders, he said.

He cautioned police officers 'harassing' BRS leaders and registering false



K.T. Rama Rao

cases against them. They would face the music once the party comes back to power, Mr. Rao said, adding that it was the responsibility of the BRS to fight for people's cause till they repose faith in it.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rama Rao criticised the government for procuring paddy, produced in the Kharif season, at a snail's pace; against the target of purchasing 8.16 lakh tonnes of the major crop in October, only 7,629 tonnes were procured from 913 farmers till October 28.

Besides, the slow procurement of grain was not enough, and farmers had to suffer more loss as untimely rains soaked paddy stocks, he said.

BJP leaders ridicule KTR

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar lashed out at the reports of BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao's padayatra, asking what moral right he has for the walkathon when "BRS government denied such permissions to Opposition leaders".

Mr. Sanjay recalled how he was attacked by BRS cadre when he did a padayatra during its rule. "Let LoP in the Assembly K. Chandrasekhar Rao come out in the open to speak on people's issues. KCR is enjoying in his farmhouse and ignoring people's issues and KTR plans a padayatra," he said.

At another press conference, Medak MP Raghunandan Rao questioned the morality of his padayatra after ruling Telangana for 10 years 'ruthlessly' without meeting people.

A thing of beauty



The area at PVNR Marg in front of the Secretariat in Hyderabad wears a bright look with colourful flowers. RAMAKRISHNA N

Food Secretary meets Uttam, talks roadmap for improvement

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Secretary of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), GoI, Sanjeev Chopra met Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Principal Secretary, Department of Civil Supplies, D.S. Chauhan on Friday.

Mr. Chopra appreciated the efforts being made in Telangana in streamlining the system and putting processes in place. Assuring support, he advised officials to make Telangana a model State that can be replicated by other States.

Mr. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that fruitful discussions were held on various aspects of procurement and public distribution and the roadmap for further improvements were deliberated upon.

The Food Secretary visited the Office of Commissioner of Civil Supplies, where the Principal Secretary made a detailed presentation on systemic changes brought about in

various aspects of paddy procurement, and sought the Centre's help in certain aspects for further improvements and strengthening of the system.

Earlier, Mr. Chopra visited Jan Poshan Kendra, a new initiative under SMART FPS Scheme, at AG Colony in city. He reviewed the details of products available, assessed consumer demand and verified the credit facilities provided. The dealer informed that he earns about ₹30,000 from the Jan Poshan Kendra in addition to the fair price dealer margin. The Food Secretary advised him to scale up sale to earn a profit of ₹1 lakh per month.

Further, the Food Secretary inquired about the functioning of FP shop, inspected the quality of rice and wheat available and verified the e-POS distribution process. He also met ration card beneficiaries, who have expressed satisfaction about their receiving entitled quantity and quality ration on time.

Existing shapes, poses studied to finalise Babu Ghat statue

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Babu Ghat, on the banks of Musi River, will have the tallest statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the world, overtaking the present one in Patna, but the government is still toying with the shape of the statue.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has asked officials to study various sizes and shapes of Gandhi's statues in India, as well as abroad, so that the best design could be adopted.

As of now, among all his statues in the country, the one at Gandhi Maidan in Patna is the tallest with 72 foot. Made of bronze, it was inaugurated in 2013.

Mr. Reddy, who visited the 8-foot bronze statue in



Tallest Gandhi statue in State is of 22 foot in the Assembly.

Irving, Texas, USA, showed interest in its pose, which resembles Dandi march.

The tallest Gandhi statue in Telangana is of 22 foot in the Assembly, which is in the 'Dhyana Mudra' (meditation pose). The bronze statue with the message 'My Life is My Message' was unveiled in

1999 when N. Chandrababu Naidu was the CM.

The government is now studying whether the upcoming Babu Ghat statue should have a different pose or adopt one of the existing ones.

The CM prefers wide consultations on finalising the shape and size with political parties, Gandhians and those who seriously follow his message.

The location is chosen as it is at the confluence of the Musi and Isa, coming from Osmansagar and Himayatsagar. Apart from the statue, the government also plans to develop it as an education hub of Gandhian philosophy, where courses in communication, ethics and values will be taken up.

210 memoranda submitted to BC panel at mega hearing

The Hindu Bureau
KARIMNAGAR

The State-wide household survey (Socio, Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste Survey) involving around 90,000 enumerators is slated to begin on November 6. It will determine the socio-economic and caste details of the entire population in the State, Commission for Backward Classes Chairman G. Niranjan said.

The BC Commission held a public hearing at the Collectorate in Karimnagar on Friday. The marathon hearing, chaired by Mr. Niranjan, lasted for nearly 9 hours from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Members of various BC organisations and other stakeholders from Karim-

nagar, Jagtial, Peddapalli and Rajanna Sircilla, submitted more than 210 memoranda to the panel.

Representations, pertaining to requests for enhancing quota for BCs in local bodies, proportionate to their population, measures to uplift weaker sections, including BCs, and equitable distribution of power and wealth, were received in the hearing.

Speaking to the media soon after the public hearing, Mr. Niranjan called upon people to participate in the household survey without fail and make it a success. The survey determines the future of people and everyone should become active partners in it, he emphasised.

Opposition parties

should refrain from spreading misconceptions about the household survey and cooperate with the whole exercise, he said.

He added that the heart-wrenching ordeals of some unknown castes had come to their notice during the public hearings. The views and suggestions received from the participants during the public hearings will be compiled and a detailed report, based on facts, will be submitted to the government.

The hearing was attended by BC Commission members R. Jayaprakash, Tirumalagiri Surender and Balalakshmi, Collectors Pamela Satpathy, Koya Sree Harsha, B. Satya Prasad, and Sandeep Kumar Jha, among others.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

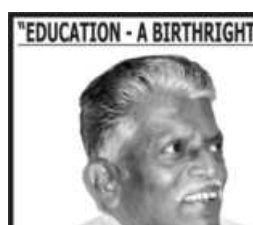
DEATH
SAD DEMISE



We regret to inform the sad demise of founder and senior partner of MSSV & Co,
S. RAMASUBRAMANIAN
DOB: 29-12-1952
DOD: 31-10-2024

Staff & Partners of
MSSV & Co,
and family members

DEATH
ANNIVERSARIES



Prof. A. Nagarajan.,
B.Sc., D.M.I.T., M.Sc (Engg.),
PGDM (IIMA)

Family, Friends
& M.I.T Fraternity

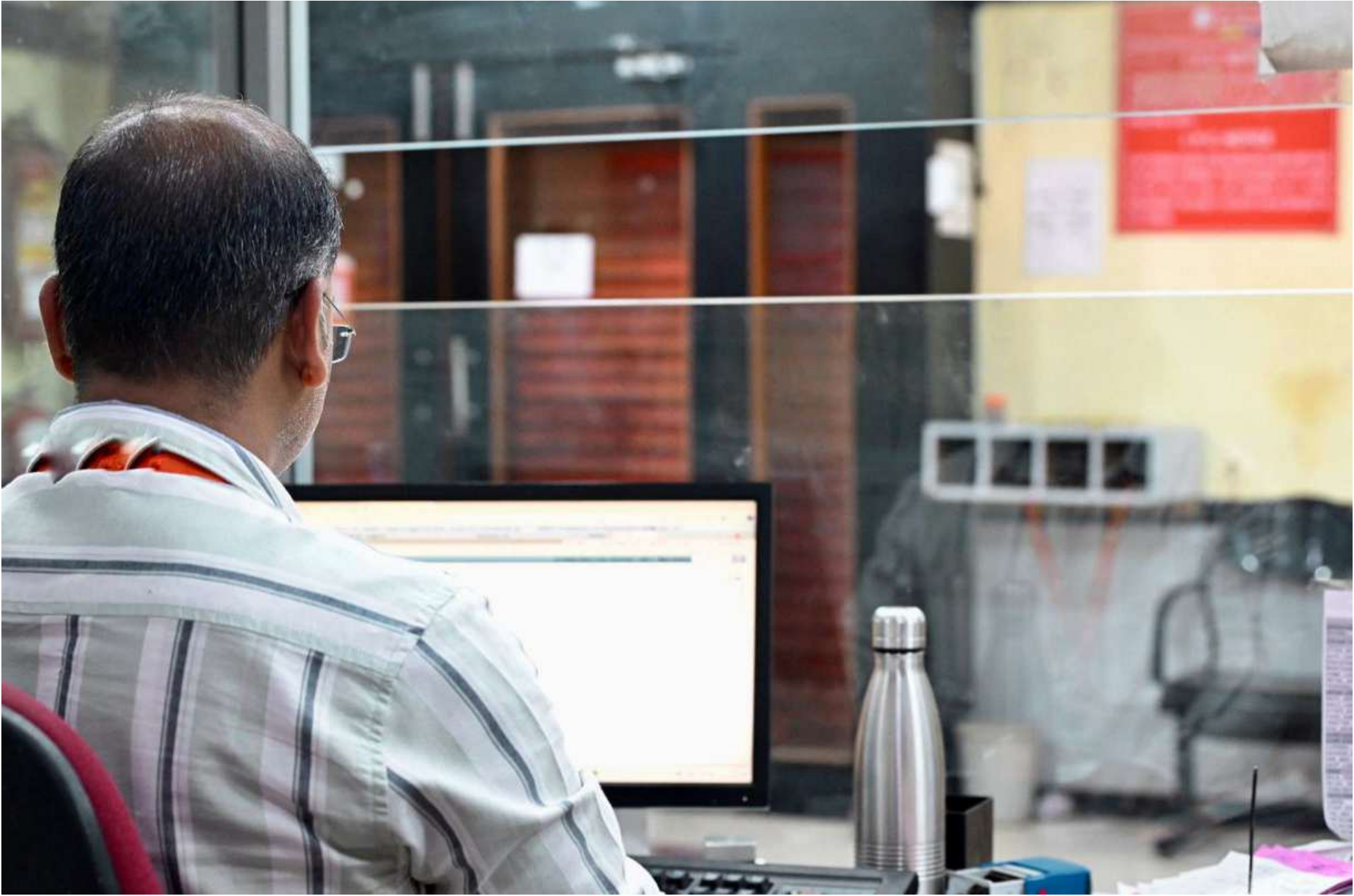
IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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A bank employee in Maharashtra. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Bankers bruised by a populist promise

The Maharashtra government rolled out the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana in August 2024 and is counting on it to gather votes from women. Ever since the scheme was introduced and beneficiaries began thronging banks, there have been several attacks on public sector bank employees. **Vinaya Deshpande Pandit** reports on a scheme that has caused law and order problems and created fear among employees

Ashish Singh cannot twitch his nose. It is fractured, swollen, and, worse, a constant reminder of the day when he was attacked at his workplace.

A few weeks ago, Singh, the branch manager of a public sector bank in Maharashtra, was at work when a woman and her family members walked in. They stood in queue, waiting to link their Aadhaar with their account, which is mandatory for beneficiaries of the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, a government scheme. When Singh requested them not to let the children jump with their sandals on the sofa meant for senior citizens, one of the women got angry, he recalls. “She hit me with a high-heeled sandal,” he says. The entire family then proceeded to assault Singh. The office staff rushed to get police help.

The incident was captured on the bank’s CCTV camera. Singh flicks out his phone and shows a 10-second clip of the footage. He has deleted the rest because it is “too traumatic”.

Soon after the incident, Singh was transferred abruptly and is now the manager of another branch of the bank, located within a 100-kilometre radius. He is aggrieved – he was supposed to be the bank manager for three years but was shunted out in just three months.

“I was not even asked if I wanted to move out. Those who helped protect me were also transferred. What was our fault? That we stood against those who attacked us and filed an FIR (first information report) against them?” he asks. “I feel like I am guilty even though I am the victim here.”



Growing attacks

The attacks on bank employees began soon after the Maharashtra government rolled out the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, one of its flagship schemes, in August 2024. Under this, the government provides a monthly financial benefit of ₹1,500 to women through direct benefit transfers. Women between 21 and 65 years, who are permanent residents of the State, and have an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakh are eligible. The number of beneficiaries is 2.34 crore.

The government had said “financial assistance under the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana 2024 will be transferred directly to the selected applicant’s bank account.” Days after the scheme was introduced, public sector banks across the State started disbursing the amount to beneficiaries.

Maharashtra’s current Mahayuti government that consists of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party is banking on the scheme to come back to power, following the Assembly elections this month. However, there are issues in implementation. Employees of public sector banks, who are an instrumental part of making the scheme successful, have been getting attacked and assaulted across the State by customers, borrowers, the public, and political elements. Fourteen FIRs have been filed across the State since August, but bank unions say that the

Whenever the government wants to bring about populist schemes, they should take banks and financial institutions into confidence.

PANDURANG DEVKAR
Bank employee

number of assaults is actually three times higher. “Several fights have taken place over the counter,” says a union representative. A high-level meeting at the Secretariat was held on October 29 on the problem, but the attacks continue.

The video of a young man using foul language and trying to charge at a branch manager in Dombivli went viral. In Jalna, a local leader of the youth wing of the Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, a farmers’ union, allegedly assaulted a branch manager at Varud Budruk in Jafarabad taluka over a delay in payment of grants to farmers and women. Again, the video went viral on social media. “We taught him a lesson in ‘Swabhimani style’,” local party workers told the media later.

Many bank employees say the police have failed to invoke Section 121 (causing grievous injuries to deter a public servant from their duty) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in several FIRs. Instead, the police have filed watered-down FIRs, which makes it easy for the accused to get immediate bail, claim the employees.

While the government has been trying to placate the bank employees, who are worried for their safety, many aspiring political leaders have also been at the forefront of these assaults, to gain quick public support, and have been livestreaming their attacks on their social media accounts. Many bank employees claim police apathy. Notices have been put up in banks, warning people of strict legal consequences if they attack bank employees. But the malady is deeper,



A view of the crowd gathered during a programme of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra. ANI



Policymakers think that since banking is digitised, staff members are not needed. That is not true. We need more tech-savvy staff to help those approaching banks.

VITTHAL MANE
Convener of United Forum of Bank Unions

Banks are short-staffed and cannot deal with the serpentine queues. As patience wears out and service provision takes time, employees are sometimes assaulted.

The problems in banks

Tuljapurkar says this is “commodification of poverty and helplessness”. He says the poor are vulnerable and want to take whatever help the state offers. During election time, the political leaders take advantage of this helplessness. “This is election season. Why are bank employees being attacked now? It didn’t happen earlier. Today, bank employees are well-off. They are paid better than before. The people who come to public sector banks are often poor. There is a financial gap between them. The poor believe that banks don’t fulfil their demands. In fact, they believe that they are the ones that create impediments. So, there is anger against the system,” he argues.

Tuljapurkar says this is a larger systemic issue that needs to be addressed. “It is cruel that the banks don’t employ security guards for the safety of their own branch staff. If the government does not provide protection, the bank management should. In a recent meeting, the State government told the SLBC (State Level Bankers’ Committee) that it disburses ₹8,000 crore through these banks and that the banks should spend on security,” he adds.

Vitthal Mane, convener of United Forum of Bank Unions, says public sector banks are understaffed, which is why employees are being attacked. “Though processes are digitised, the people who come from rural areas or who are poor approach banks. Policymakers think that since banking is digitised, staff members are not needed. That is not true. We need more tech-savvy staff to help those approaching banks. That is why we had organised a dharna in Mumbai. We made three demands: there should be new recruitment; safety must be ensured; and strict action must be taken against the culprits.”

The *Hindu* repeatedly contacted the SLBC representative, Satish Kumar, but he did not answer our detailed queries. However, an official who is not authorised to speak to the media admits that the issue is of serious concern. “This is a big issue and banks have been taking cognisance of it,” the official says.

The minutes of the meeting held at the Maharashtra State Secretariat on October 29 with the subject line, “Details of the meeting held for the bank transactions related to Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, chaired by Honourable Secretary of Women and Child Development department on 29/10/2024 at 3 pm”, reads: “For the implementation of Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, there is a massive crowd in the banks for opening bank accounts of the beneficiary women, linking the bank accounts with Aadhaar, doing KYC, the demand that the installment should not be adjusted against pending service charges or loan installments.”

The minutes of the meeting say that according to the Convener of United Forum of Banks Union, “inappropriate incidents” were taking place against the bank employees “during this rush.” The note emphasises the need for adequate security measures and seeks Standard Operating Procedures from the banks that ensure the deducted banking service charges are refunded. It seeks more coordination of the police, the administration, and the banks for better security.

The government acknowledges that there is an issue and has said that a remedial plan should be in place. But there is no clarity yet on whether the banks will appoint private security guards or whether they expect the State machinery to provide security to the branches.

As of now, the addition of new members to the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana has stopped due to the Model Code of Conduct, which is in place as Maharashtra goes to the polls on November 20. Public sector bank employees are busy with election duty and bank responsibilities and say they live in the hope that they won’t be attacked any more.

Political issue

Meanwhile, the Opposition has slammed the government over the lack of financial planning while rolling out the scheme. “The previous Uddhav Thackeray government had rolled out a loan waiver of ₹36,000 crore for the farmers of Maharashtra. How did that not lead to any strain on the bank employees?” says Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MP Sanjay Raut. “Whether it was the note-ban decision or the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, they have been brought about without any financial planning and only for electoral benefits. When we come to power, we will fit it in the legal and financial framework.”

Even as the government tries to stop the attacks, employees are worried. The police acted swiftly to register a case against Pandurang Devkar, a bank employee, but he still fears for his life. “I was followed, abducted, and taken to a crematorium. I was beaten black and blue with rods and sharp weapons,” Devkar says.

“Whenever the government wants to bring about such populist schemes, they should take the banks and financial institutions into confidence. They should let us know about their plans, take feedback from us, and then introduce these schemes. That way, there will be better coordination and less stress on banking structures,” he adds.

Names and details have been withheld to protect identities

vinaya.deshpande@thehindu.co.in

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

EC approves Alka Tiwari as Chief Secretary

Ahead of the polls, the Election Commission (EC) has accepted the proposal of the Jharkhand government to appoint the 1988-batch IAS officer Alka Tiwari as the next Chief Secretary of the State.

Ms. Tiwari, who belongs to the Jharkhand cadre, is currently the senior-most IAS

officer in the cadre, the sources said.

Prior to this, the EC had also consented to the proposal of a five-month extension of former Chief Secretary Lalbiaktluanga Khiangte's tenure, the sources added.

The EC had approved the appointment of Ajay Kumar Singh as the DGP of Jharkhand on October 21.

The Assembly polls are scheduled to be held in Jharkhand in two phases on November 13 and 20.



Alka Tiwari is from the 1998 batch of the IAS.

FIR lodged against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP

An FIR was registered in Mumbai under Sections 79 and 356(2) of the BNS against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant after Shiv Sena leader Shaina N.C. complained that he had used derogatory language against her.

Neelam Gorhe, Shiv Sena leader and Deputy

Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, asked the Election Commission to take immediate action.

She said: "Arvind Sawant's statement reflects how low and contemptible the perspective of Uddhav Thackeray's party and its leaders are towards women in the State." Issuing a warning that they will not tolerate disrespectful comments at women, Dr. Gorhe demanded that Mr. Sawant publicly apologise to Ms. Shaina.



The CM's vision of development is flawed. Roads, bridges, connectors are built and then taxpayers' money is used to fill potholes

KEDAR DIGHE Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate against Eknath Shinde

47,392 proud centenarians eligible to vote

A total of 47,392 centenarians are among the more than 9.7 crore citizens in Maharashtra who are eligible to vote in the November 20 Assembly polls, according to the Election Commission data. As per the figures, there are 22,22,704 voters in the age group of 18-19.



In 2019, Hemant Soren declared his date of birth, yet in 2024, he appears to have aged by seven years in just five. What magic is this?

SANJAY SETH Union Minister of State for Defence



Tough fight: NCP chief Ajit Pawar is contesting against his nephew Yugendra Pawar. PTI

Families battle their own in Maharashtra Assembly polls

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

The upcoming Maharashtra Assembly election is set to be the arena for some bitter family battles, with at least five constituencies seeing clashes between close relatives.

There is a high-octane fight brewing in Baramati, where the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Ajit Pawar is contesting against his nephew Yugendra Pawar, who is representing the NCP (SP). In Aheri, NCP Minister Dharmarao Baba Atram will face off against his daughter Bhagyashree Atram-Halgekar who has joined the NCP (SP). Yet another fight between families split by the NCP divide is happening in Sindhkhedraja, where Rajendra Shingne who recently joined the NCP (SP) is battling his niece Gayatri Shingne of the NCP.

In the Loha-Kandhar constituency, the NCP's Prataprao Patil Chikhalikar is taking on his brother-in-law, Shyamsunder Shinde of the Peasant and Workers Party. In Nashik's Chandwad constituency, BJP candidate Rahul Aher is contesting against his brother Keda Aher, an Independent candidate.

In the Lok Sabha election, the battle lines between the NCP factions were drawn in the family turf of Baramati, with Mr. Ajit Pawar fielding his wife, Sunetra Pawar, against his cousin Supriya Sule, daughter of party patriarch Sharad Pawar.

The Aheri constituency in Gadchiroli district will witness a heated battle between Mr. Atram and his daughter. In fact, it's a triangular fight among the Atrams of the Aheri royal family, with the sitting MLA's nephew, former BJP Minister Ambrishrao Atram, throwing his hat in the ring as an Independent candidate. Mr. Dharmarao Baba Atram asked voters to throw his daughter and son-in-law into the Pranhita river for treachery. His daughter had an impassioned response: "When my father was abducted in 1991 by Naxalites, it was Sharad Pawar who made his safe release possible. I am paying gratitude for saving my father's life by joining the NCP [SP]." In Nanded, Mr. Chikhalikar, a former BJP MP, has joined the NCP. His brother-in-law, Mr. Shinde won the previous Assembly election with Mr. Chikhalikar's support. This time, they are set to clash, in a fight that originated during an Agricultural Produce Market Committee election.

CARTOONSCAPE | SOUMYADIP SINHA



IN FOCUS

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

With rebellions, internal squabbles within the Mahayuti and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), and the confusion over nominations, the Maharashtra Assembly election, slated to take place in a single phase on November 20, have confounded many pollsters. Just like the confusion about the seat-sharing formula, the fights will also be clearer only after the last day of the withdrawal of nominations on November 4.

Currently, looking at the nominations which have been filed by the official candidates, rebel Independent candidates, and the smaller parties, Maharashtra is slated to have many multi-cornered fights.

Interestingly, despite the agrarian distress and the unemployment levels, these may not become poll issues, say experts. The key to power will likely be decided by Vidarbha where both the Congress and the BJP are directly pitted against each other. The party which will dominate in the 62 seats in Vidarbha will likely hold the key to Maharashtra's power equation.

This is the first State election where the factions of the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party will contest in an all-stakes fight against each other in



Colours aplenty: Scarves, flags and promotional materials of various political parties kept on display inside a shop in Lalbaug, Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

their traditional strongholds. Sharad Pawar will push to maintain his stronghold on the sugar-rich western Maharashtra belt. The land of education and sugar barons holds the key to 70 of the 288 seats. The Ajit Pawar-led NCP will fight in over 53 seats.

"There seems to be a clear advantage to Sharad Pawar, particularly in western Maharashtra. He has chosen the candidates very strategically. He has good support in the younger population. In terms of the appeasement of communities as well, he has given tickets to Marathas and Dhangars to get his poll equations right," said Vivek Bhavsar, political commentator and senior journalist.

"This time, it is not one election in Maharashtra. The State faces 288 elec-

tions in 288 constituencies. It will truly be an unprecedented election which will be a nightmare for the pollsters as nobody is in a position to predict the outcome. My assessment is that, like the 1999 elections, there will be several Independent candidates who will emerge as winners. And after the results, they will become the kingmakers, leading to the possibility of horse-trading. Even smaller margins will flip the game in the State," Girish Kuber, Editor, Lok-satta, told *The Hindu*.

Women's vote

The Mahayuti government banks on the success of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana to garner the votes of women.

"It will primarily help [Chief Minister] Eknath

Shinde, who has aggressively campaigned for it as his scheme," said Mr. Bhavsar.

And because the BJP has done an outreach towards several smaller communities, particularly reaching out to the OBCs; the Kunbis and the OBCs might lend their support to the BJP. But none of the political parties, particularly in the Opposition, seem to be speaking about the issues related to agriculture or youth employment.

"Unfortunately, this looks to be an issue-less election. There are serious issues like the agrarian crisis, Maharashtra's decline in overall industrialisation, and social tension. But none of them will get reflected in this election," Mr. Kuber said.

The Congress and the

MVA have claimed that they will be able to carry ahead the momentum of the Lok Sabha election results where the MVA had received wider support. But months after the elections, that impact seems to have waned away, say experts.

While the Congress feels encouraged that it will lead in the Vidarbha region, the BJP believes it will be able to work its way through the region. "I don't see the effect of Lok Sabha elections. Had the Maharashtra elections been held with the Haryana elections, things would have been different. But now, welfareism will come into play," said Mr. Kuber, adding that the Manoj Jarange Patil factor might not have a wider impact on the election results.

Will be able to convince rebels to stick to the BJP, says Fadnavis

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said he is confident that he will be able to convince all the rebels to work for the interest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Speaking to reporters from his home turf in Nagpur, he said, "Any organisation derives its energy from its workers. For our party too, our workers are very crucial who lead us to victory."

He further added, "All the rebel candidates are our own people. It is our responsibility to talk to them and convince them. It happens often that some aspirants express their displeasure against the party when their name does not come on the list when tickets are distributed for the election. We are colleagues, we have spent a lot of time together. I am confident that we will convince all our colleagues so that we can all put our best work together."

Friendly fight

Earlier this week, Mr. Fadnavis had said, "We are trying to help most of the rebels understand and withdraw their nominations. However, in some places, it will be a friendly fight on November 20, the day Maharashtra votes."

Mr. Fadnavis is contesting from the Nagpur South-West Assembly constituency in the upcoming election.

The last day for withdrawal of nomination forms for the Assembly election is November 4.

Raj's Sena vs Uddhav's Sena: Deepavali gala of one sparks fireworks from the other; ball is now in the court of the EC

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday took cognisance of the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s formal complaint filed against the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) with his Deepavali programme held at Shivaji Park on Thursday.

In a letter to the State's Chief Electoral Officer, Shiv Sena (UBT) deputy secretary Sachin Parasnaik complained that the MNS had violated the MCC by celebrating Deepotsav in a State-owned space, insisting that the entire expenses incurred on the event be included as part of the election expenditure of Mr. Amit Thackeray, the MNS candidate from the Mahim constituency.

The EC has set an expenditure limit of ₹40 lakh per candidate in an As-



Amit Thackeray is the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena candidate from the Mahim constituency. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shiv Sena (UBT) takes exception to the Deepotsav organised by the MNS in a public park

sembly election.

"The Model Code of Conduct is applicable in the entire State. The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation, however, has

given its consent to the MNS to celebrate Deepotsav at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park, which is under the civic body's jurisdiction. The MNS has displayed the party banners, installed gates, and put up lanterns in the area. This is a clear violation of the MCC," Mr. Parasnaik said.

"MNS candidate Amit Thackeray was present at

the venue at the time of inauguration of Deepotsav. The expenses of Deepotsav should be included in the election expenses of MNS candidate from Mahim assembly seat, Amit Thackeray, as per the stipulated rules," he said, adding that the EC should initiate strict action against the officials responsible for illegally allowing party campaigning in public spaces.

In its reply, the EC said that an investigation into the matter has begun, adding that it has sought a response to the allegations from the MNS.

Defending Mr. Amit Thackeray, MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar said: "We have been holding the Deepotsav here for many years. This has no connection with Amit Thackeray's campaign. The Shiv Sena (UBT) is objecting to a Hindu festival as it has stopped following the Hindu ideology. They must now officially change their religion."

In Soren's Jharkhand, Hindus are becoming outsiders, says Sarma

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday lashed out at Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren for being engaged in selective hospitality. He challenged Mr. Soren to push back Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Jharkhand Congress in-charge from the State, and then he would also leave.

His statement has come amid the political debate over the entries of many BJP leaders in Jharkhand. Mr. Soren has raised this issue several times calling them outsiders during public meetings.

While speaking in Garhwa, Mr. Sarma said, "Is a green card given to a particular community? First Mir [Ghulam Ahmad Mir] should be pushed back, and then you push me as well." "You cannot run this country by appeasing a particular community," he added. "Today, Hindus have become outsiders. Ir-



fan Ansari and Alamgir Alam are not outsiders but Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Himanta Biswa Sarma have become outsiders. Let BJP form the government, we will legally throw out all the Bangladeshi infiltrators from Jharkhand," Mr. Sarma said.

Meanwhile, BSP candidate from Hussainabad, Kushwaha Shivpujan Meh-ta lodged a complaint against Mr. Sarma accusing him of creating communal tension.

Mr. Sarma had said in a public meeting that Hussainabad would be made a district, but its name would be changed if the BJP was voted to power.

INBRIEF



Rajesh Kumar Singh takes charge as Defence Secretary

Rajesh Kumar Singh took over as Defence Secretary at South Block, New Delhi, on Friday. He took over from the incumbent, Giridhar Aramane, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre who retired from service on Thursday after a two-year stint. Before taking charge, Mr. Singh laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. He is a 1989-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre, and had assumed the charge as Officer on Special Duty (Defence Secretary-designate) on August 20. Earlier, Mr. Singh was holding the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry.

Noted fashion designer Rohit Bal, passes away at 63

Rohit Bal, one of India's most celebrated fashion designers, died on Friday at a south Delhi hospital following a heart attack, Fashion Design Council of India president Sunil Sethi said. He was 63. Mr. Bal was admitted to the intensive care unit of a private hospital in Gurugram for cardiac issues in December 2023. In October 2024, he presented his collection at the Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI 2024 grand finale. "He had a cardiac arrest... heart failure. Rohit was a legend, we are completely shaken right now. We are trying to work out details for the cremation tomorrow," Mr. Sethi said.

India silent after U.S. imposes sanctions on 19 Indian entities

Officials have not commented on whether the issue had come up for discussion in a phone call between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India has not responded directly to the U.S. decision to put 19 Indian entities under sanctions for providing "dual-use" technologies to Russia.

Calling them "Third-Country Sanctions Evaders", the U.S. Treasury Department on Wednesday imposed sanctions on nearly 400 companies and individuals from 17 countries. On Friday, however, India's Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment, despite several requests for a reaction to the sanctions imposed on a number of Indian companies by the U.S. in a single action against Russia.

Officials also did not comment on whether the issue had been discussed in a phone call between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan, on Thursday.

A readout from the U.S. White House said the two advisers had discussed "regional security developments, underscoring the need for further efforts to



National Security Adviser Ajit Doval with his U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan, in New Delhi in this June 17 photo. PTI

ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific region and globally", but made no mention of the U.S. action over Russia-linked companies in India.

Closer collaboration

"They also discussed further opportunities for closer collaboration in key domains, including clean energy supply chains and defence cooperation," the readout added, highlighting "progress in the bilateral partnership", through the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) launched by them in 2023.

The Modi government has thus far not responded

the Treasury Wally Adeyemo, said, announcing the sanctions.

The call between the two NSAs, which followed the announcement, came days after India and China announced they had disengaged in the last two pending friction points on the Line of Actual Control, indicating a thaw in ties after four years of a military stand-off. The NSAs spoke amid escalating tensions between India and Canada over the Nijjar killing case, and recent accusations that Home Minister Amit Shah had directed the killing of the Canadian Khalistani activist last year.

When asked, the U.S. State Department spokesperson said the allegations, made by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner as well as the Deputy Foreign Minister in public comments, were "concerning", and the U.S. government would "continue to consult with the Canadian government about those allegations". The Ministry of External Affairs has thus far not commented on the latest allegations from Canada or the U.S. statement of "concern".

"The United States and our allies will continue to take decisive action across the globe to stop the flow of critical tools and technologies that Russia needs to wage its illegal and immoral war against Ukraine," Deputy Secretary of

Delhi, Bengaluru firms among those facing sanctions

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

From the neighbourhoods of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh to Bengaluru and Hyderabad, the individuals and entities facing Russia-related sanctions by the U.S. Treasury Department are scattered across the country.

An initial assessment reveals that nearly all the entities are well-established companies in their respective domains. They are active in areas such as providing airport support to small and large aircraft and helicopters, spare parts for machines, production of machine tools, IT support, commodities trade and business consultancy service providers. They are suspected of providing dual use goods that are in the Common High Priority List of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The two individuals who appear in the list are Sudhir Kumar from New Delhi and Vivek Kumar Mishra from Chhattisgarh. As per the website LinkedIn, both are directors in Ascend Aviation.

According to its website, the company deals with a wide range of aircraft-related consumables, ground

support, and spare parts. Another company, Denvas Services Private Ltd. of Delhi, has been accused of being run by several Russian nationals "involved in defence procurement schemes". The U.S. Treasury Department has said that it has been used by Russia to procure "U.S. origin" microelectronics for use in its advanced conventional weapons.

The Bengaluru-based Emssystech has been accused of sending over 800 shipments of electronic integrated circuits and capacitors made with precious metal tantalum to a Russian entity that is active in producing control systems and radio-electronic items.

The Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machines Ltd., a machine tools manufacturer, has been accused of collaborating with a Russian defence agent, Alikhanov or Dimitri Vladimirovich Alikhanov.

The Gurugram-based Innovio Ventures has been accused of sending "over 200 shipments, including electronic integrated circuits and multilayer ceramic capacitors to Russia-based end-users" that included Russian military entity Testkomplekt.

India spells out finance needs for biodiversity, conservation

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India expects to spend around ₹81,664 crore on biodiversity and conservation from the financial year 2025 to 2030. From 2018 to 2022, India spent ₹32,207 crore, and to meet the higher financing requirements would require funds from sources beyond routine government expenditure, the country stated in its updated submission at the ongoing 16th edition of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Colombia (COP16).

The expenditure from 2018 to 2022 was purely that expended by the Centre as allocations to various Ministries or statutory bodies for the conservation and biodiversity-linked programmes.

Indian officials at the conference said international finance would be necessary to meet these goals. "I would like to men-



Indian officials at the conference said that lot of ground needs have to be covered for the implementation of NBSAP. AFP

tion that it is necessary to provide means of implementation, including financial resources, as laid down in target 19 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) as well as from Digital Sequence Information (DSI), for implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP)," Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State (Environment), said at the convention. "Lot of ground needs to be covered in providing easily accessible means of imple-

mentation, i.e. financial resources, technology and capacity building needs with the requisite speed, scope and scale."

The KMGBF refers to biodiversity goals previously agreed upon by countries to reverse and stop biodiversity loss by 2030.

The DSI is one of the agreements currently being debated upon by countries in Colombia and deals with equitably sharing the benefits from uploading genetic data of organisms in global databases.

Sickness, infirmity are grounds for bail in PMLA case, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has highlighted that sickness and infirmity of an accused are grounds for bail even under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, in a recent order, highlighted the leeway given to an ailing accused under the anti-money laundering law while allowing interim bail to Amar Sadhuram Mulchandani, former Chairperson of Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank.

The proviso to Section 45(1) of the PMLA specifically contemplates that a person who "is sick or infirm" may be released on bail if the Special Court so directs.

Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Launder-

ing Act, 2002 or PMLA covers bail. Clause (1) of Section 45 is stringent — the accused would get bail only if the court was satisfied there were reasonable grounds for believing they were not guilty. Further, the court should be satisfied that the accused would not commit any offence while out on bail. These twin conditions make getting bail in the PMLA cases an almost impossible task.

However, the proviso to clause (1) of Section 45 allows courts the discretion to exempt persons below 16 years of age, women, the sick or the infirm from these dual conditions for bail, providing humane relief.

In the current case, the court noted that Mr. Mulchandani was 67 years old and had already spent nearly a year and three months in custody.

Man 'behind' hoax threats surrenders in Nagpur: police

Press Trust of India
NAGPUR

A 35-year-old man who was allegedly behind a series of hoax bomb threats to airports and railway stations across the country has been arrested after he presented himself before the Nagpur Police, an official said on Friday.

Jagdish Shriam Uikey, resident of Arjuni Morgaon in Gondia district of eastern Maharashtra, arrived in Nagpur by flight after the city police sent him a notice seeking his presence for probe, and surrendered on Thursday evening, he said.

Mr. Uikey operated from Delhi, the official said. An email allegedly sent by him to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and railway police authorities on October 21 had led to increased security measures at railway stations too.

Naga group urges Centre to finalise peace deal this year

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) said on Thursday that the Union government should finalise the Naga peace pact according to the terms of the agreement signed with the group in 2019, the provisions of which include a separate page in the Indian passport for the Nagas and a bicameral legislature in Nagaland.

The NNPG said the political solution reached with the Union government fully recognised the Naga identity, with a separate page in the Indian passport, a separate contingent of Nagas in all international events, and an enhanced representation in both Houses of Parliament.

The NNPG, which is the second group after the influential Isak-Muivah faction of the National Social-

The NNPG is the second group to engage in peace talks with the Centre

ist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) to engage in peace talks with the Union government, signed an "Agreed Position" on October 31, 2019, with the then Naga interlocutor, R.N. Ravi, currently Tamil Nadu's Governor.

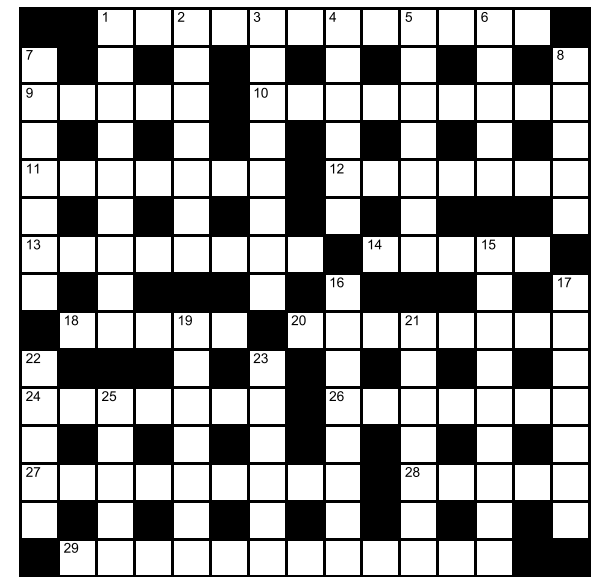
"The NNPG hopes that the Government of India will complete the signing of the agreement in 2024 itself," a statement by the NNPG, which comprises seven groups, said.

It said the 'Agreed Position' had the status of an "intergovernmental agreement" as the NNPG working committee had signed it with Mr. Ravi, who was holding a Cabinet rank in the government.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14320
(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>

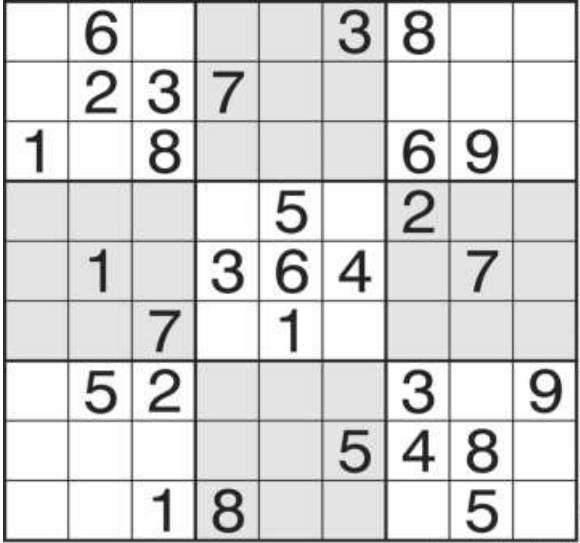
SCAN TO PLAY



- 14 Saint remains with mass (5)
- 18 A sailor's back bone (5)
- 20 Bad choice to accommodate sailors near a road built along a cliff (8)
- 24 Answer, [6-10] + 9. Extremely stupid! (7)
- 26 Compounds found primarily inhabiting near a few rivers' banks (7)
- 27 Spooner's dark bird, it's closely connected (5-4)
- 28 Suffer from hot dog (5)
- 29 How athletes struggle with selectors primarily to outshine other performers? (5,3,4)
- Down
- 1 Cast irons used for breakfast item (9)
- 2 Very active time without money and pride (2,3,2)
- 3 He deliberately wrecks boat at sea in criminal ruse (8)
- 4 Distressing experience of motor dealer (6)
- 5 Manicurist's accessories in essential treatment eliminate side effects basically (4,3)
- 6 Index number finally depends on state essentially (5)
- 7 Danger mixing drug in Molotov cocktail (7)
- 8 Abandon dens, I mean (5)
- 15 Reportedly lay off revolutionary to intimidate an institution that is immune to criticism (6,3)
- 16 Lazy person is very drunk, let out after party (2,6)
- 17 Earl's daughter and son in drill getting problem on skin (7)
- 19 From the inside of Rome, atabrin is produced (2,5)
- 21 Ancient artefact disfigured in hotel (7)
- 22 One enthralled by crazy incentives (5)
- 23 Money returned for curdling substance (6)
- 25 Girl breaks into salad bar (5)

- Across
- 1 Race from ill-tempered Ukraine maybe (5-7)
- 9 Sleeping place of birds basically too small to move (5)
- 10 Fickle mind to enter into bar for summer drink (9)
- 11 Watson is confused about drug that is elementary (2,5)
- 12 Make off with bachelor in a moment leaving parents heartily (7)
- 13 Face rascal without fear ultimately in conference (8)

SUDOKU



Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Garuda, essence of Vedas

Life is always inlaid with happiness and sorrow. One seeks material wealth only to realise one cannot enjoy many things money can buy because one's health does not permit it. One should not measure happiness by sensory gratification or by the end of one's worldly troubles; true happiness lies in working towards and attaining liberation. Vaikuntam (constantly being in the presence of *Perumal*, like the *nityasuris*) and serving the Lord is true happiness.

How does one attain such a state? *Perumal* is the *paramporul* (Supreme Being) but our senses cannot perceive this. We can learn about Him only through the Vedas, and the personification of Vedas is Garuda, said Velukkudi Ranganathan in a discourse.

Referred to as *Periya Tiruvadi* (as he carries *Perumal* on his shoulder), Garuda is a devotee, friend, the vehicle, the seat, the dhvaja (flag, meaning whoever comes under it will be offered protection), protective cloak and also serves as a fan. He serves the Lord in every situation, showing bhaktas the way forward to serve Him, who is always fond of His devotees and will not brook anyone treating them with disfavour, as Duryodhana did. When Krishna chose to partake of Vidhura's hospitality, rather than Duroydhana's, the Lord stated that as per sastras, one cannot eat in an enemy's house. The Kaurava prince replied, "There is no enmity between us." To this, Krishna said, "Not directly. However, you hate the Pandavas, who are my bhaktas. How can I overlook that?" Nammazhwar too says God will protect His devotees. It is Garuda who brings *Perumal* tirelessly whenever bhaktas call him. It is Vishnu Himself who asked Garuda to be His vehicle.

MASTUNG
Five children among 7 killed in Pak. polio vaccine drive bombing



A bombing near a girls' school in western Pakistan killed seven persons, including five children, in an attack targeting police guarding polio vaccinators on Friday. "The police van that came under attack was taking personnel for the protection of polio staff," a senior police officer said. AFP

GABORONE
Botswana votes out ruling BDP party after 58 years in power



Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi (in picture) conceded defeat in polls after his Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) lost by a landslide after 58 years in power. The president-elect is Duma Boko, leader of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) coalition which passed the 31-seat threshold in parliament. REUTERS

TOKYO
Japan and EU announce new security and defence deals



Japan and the EU announced new security and defence ties in Tokyo. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya unveiled the pact to develop cooperation on joint military drills, the exchange of information related to the defence industry, and space security. AFP

PAIPORTA
Death toll in Spain floods surpass 200 as more troops join rescue



Rescuers raised the toll in Spain's worst floods for a generation to 205 as officials deployed more troops to search for survivors. The hardest-hit region is Valencia which recorded 491 mm of rain in just eight hours on Tuesday. The government is deploying an extra 500 troops to the stricken areas to bolster the 1,200 already on site. AFP

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 60, U.S.-led truce talks hobble

Dozens more injured in attacks on regions in the central part of coastal enclave; Lebanon PM accuses Israel of 'stubbornness' in negotiations; Netanyahu says his priority is to enforce security

Reuters
CAIRO/BEIRUT

Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip killed more than 60 Palestinians in the past 24 hours, medics said, and Israel also bombarded Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday as a U.S.-led diplomatic push to end the fighting struggled to move forward.

Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati accused Israel of "stubbornness" in negotiations, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his priority was to enforce security "despite any pressure or constraints".



Dystopian city: Smoke rising in the adjacent areas of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip following an Israeli strike on Friday. AFP

Israel has pressed on with its military offensives against Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in Lebanon despite efforts by

about 60 people were killed and dozens more injured overnight and into Friday morning in Israeli strikes on the city of Deir Al-Balah, the Nuseirat camp and the town of Al-Zawayda all in the central area of the Palestinian coastal enclave, as well as in the south.

Israel also pummeled Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday morning with at least 10 strikes.

The strikes came after Israel issued evacuation orders for 10 separate neighbourhoods.

The attacks began before the final series of orders were published.



U.S., Moscow on 'brink' of direct conflict, Lavrov warns

Agence France-Presse
ANKARA

The United States and Russia are very close to engaging in "direct military conflict," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned in an interview published on Friday in a Turkish daily, just days ahead of a U.S. presidential election.

"Under the current president (Joe Biden), who has taken the downward spiral of Russophobia in the U.S. to its logical conclusion, our countries are on the brink of direct military conflict," he told the *Hurriyet* daily, without elaborating.

Asked about next week's U.S. election pitting former Republican President Donald Trump against Democratic nominee and Vice-President Kamala Harris, Mr. Lavrov said the outcome would make little difference to Russia.

No preference
"We have no preference. When the Trump administration was in power, it adopted the highest number of anti-Russian sanctions compared to its predecessors," he said.

"No matter who wins the elections, we don't think the United States' anti-Russian bent can change."

North Korea vows to stand by Russia until 'victory' in Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

North Korea will stand by Russia until its victory in Ukraine, Pyongyang's Foreign Minister said in Moscow on Friday, as the U.S. has warned thousands of North Korean troops could be sent to combat in the Ukraine conflict in the

coming days.

North Korea's Choe Son Hui was in Moscow as the West believes up to 10,000 North Korean troops are training in Russia and are on the brink of entering the more than two-year conflict on Russian troops' side.

She also vowed that North Korea will continue

to develop its nuclear arsenal, with Pyongyang widely suspected of wanting nuclear technology from Russia in exchange for military support.

Neither country has denied the troop deployment reports, with Ms. Son Hui and Mr. Lavrov also not mentioning them in their statements after their talks.

Hindus in Bangladesh rally seeking protection

Associated Press
DHAKA

Tens of thousands of minority Hindus rallied on Friday to demand that the interim government in Muslim-majority Bangladesh protect them from a wave of attacks and harassment and drop sedition cases against Hindu community leaders.

About 30,000 Hindus demonstrated at a major intersection in Chattogram chanting slogans demanding their rights while police and soldiers guarded the area. Other protests were reported elsewhere in the country.

Hindu groups say thousands of attacks against Hindus have happened since early August when the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was overthrown and Ms. Hasina fled the country following a student-led uprising.

The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council has said that there have been more than 2,000 attacks on Hindus since August 4, as the interim government has struggled to restore order.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George
WASHINGTON DC

With the result all set to go down to the wire, the focus of Democrat Kamala Harris in the last week of the presidential poll campaign is on getting sceptics within the camp to get out and vote. Her key allies in this pursuit are former President Barack Obama and independent Senator Bernie Sanders who have made repeated pleas to social groups that traditionally supported the Democrats but are unenthused about voting for Ms. Harris.

More than 60 million votes have already been cast as of Thursday. Voting concludes on November 5. Ms. Harris and her Republican opponent Donald J. Trump are urging the rest not to miss voting, but hesitant supporters may be more a concern for the former than the latter.

Ms. Harris has attempted to stitch together a coalition of extremes – from socialists to neocons and sections of everyone in between. Proponents of many contradictory strands agree that a second presidency of Republican Donald Trump would be far worse for all of them



than having Ms. Harris at the top. Key issues that confuse the Democratic base are the party's, and specifically the candidate's, approach towards Israel, the working class and corporate interests. Opinion polls suggested discontent among African Americans and Latinos too – communities that Democratic strategists have traditionally taken for granted.

Independent Senator Bernie Sanders addressed young voters, the working class, Israel critics and Palestinian supporters who are sceptical about Ms. Harris in recent days with the specific warning – "Donald Trump and his right-wing friends are worse."

Mr. Sanders had one message to his supporters – Ms. Harris may not be the best on the question of unrestrained support for Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's expand-

ing war in West Asia and on working-class rights vis a vis corporation, but she is better than Mr. Trump.

By acknowledging the grievance of the party's own base, Mr. Sanders is deviating from the official campaign tone of euphoria, to win over the disgruntled sections back.

In his latest message, Mr. Obama addressed Black men yet again. "As we enter the final moments of the campaign, President Obama reminds us that you are the most credible messengers," campaign group Win With Black Men posted along with a video message from the former President. Mr. Obama had publicly noted a lack of enthusiasm among African American men and linked that to Ms. Harris being a woman.

Neither Mr. Trump nor Ms. Harris has been able to frame the contest around their most favourable question, immigration and abortion, respectively. Ms. Harris has a bevy of Republicans, particularly neocons, rooting for her, but their impact on the electorate is unlikely to be significant. What could be consequential will be her ability to hold the Democratic camp together and active in the last lap, in swing States.

Trump and Harris extend Deepavali greetings

Varghese K. George
WASHINGTON DC

The U.S. presidential candidates, Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris, extended Deepavali wishes to all, with the former also promising to "protect Hindu Americans against the anti-religion agenda of the radical left".

Mr. Trump termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "good friend," accused Ms. Harris and President Joe Biden of ignoring the Hindus and condemned the violence in Bangladesh. "...strongly condemn the barbaric violence against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities who are getting attacked and looted by mobs in Bangladesh, which remains in a total state of chaos," Mr. Trump said in a post on social media.

A shorter message from Ms. Harris said: "Tonight, we join more than 1 billion people across America and around the world lighting diyas and celebrating the fight for good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and light over darkness...Happy Diwali to everyone celebrating the Festival of Lights." In the evening the Vice President also posted a photo of her residence lit for the occasion.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT, BHUBANESWAR.
Plot No.A 8/2, Bhojnagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail : cemlpwr.od@gmail.com

Government of Odisha - "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 04ML/2024-25

On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha

- Name of Work :** Operation and Maintenance of existing 15 nos. schemes with intake points in Tel Basin having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift Cluster-XV in the districts of Sonepur, Boudh & Bolangir comprising all electro-mechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPL covering culturable command area of 20404.69 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 15 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electro-mechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of 10 years on "Turn-key basis".
- O & M Period :** 120 (One hundred twenty) calendar months.
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal :** 08.11.2024, 10 A.M.
- Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :** 07.12.2024 up to 5.00 P.M
- Name & address of the officer inviting Bid :** Chief Engineer, Megalift A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Pin -751022

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Chief Engineer, Megalift, Bhubaneswar.
OIPR-32504/11/0006/2425

A-490:

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK.
Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice No.ACE, EC-I/05 of 2024-25

1. Name of Work	:	Construction of Cement concrete lining of Pundalo Branch Canal from RD 7.25 Km to RD 14.00 Km Bid identification No.ACE, EC-I MND 06 of 2024-25
2. Total No. of Work	:	1 (One) No. work
3. Tender Paper Cost (Online) (Non-refundable)	:	Rs.10,000.00 (Ten thousand)

4. Bid details are as follows

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Tender Cost (Rs.in Lakh) (Approx.)	EMD (On-line) (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
						From	To
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack	ACE, EC-I MND 06 of 2024-25	787.55	7,87,600.00	'A' & 'Special'	12 (Twelve) Calendar months	07.11.2024 at 10.00 hrs.	21.11.2024 upto 17.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.
OIPR-32370/11/0007/2425

A-497:

KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Quotation Notice

KIIDC invited sealed super scribed quotation for the Supply of PET Preforms 13.5, 19.5, 27, 32 gms for Packaged drinking water bottles at our plants in Kerala.

Details available in **www.kiidc.kerala.gov.in**, Managing Director

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
242513 004118	Procurement of Personal Computer core i3 processor	14.11.2024
242523 002580	Supply of Refiners for Tissue Paper Machine (TM#5) at TNPL Unit-II.	20.11.2024

Email : 242513004118 - purchase.inst@tnpl.co.in
242523002580 - pmd5@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com** / **https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/4647/Tender/2024 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, Fax No. 0471-2945647)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in, website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in
CIN : U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/Projects/1094/2016 **Date : 28.10.2024**

E - TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited for the CAMC of Ac units at various DDWH's

Sl. No.	Tender reference	Description	Estimated Cost Rs.	EMD Rs.	Tender Cost (Rs.) (Inclusive of GST)
1.	KMSCL/PROJECTS/ET/02/2024	CAMC of Split AC units at various DDWH's	2,80,000	7,000	560

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**. Last Date 12.11.2024
(Sd/-) **Managing Director** (Tender Inviting Authority)

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in, website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/18/2024 **Date : 01.11.2024**

RE- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the Procurement of Drugs for De-addiction Centers for the year 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/De-addiction Drugs/RT/2024/023 dtd.01.11.2024	De-addiction Drugs	04

The last date and time of online uploading of tender will be 15.11.2024, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 19.11.2024 11.30 am. Tender shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**. (Sd/-) **MANAGING DIRECTOR** (Tender Inviting Authority)

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT											FORM-C NOTIFICATION (Under Section 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given) (See rule 6(12)) No. G2/3491/2024 Gazette No. RR-5 Whereas it appears to the Collector, Rangareddy District that a total of Ac. 449.27 Cents. , of land is required in the Kongarakurh-A Village of Maheshwaram Mandal, Ferozgauda & Kongarakal Villages of Ibrahimpatnam Mandal, Lemor, Rachlor, Thinnapur, Gummadevely, Panjaguda and Meerhanpet Villages of Kandukur Mandal, Rangareddy District for public purpose, namely, for 6 lane 300 Feet Road from Skill Development University to ORR Exit No. 13. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Kongarakurh-A Village of Maheshwaram Mandal, Ferozgauda & Kongarakal Villages of Ibrahimpatnam Mandal, Lemor, Rachlor, Thinnapur, Gummadevely, Panjaguda and Meerhanpet Villages of Kandukur Mandal, Ranga Reddy District an extent of land measuring, more or less Ac. 449.27 cents , whose detail description is as follows is under acquisition.											SCHEDULE FEROZGAUDA VILLAGE Dist: Ranga Reddy Mandal: Ibrahimpatnam Boundaries Tres Struc es Remarks										
Sl. No.	Sy.No	Type of title	Type of Land Acquisition (in acres)	Name & Address of the person interested	E	N	S	W	V	Remarks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12										
1	84a/1	Patta	Dry/Wet	Nomula Suresh Babu (Male)	346	VB	349	300																								
2	84a/2	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Dharathra (Male)	346	VB	349	300																								
3	84a/3	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Dharathra (Male)	346	VB	349	300																								
4	84a/4	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Dharathra (Male)	346	VB	349	300																								
5	84a/5	Patta	Dry/Wet	Srinu Godasu (Male)	346	VB	349	300																								
6	84a/6	Patta	Dry/Wet	Srinu Godasu (Male)	346	VB	349	300																								
7	84a/7	Patta	Dry/Wet	Sathamma Mala (Peddappa)	346	VB	349	300																								
8	84a/8	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Narahari (Muthyala)	346	VB	349	300																								
9	84a/9	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Narahari (Muthyala)	346	VB	349	300																								
10	84a/10	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Subbarao (Muthyala)	346	VB	349	300																								
11	84a/11	Patta	Dry/Wet	Nomula Sathya Narayana (Muthyala)	346	VB	349	300																								
12	84a/12	Patta	Dry/Wet	Mala Anjaneyulu (Gorathala)	346	VB	349	300																								
13	84a/13	Patta	Dry/Wet	Nomula Andolu (Anjalaiah)	346	VB	349	300																								
14	84a/14	Patta	Dry/Wet	Yadagir Narasimha Reddy (J. Damodara Reddy)	346	VB	349	300																								
15	84a/15	Patta	Dry/Wet	Yadagir Narasimha Reddy (J. Damodara Reddy)	346	VB	349	300																								
16	84a/16	Patta	Dry/Wet	B. Ramaswamy (Kishanappa)	346	VB	349	300																								
17	84a/17	Patta	Dry/Wet	B. Praveen Rama Swamy (Rama Swamy)	346	VB	349	300																								
18	84a/18	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Praveen Rama Swamy (Rama Swamy)	346	VB	349	300																								
19	84a/19	Patta	Dry/Wet	B. Reddy Anura (Rama Krishna Reddy)	346	VB	349	300																								
20	84a/20	Patta	Dry/Wet	B. Reddy Anura (Rama Krishna Reddy)	346	VB	349	300																								
21	84a/21	Patta	Dry/Wet	Satyanarayana Reddy (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
22	84a/22	Patta	Dry/Wet	Valle Shankar (Eshwarayya)	346	VB	349	300																								
23	84a/23	Patta	Dry/Wet	J. Deepa (Srinivas Reddy)	346	VB	349	300																								
24	84a/24	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
25	84a/25	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
26	84a/26	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
27	84a/27	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
28	84a/28	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
29	84a/29	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
30	84a/30	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
31	84a/31	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
32	84a/32	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
33	84a/33	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
34	84a/34	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
35	84a/35	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
36	84a/36	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
37	84a/37	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
38	84a/38	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
39	84a/39	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
40	84a/40	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
41	84a/41	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
42	84a/42	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
43	84a/43	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
44	84a/44	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
45	84a/45	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
46	84a/46	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
47	84a/47	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
48	84a/48	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
49	84a/49	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
50	84a/50	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
51	84a/51	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
52	84a/52	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
53	84a/53	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
54	84a/54	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
55	84a/55	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
56	84a/56	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
57	84a/57	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
58	84a/58	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
59	84a/59	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
60	84a/60	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
61	84a/61	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
62	84a/62	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
63	84a/63	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
64	84a/64	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
65	84a/65	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
66	84a/66	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
67	84a/67	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
68	84a/68	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
69	84a/69	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
70	84a/70	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
71	84a/71	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
72	84a/72	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
73	84a/73	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
74	84a/74	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
75	84a/75	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
76	84a/76	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
77	84a/77	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
78	84a/78	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
79	84a/79	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
80	84a/80	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
81	84a/81	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
82	84a/82	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
83	84a/83	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
84	84a/84	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
85	84a/85	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300																								
86	84a/86	Patta	Dry/Wet	Godasu Vinod Kumar (Late Lakshmi Das)	346	VB	349	300											</													

Continued on Page 17

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▲ 10/10/15

195	566	Patla	Dry	S/o Kamal Anji Reddy	513	VB	VB	571	259	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Indira Vasu Prakash Jani	530	526	528	525	75	244	Patla	Dry	Dantho Venu Murthy S/o	247	247	237	247	116	346	Patla	Dry	S/o Ramawathi Ammya	355	349	252	347	189	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
196	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran Narasima W/o	514	VB	VB	572	260	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Vijay Kumar	530	526	528	525	76	243	Patla	Dry	2.01	242	244	237	247	117	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan Kalyan	355	349	252	347	190	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
197	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran Malla Reddy	515	VB	VB	573	261	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Alluri Sujatha (Kavikondala Stram)	530	526	528	525	77	243	Patla	Dry	2.01	242	244	237	247	118	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan Kalyan	355	349	252	347	191	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
198	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	516	VB	VB	574	262	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Konijeti Raman (KMS Srinivas)	530	526	528	525	78	243	Patla	Dry	2.01	242	244	237	247	119	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Shankar S/o	355	349	252	347	192	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
199	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	516	VB	VB	574	263	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Goutham Edula (Rajeev Srinivas Reddy)	530	526	528	525	79	243	Patla	Dry	2.01	242	244	237	247	120	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Shankar S/o	355	349	252	347	193	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
200	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	517	VB	VB	575	264	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Veera Bha sker Reddy (Obit Reddy)	530	526	528	525	80	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	121	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	194	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
201	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	517	VB	VB	575	265	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Karun Chandra (Chandrabani Chavda)	530	526	528	525	81	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	122	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	195	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
202	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	518	VB	VB	576	266	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Karun Chandra (Chandrabani Chavda)	530	526	528	525	82	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	123	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	196	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
203	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	518	VB	VB	576	267	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Anil Kumar	530	526	528	525	83	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	124	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	197	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
204	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	519	VB	VB	577	268	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Srinama (Shivamma)	530	526	528	525	84	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	125	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	198	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
205	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	520	VB	VB	578	269	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Nagabharani Kalyan Mohan (Nagabharani Nalin Mohan)	530	526	528	525	85	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	126	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	199	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
206	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	521	VB	VB	579	270	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Aluri Anuradha (Soma Shekar)	530	526	528	525	86	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	127	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	200	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
207	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	522	VB	VB	580	271	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Ramesh Prasad	530	526	528	525	87	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	128	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	201	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
208	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	523	VB	VB	581	272	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	K. Lakshmi rasimha Reddy (Saiya Reddy)	530	526	528	525	88	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	129	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	202	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
209	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	524	VB	VB	582	273	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	B. SAKALA (B. RAMESH REDDY)	530	526	528	525	89	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	130	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	203	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
210	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	525	VB	VB	583	274	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	B. SAKALA (B. RAMESH REDDY)	530	526	528	525	90	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	131	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	204	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
211	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	526	VB	VB	584	275	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Vijaya Jyothi (Ramachandran Prakash)	530	526	528	525	91	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	132	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	205	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
212	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	527	VB	VB	585	276	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Fargam Vivant Deva Reddy (Chandrasek har Reddy)	530	526	528	525	92	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	133	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	206	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
213	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	528	VB	VB	586	277	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Golapathi Kumar	530	526	528	525	93	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	134	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	207	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
214	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	529	VB	VB	587	278	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Aluri Anuradha (Soma Shekar)	530	526	528	525	94	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	135	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	208	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
215	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	530	VB	VB	588	279	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	B. SAKALA (B. RAMESH REDDY)	530	526	528	525	95	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	136	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	209	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
216	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	531	VB	VB	589	280	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	B. SAKALA (B. RAMESH REDDY)	530	526	528	525	96	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	137	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	210	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
217	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	532	VB	VB	590	281	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Vani Gadham (Kotla Venu Madhav Reddy)	530	526	528	525	97	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	138	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	211	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
218	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	533	VB	VB	591	282	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Adapa Subba Reddy (Adapa Kotreddy)	530	526	528	525	98	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	139	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	212	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
219	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	534	VB	VB	592	283	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Nekkanti Leela Sathya prabavathi (Sathyanarayana)	530	526	528	525	99	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	140	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	213	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
220	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	535	VB	VB	593	284	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Richa Venkata (K. Rajesh Edmar Reddy)	530	526	528	525	100	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	141	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	214	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
221	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	536	VB	VB	594	285	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Kotla Madhava latha (Narasim ha Reddy)	530	526	528	525	101	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	142	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	215	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
222	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	537	VB	VB	595	286	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Y. Ravindra Reddy (Jogi Reddy)	530	526	528	525	102	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	143	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	216	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
223	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	538	VB	VB	596	287	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Amoli Yadava (Amoli Ramesh)	530	526	528	525	103	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	144	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	217	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
224	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	539	VB	VB	597	288	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Dilli Sathiah (Dilli Pulayya)	530	526	528	525	104	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	145	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	218	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
225	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	540	VB	VB	598	289	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Dilli Srinimha (Dilli Pulayya)	530	526	528	525	105	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	146	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347	219	338	Patla	Dry	Dantho S/o Brahmaiah	337	324	339	334
226	566	Patla	Dry	Kammaran W/o Subash Reddy	541	VB	VB	599	290	527	Patla	Dry	Wet	Dilli Krishna (Dilli Pulayya)	530	526	528	525	106	242	Patla	Dry	2.05	241	243	237	247	147	346	Patla	Dry	Ramawathi Pawan S/o	355	349	252	347									

[illegible]

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
(1) Auction Catalogue No- WAT-ZWR-RGDA-02	
Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-RGDA-TWNP05-19-23-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Two wheeler and other parcel packing services)	
DESCRIPTION : CONTRACT FOR PACKING OF TWO WHEELER AND OTHER PARCEL/LUGGAGE WITH OPTIONAL FACILITY OF DOOR PICK UP AND DOOR DELIVERY SERVICES AT RAYAGADA RAILWAY STATION FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.	
Lot Start Date & Time : 08.11.2024 at 11hours., Lot End Date & Time : 08.11.2024 at 1130hrs.	
(2) Auction Catalogue No- WAT-ZWR-CHE-01	
Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-CHE-TWNP05-55-24-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Two wheeler and other parcel packing services)	
DESCRIPTION : CONTRACT FOR PACKING OF TWO WHEELER AND OTHER PARCEL/LUGGAGE WITH OPTIONAL FACILITY OF DOOR PICK UP AND DOOR DELIVERY SERVICES AT SRIRAKULAM RAILWAY STATION FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.	
Lot Start Date & Time : 11.11.2024 at 11hours., Lot End Date & Time : 11.11.2024 at 1130hrs.	
(3) Auction Catalogue No- WAT-ZWR-VZM-02	
Lot No./Category: MSS-WAT-VZM-TWNP05-56-24-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Two wheeler and other parcel packing services)	
DESCRIPTION : CONTRACT FOR PACKING OF TWO WHEELER AND OTHER PARCEL/LUGGAGE WITH OPTIONAL FACILITY OF DOOR PICK UP AND DOOR DELIVERY SERVICES AT SRIKAKULAM RAILWAY STATION FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.	
Lot Start Date & Time : 13.11.2024 at 11hours., Lot End Date & Time : 13.11.2024 at 1130hrs.	
Minimum Increase : 0.2% (for all SL Nos.), Lot Status : New in Draft Catalogue (for all SL Nos.).	
Complete details available at website: www.ireps.gov.in	
Sr. Divisional Commercial Officer / PR-68(PI)/PD-24-25 Waltair	


THE HINDU GROUP

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By every ally, every prayer and every believer who willed them to succeed.

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to nominate your entries.

BIG LEAP

Jadeja leaves Zaheer and Ishant behind in India's wicket-takers' list



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Ravindra Jadeja moved to fifth in the wicket-takers' list for India in Tests, going past Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma (both 311). The left-arm spinner, after his five-for against New Zealand at Wankhede on Friday, now has 314. Anil Kumble (619), R. Ashwin (533), Kapil Dev (434) and Harbhajan Singh (417) are ahead of Jadeja.

MUMBAI MERI JAAN

Long after Gavaskar-Engineer, it is the turn of Rohit-Yashasvi



AFF

When Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal walked out in the last session, an all-Mumbai opening pair opened India's innings in a Test match at Wankhede after 49 years. Sunil Gavaskar and Farokh Engineer had done so in the first Test against the West Indies at the Big W in 1975.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

Humidity makes it tough for spinners in Mumbai Test



EMMANUAL YOGINI

When it comes to floodlit cricket, bowlers often find it difficult to grip a wet ball. On Friday, it was so humid that the spinners found it challenging to grip the ball because of wet hands. So sweaty were Ravindra Jadeja's palms that at times Virat Kohli was wiping his arms during the veteran's marathon spell on day 1 of the Mumbai Test.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

India cancels intra-squad match against India-A ahead of BGT



GETTY IMAGES

India has decided to cancel the three-day intra-squad match with its A-side, *in pic*, during the upcoming Test tour of Australia as the team management wants to focus on additional net practice. The Indians were scheduled to play a closed-door warm-up match against the Ruturaj Gaikwad-led India-A in Perth from Nov. 15 to 17.

India shoots itself in the foot after dominating most of the day

A combination of reckless batting and decision-making undoes all the good work done by Jadeja and Washington in restricting NZ to a modest 235; Jaiswal, Siraj and Kohli's dismissals see the host slip from 78 for one to 86 for four

NZ IN INDIA
Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

More than 20,000 spectators thronged the Wankhede Stadium, to celebrate the festive week by supporting the Indian Test team when it needed it the most. But as the floodlights were switched on in the dying moments, 13 minutes of mayhem dampened the celebratory mood that had prevailed for the home fans for most of the day.

Despite Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar wreaking havoc and restricting New Zealand to a moderate 235, reckless batting and decision-making at the fog end meant India found itself in a spot of bother on day one of the third and final Test.

It all started with Yashasvi Jaiswal – looking as solid as he has ever been throughout the year despite taking 16 balls to open his account – attempting a reverse-sweep off Ajaz Patel, missing it and the ball crashing on to his stumps.

No doubt the sweep and reverse-sweep have been key shots on turning pitches this series. However, with the clock ticking and Jaiswal and Shubman Gill having settled into a nice rhythm after captain Rohit Sharma fell early, the former's shot-selection was questionable.

It was then surprising to



Timber! Rachin is bowled by a beauty from Washington. EMMANUAL YOGINI

see Mohammed Siraj walk out as a nightwatcher. He lasted just one ball, caught plumb in front by one from Ajaz – who by then had settled into a rhythm – that was slower and turned slightly. To add to the debatable decision to deploy him as a nightwatcher, Siraj wasted a DRS review as well.

As if that was not enough, with five minutes remaining for the extended close, Virat Kohli attempted an ambitious single after pushing Rachin Ravindra to mid-on. Matt Henry had a direct hit and Kohli was found short of his crease. In no time was India reduced from a comfortable 78 for one to 86 for four, with a lot hinging on

the remaining batters to keep the weekend and festive mood alive on Saturday.

Until then, however, the fans had a lot to rejoice. Despite Will Young coming good and Daryl Mitchell continuing his love-affair with the Wankhede Stadium, Jadeja came into his element on a turning track. Bowling unchanged from the north end, Jadeja turned his lacklustre form in the series around.

Even though Akash Deep – in place of Jasprit Bumrah – broke the all-leftie opening combination, Rohit stuck with both his off-spinners for most of the opening period. While Washington breached through Latham's and Ra-

chin's defence, R. Ashwin went wicketless for seven overs.

Once Ashwin was replaced by Jadeja, the left-arm spinner ensured he had to be persisted with until the innings got over, with the offies alternating from the other end.

He broke the partnership between Mitchell and Young – that was threatening to take the game away – with one that spun and took the latter's edge to Rohit in the slips. He then followed it up with a quicker one that sneaked through Tom Blundell's gate.

The double strike ensured India had New Zealand in check, despite Mitchell growing in confidence. With Mitchell

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND – 1ST INNINGS

Tom Latham b Washington 28 (44b, 3x4), Devon Conway lbw b Akash 4 (11b, 1x4), Will Young c Rohit b Jadeja 71 (138b, 4x4, 2x6), Rachin Ravindra b Washington 5 (12b), Daryl Mitchell c Rohit b Washington 82 (129b, 3x4, 3x6), Tom Blundell b Jadeja 0 (3b), Glenn Phillips b Jadeja 17 (28b, 1x4), Ish Sodhi lbw b Jadeja 7 (19b, 1x4), Matt Henry b Jadeja 0 (2b), Ajaz Patel lbw b Washington 7 (16b, 1x6), William O'Rourke (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (b-1, lb-3, nb-9): 13; Total (in 65.4 overs): 235.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-15 (Conway, 3.2 overs), 2-59 (Latham, 15.6), 3-72 (Rachin, 19.6), 4-159 (Young, 44.2), 5-159 (Blundell, 44.5), 6-187 (Phillips, 52.6), 7-210 (Sodhi, 60.4), 8-210 (Henry, 60.6), 9-228 (Mitchell, 65.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 6-0-16-0, Akash 5-0-22-1, Ashwin 14-0-47-0, Washington 18.4-2-81-4, Jadeja 22-1-65-5.

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS

Yashasvi Jaiswal b Ajaz 30 (52b, 4x4), Rohit Sharma c Latham b Henry 18 (18b, 3x4), Shubman Gill (batting) 31 (38b, 2x4, 1x6), Mohammed Siraj lbw b Ajaz 0 (1b), Virat Kohli run out 4 (6b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant (batting) 1 (1b); Extras (nb-2): 2; Total (for four wkts. in 19 overs): 86.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-25 (Rohit, 6.5), 2-78 (Jaiswal, 17.2), 3-78 (Siraj, 17.3), 4-84 (Kohli, 18.3).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Henry 5-1-15-1, O'Rourke 2-1-5-0, Ajaz 7-1-33-2, Phillips 4-0-25-0, Rachin 1-0-8-0.

Toss: New Zealand.

Santner being replaced by Ish Sodhi, Mitchell had to bat with a long tail that couldn't negotiate the challenging conditions.

The same jersey

The players retained by their franchises ahead of the player auction to be held later this month.



FILE PHOTO

Delhi Capitals

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Axar Patel	16.50
Kuldeep Yadav	13.25
Tristan Stubbs	10.00
Abhishek Porel	4.00

Players retained	4
Overseas Players	1
Uncapped Players	1
Money spent	43.75
Deduction	47.00
Purse remaining	73.00
RTM remaining	2

Lucknow Super Giants

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Nicholas Pooran	21.00
Ravi Bishnoi	11.00
Mayank Yadav	11.00
Mohsin Khan	4.00
Ayush Badoni	4.00

Players retained	5
Overseas Players	1
Uncapped Players	2
Money spent	51.00
Deduction	51.00
Purse remaining	69.00
RTM remaining	1

Rajasthan Royals

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Sanju Samson	18.00
Yashasvi Jaiswal	18.00
Riyan Parag	14.00
Dhruv Jurel	14.00
Shimron Hetmyer	11.00
Sandeep Sharma	4.00

Players retained	6
Overseas Players	1
Uncapped Players	1
Money spent	79.00
Deduction	79.00
Purse remaining	41.00
RTM remaining	0

Gujarat Titans

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Rashid Khan	18.00
Shubman Gill	16.50
Sai Sudharsan	8.50
Rahul Tewatia	4.00
Shahrukh Khan	4.00

Players retained	5
Overseas Players	1
Uncapped Players	2
Money spent	51.00
Deduction	51.00
Purse remaining	69.00
RTM remaining	1

Mumbai Indians

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Jasprit Bumrah	18.00
Suryakumar Yadav	16.35
Hardik Pandya	16.35
Rohit Sharma	16.30
Tilak Verma	8.00

Players retained	5
Overseas Players	0
Uncapped Players	0
Money spent	75.00
Deduction	75.00
Purse remaining	45.00
RTM remaining	1

Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Virat Kohli	21.00
Rajat Patidar	11.00
Yash Dayal	5.00

Players retained	3
Overseas Players	0
Uncapped Players	1
Money spent	37.00
Deduction	37.00
Purse remaining	83.00
RTM remaining	3

Note: Total Purse for each franchise: ₹120crore; RTM: Right To Match

* A franchise will lose a minimum of 18, 14 and 11 crore for the first three capped players irrespective of their salaries

Chennai Super Kings

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Ruturaj Gaikwad	18.00
Matheesha Pathirana	13.00
Shivam Dube	12.00
Ravindra Jadeja	18.00
M.S. Dhoni	4.00

Players retained	5
Overseas Players	1
Uncapped Players	1
Money spent	65.00
Deduction	65.00
Purse remaining	55.00
RTM remaining	1

Kolkata Knight Riders

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Rinku Singh	13.00
Varun Chakravarthy	12.00
Sunil Narine	12.00
Andre Russell	12.00
Harshit Rana	4.00
Ramandeep Singh	4.00

Players retained	6
Overseas Players	2
Uncapped Players	2
Money spent	57.00
Deduction	69.00
Purse remaining	51.00
RTM remaining	0

Sunrisers Hyderabad

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Pat Cummins	18.00
Abhishek Sharma	14.00
Nitish Kumar Reddy	6.00
Heinrich Klaasen	23.00
Travis Head	14.00

Players retained	5
Overseas Players	3
Uncapped Players	0
Money spent	75.00
Deduction	75.00
Purse remaining	45.00
RTM remaining	1

Punjab Kings

Player	Amount (in cr.)
Shashank Singh	5.50
Prabhsimran Singh	4.00

Players retained	2
Overseas Players	0
Uncapped Players	2
Money spent	9.50
Deduction	9.50
Purse remaining	110.50
RTM remaining	4

'I did not want to lose a single Test series at home'

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Ravindra Jadeja finds himself in an uncharted territory. Not when it comes to flummoxing the opposition batters with his accurate spin bowling but because of a series lost at home.

In India's last series loss at home prior to this, Jadeja – a rookie – had featured in a solitary Test. No wonder then that despite picking his 14th five-wicket haul – 12th at home – Jadeja had something to rue.

"I was scared of this. I didn't want to lose a single series in India until I played, but it has happened. Whatever I think about, it happens suddenly," Jadeja said after the opening day's play of the third Test against New Zealand here on Friday.

"We have raised our expectations so high that we



Learning curve: Jadeja feels the team has to take the positives from the series loss against New Zealand. EMMANUAL YOGINI

have not lost a single series for 12 years. In that time, I have been involved in only five losses at home. As a team, it is a lesson. We need to pick up positives from this."

While Jadeja admitted that there was little time to process the batting meltdown towards the end of the day, stating "it all happened too quickly" he agreed that the state of

mind of the players perhaps reflected in their decision-making.

"When you are down in the series and such a situation comes up, you panic and make a mistake," Jadeja said. "But when you keep winning and are ahead 2-0, everyone says, 'it's okay, it happens'. When you are down in the series, even a small thing seems big."

Zverev beats Tsitsipas, runs into Rune next

PARIS MASTERS
Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Germany's Alexander Zverev beat fierce rival Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Paris Masters on Friday.

The World No. 3 – the highest-ranked player left in the draw – will face the 2022 champion Holger Rune in Saturday's semifinal after the Dane edged Alex de Minaur 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

On Thursday, World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz admitted he "was not up to the level" of 18th-ranked Ugo Humbert of France, who swept to a shock third round victory over the Spanish superstar.

Left-handed Humbert came through 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 to register his first win over the French Open and Wimbledon champion, having lost twice to Alcaraz earlier



Zverev. AFP

in 2024.

The results:

Quarterfinals: Zverev bt Tsitsipas 7-5, 6-4; Rune bt de Minaur 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

Third round: Rune bt Cazaux 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; de Minaur bt Draper 5-7, 6-2, 6-3; Zverev bt Fils 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Tsitsipas bt Cerundolo 6-7(1), 6-4, 6-2; Dimitrov bt Rinderknech 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(5); Khachanov bt Popyrin 7-6(5), 6-4; Thompson bt Mannarino 7-5, 7-6(5); Humbert bt Alcaraz 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.



Virat Kohli leads as a role model, as a professional sportsman he is sensational. He was one of the leaders that propelled us into the playoffs in 2024. We will be looking for his leadership again

ANDY FLOWER
RCB Head Coach



We're only going in with two uncapped players and we're going into the auction with the biggest purse by a long way. So, we've got the ability to put a whole squad of players together

RICKY PONTING
PBKS Head Coach



As we go into this new cycle, we have gone with this core of players who we believe bring something unique to this team, all being in different but exciting stages of their careers

RAHUL DRAVID
RR Head Coach

We wanted to retain our core group and we have done that. We are confident of assembling a good squad with the purse we have for the next few years

K.S. VISWANATHAN, CSK CEO

Gukesh brooks no complacency as he readies forces for World title assault

The 18-year-old has an opportunity to become the youngest World chess champion, with many observers – including several top players – expecting him to defeat Ding Liren. But Gukesh isn't taking the Chinese defending champion, whom he is yet to beat in a classical game, lightly

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Not often does a teenaged challenger start as the overwhelming favourite against the experienced champion. D. Gukesh is very much conscious of the fact that most people – including some of the world's top players – expect him to beat Ding Liren in the World chess championship match, which begins in Singapore on November 25.

During a recent online interaction with select media, including *The Hindu*, the 18-year-old made it clear that such expectations did not put undue pressure on him. “It doesn't really add pressure,” he said. “I am glad that people say this about me and, in general, I am happy with my form. The pressure is just playing in the World cham-

FIDE/STEV BONHAGE



There is no additional pressure because of what people are saying [about my chances]. [Ding] will come with the right spirit. My approach is to treat every game with the utmost respect and energy

GUKESH

pionship. But there is no additional pressure because of what people are saying [about my chances].”

Contrasting runs of form

People are saying so because of two factors: Gukesh enters the World title match after playing some remarkably solid chess for quite some time, including a superlative display at the Chess Olympiad, where he led India to the team gold in the most convincing of manners; Ding, on the other hand, has been in awful form and questions have been raised about his mental health.

The 32-year-old revealed that he had consulted a psychologist. “It doesn't seem like I've been playing the way I used to,” Ding said in a recent interview to Singapore's *The Straits Times*. “The assessment is correct and I don't know if I will ever reach that level again.”

He had taken a nine-month break after becoming only the second Asian to win the World chess championship last year, defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi. “I feel as per normal, the doctor has given some advice,” he said. “Recently, I have been playing basketball after dinner, trying not to give myself too much stress.”

He said he was feeling okay. “Neither good nor bad,” he elaborated. “I'm not at my lowest and have walked out of the darkness from the last one and a half years... I have moved past that now and I feel like I have been playing decent chess but have not been winning.”

If you are a fan of Ding, all of that will not make for easy reading. But it may not be wise to write him off easily.

World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura has gone on record saying that Gukesh's chances against Ding at the World championship are 80-20. World No. 1 Carlsen has said Gukesh has a significant advantage and that if he strikes first, he will win the match without trouble. The five-time World champion from Norway, whose abdication led to the crowning of Ding, believes that denying that first strike could work for the Chinese.

The World championship is a long affair, especially by today's standards. But back in 1984-85, reigning champion Anatoly Karpov took on Garry Kasparov in an all-Soviet Union battle that didn't produce a winner even after five months and 48 games. It took another 24 games in late 1985 before Kasparov began his long reign as the World champion.

That two-year-long World championship match was a classic; it was a thriller even, of the slow-burning variety. Kasparov, in the first stage of the match, was trailing 0-5, and Karpov needed only one more win. But, the younger man fought back from the brink of defeat and staged an astonishing fightback.

The games played by the two Ks from those historical matches are still savoured by fans of classical chess. The Singapore match will be of much shorter duration.

Rules of engagement

It will be played over 14 games: the player who scores 7.5 points will be crowned the champion. If the score remains 7-7, the title will be decided by tie-breakers, by playing games of shorter time controls.

GETTY IMAGES



It doesn't seem like I've been playing the way I used to. The assessment is correct and I don't know if I will ever reach that level again

DING LIREN
World champion

Most people reckon Gukesh might not need those tie-breakers. The Chennai lad, however, insists he sees it as a match against a strong player.

“And I'm sure he will be coming to the match with the right spirit and he'll be trying his best,” he said during the online chat. “My approach is to treat every game with the utmost respect and energy and give it my best.”

He said he had prepared for a possible clash with Ding at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, as India was drawn to play China in the seventh round. But, China chose to rest Ding for that match and thus the most anticipated game at the Olympiad did not happen at all. It would have

been a teaser for the World title match.

“On the rest day before the match against China, we thought it was very likely he would play but there was a slight chance that he might not want to because he lost the previous round,” said Gukesh. “I was ready for both scenarios, and it was not a huge surprise when he decided to rest that game. It doesn't make a huge difference. Obviously, it's tough for anyone to play after a loss, and it's very understandable that he didn't want to play. We already played in the Sinquefield Cup, so we got a bit of a teaser before the match.”

That game in the Sinquefield Cup had ended in a draw. It was the fifth classical game they were playing against each other. Two other games had been drawn, while Ding won twice. Yes, that means Gukesh hasn't beaten Ding yet in a classical game of chess.

In Budapest, China had fielded Wei Yi instead of Ding for the top board clash against Gukesh. The way he won that end-game, converting the small advantage he had slowly into the full point, is an excellent example of the progress Gukesh has made as a player. That was Carlsenesque.

Adding a layer

Former World No. 3 Anish Giri told *The Hindu* that Gukesh was now a different player. “He has added a solid layer to his play because he was always good at generating chances, at going for uncompromising chess but he didn't have a solid backup,” he said. “So now Gukesh is this player who has two modes. He can create a fight and try to do this sort of dogfight type thing, but he can also, if he needs a draw, shut you down. That makes him very strong.”

Gukesh's strength was very evident when he won the Candidates tournament – the qualifying event for the World title match – at Toronto earlier this year. After making it to the event at the last minute, following the Chennai Grand Masters, he played superbly to win the Candidates that featured the likes of Nakamura, Fabiano Caruana, Nepomniachtchi and compatriots R. Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi.

Gukesh had become the youngest to win the Candidates. In Singapore, he has an opportunity to become the youngest World chess champion in history – that too, by beating Kasparov's record by four years.



SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB/LENNART OOTES

STACKING UP



ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	11,420	17
2	Carlos Alcaraz	21	7,120	18
3	Alexander Zverev	27	6,805	21
4	Novak Djokovic	37	6,210	19
5	Daniil Medvedev	28	5,230	17
6	Taylor Fritz	27	4,335	21
7	Andrey Rublev	27	4,070	26
8	Casper Ruud	25	3,855	23
9	Grigor Dimitrov	33	3,740	20
10	Alex de Minaur	25	3,725	22
11	Stefanos Tsitsipas	26	3,325	23
12	Tommy Paul	27	3,180	21
13	Holger Rune	21	3,005	24
14	Hubert Hurkacz	27	2,810	21
15	Jack Draper	22	2,800	23



F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	362	7
2	Lando Norris	McLaren	315	3
3	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	291	3
4	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	251	2
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	240	2
6	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	189	2
7	George Russell	Mercedes	177	1
8	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	150	0
9	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	62	0
10	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	31	0
11	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	24	0
12	Yuki Tsunoda	RB	22	0
13	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	14	0
14	Alex Albon	Williams	12	0
15	Daniel Ricciardo	RB	12	0
16	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	9	0
17	Oliver Bearman	Haas	7	0
18	Franco Colapinto	Williams	5	0
19	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	5	0
20	Liam Lawson	RB	2	0



Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	99,315	15
2	Viktor Axelsen	93,790	13
3	Anders Antonsen	88,821	21
4	Kodai Naraoka	81,847	21
5	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	80,828	15
6	Jonatan Christie	79,537	16
7	Lee Zii Jia	77,266	19
8	Chou Tien Chen	74,477	28
9	Li Shi Feng	72,736	17
10	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	68,305	18
11	Koki Watanabe	66,964	19
12	Kenta Nishimoto	63,912	24
13	Lin Chun-Yi	62,801	25
14	Loh Kean Yew	61,333	21
15	Alex Lanier	58,230	18



Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	903	932
2	Kane Williamson	813	919
3	Yashasvi Jaiswal	790	792
4	Harry Brook	778	829
5	Steve Smith	757	947
6	Usman Khawaja	728	847
7	Saud Shakeel	724	728
8	Marnus Labuschagne	720	937
9	Kamindu Mendis	716	716
10	Rachin Ravindra	711	711

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kagiso Rabada	860	902
2	Josh Hazlewood	847	864
3	Jasprit Bumrah	846	881
4	R. Ashwin	831	904
5	Pat Cummins	820	914
6	Nathan Lyon	801	801
7	Prabath Jayasuriya	801	801
8	Ravindra Jadeja	776	899
9	Noman Ali	759	759
10	Matt Henry	743	751

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Rohit Sharma	765	882
3	Shubman Gill	763	847
4	Virat Kohli	746	909
5	Harry Tector	737	767
6	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
7	Pathum Nissanka	701	728
8	Rahmanullah Gurbaz	692	692
9	Fakhar Zaman	682	784
10	Travis Head	677	696

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	674	741
2	Rashid Khan	668	799
3	Kuldeep Yadav	665	760
4	Adam Zampa	663	698
5	Josh Hazlewood	656	727
6	Bernard Scholtz	654	659
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
8	Jasprit Bumrah	645	838
9	Mohammed Siraj	643	736
9	Trent Boult	643	775

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Travis Head	881	884
2	Suryakumar Yadav	818	910
3	Philip Salt	800	833
4	Babar Azam	755	896
5	Mohammad Rizwan	746	875
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	735	779
7	Jos Buttler	702	720
8	Pathum Nissanka	658	698
9	Brandon King	656	704
10	Josh Inglis	652	652

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	721	746
2	Gudakesh Motie	704	707
3	Maheesh Theekshana	677	684
4	Akeal Hosein	674	695
5	Rashid Khan	668	816
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	667	797
7	Adam Zampa	662	743
8	Fazalhaq Farooqi	645	692
8	Ravi Bishnoi	645	699
10	Anrich Nortje	642	695

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	103,267	13
2	Chen Yu Fei	95,182	12
3	Wang Zhi Yi	94,095	18
4	Akane Yamaguchi	81,277	12
5	Tai Tzu Ying	80,831	14
6	Carolina Marin	80,036	12
7	Han Yue	78,559	20
8	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	78,162	19
9	Aya Otori	69,357	23
10	Beiwen Zhang	63,156	19
11	Supanida Katethong	61,864	22
12	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	61,630	23
13	Tomoka Miyazaki	60,307	18
14	Kim Ga Eun	60,220	16
15	Nozomi Okuhara	60,031	17

Top Indians ▶



P.V. Sindhu
Rank 19



Malvika Bansod
Rank 34

Top Indians ▶



Sumit Nagal
Rank 84 ▼ 3 spots



Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 298 ▼ 28 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	26	9,016	20
2	Iga Swiatek	23	7,970	20
3	Coco Gauff	20	5,230	21
4	Jasmine Paolini	28	5,144	19
5	Elena Rybakina	25	4,971	19
6	Jessica Pegula	30	4,705	19
7	Qinwen Zheng	22	4,540	20
8	Emma Navarro	23	3,698	29
9	Daria Kasatkina	27	3,368	24
10	Danielle Collins	30	3,176	21
11	Anna Kalinskaya	25	2,975	22
12	Paula Badosa	26	2,908	20
13	Barbora Krejickova	28	2,814	16
14	Diana Shnaider	20	2,726	28
15	Jelena Ostapenko	27	2,588	21



Max Verstappen



Lando Norris

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	McLaren	566	5
2	Ferrari	537	5
3	Red Bull	512	7
4	Mercedes	366	3
5	Aston Martin	86	0
6	Haas	46	0
7	RB	36	0
8	Williams	17	0
9	Alpine	14	0
10	Sauber	0	0

The Mumbai all-rounder's consistent match-winning feats have catapulted him into national reckoning. Judging by the challenges he has overcome so far, as well as his clear-headed approach to cricket, the 26-year-old will be keen to test himself on India-A's tour of Australia

Two years ago, Kotian – who turned 26 last month – was in unsure territory – the kind of position that he loves to have a batter in, ball in hand.

I was one among dozens of cricketers competing to break into Mumbai's age-group teams. I had to work harder than ever before if I had to survive first, and then succeed

Born: October 16, 1998

Bats: Right-handed

Bowls: Right-arm off-break

Idol: Karunakar Kotian, father and mentor

Career highlights

2018: First Class debut

2021: Member of Mumbai's triumphant Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign

2022: Player of the Final in Mumbai's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy win

2024: Player of the Tournament in Mumbai's 42nd Ranji Trophy triumph

2024: IPL debut for Rajasthan Royals

2024: Member of victorious India-A team in Duleep Trophy

2024: Member of Mumbai's triumphant Irani Cup side

2024: Selected to tour Australia with India-A

He had emerged as the Player of the Match in the 2022 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final, picking up three for 15 and sealing Mumbai's win with a six in the last over. Several franchises called him for trials ahead of the Indian Premier League auction. He was billed as one of the possible entrants into the crorepati club.

But a few hours before the IPL auction, disaster struck. The franchises were informed that Kotian's bowling action was seen as "suspect" alth-

ough he had never been reported in any domestic game. He later discovered that a match referee, in consultation with the on-field umpires, had found just one ball suspicious during the SMA Trophy.

Kotian was never barred from bowling, but that was it! The franchises' interest dropped.

“Now when I look back, I realise that the whole episode triggered my will to succeed at any cost. Someone else may have dropped his shoulders after such an episode but I got more determined to prove all my detractors wrong and show my real mettle,” says Kotian.

Earlier in 2022, Kotian – along with fellow all-rounder Shams Mulani – had bailed Mumbai out of a precarious situation against Goa in the Ranji Trophy. That innings of 98 set Mumbai on course for the final and dispelled all the doubts over whether he had it in him at a higher level.

A majority of cricketers in India – especially in Mumbai – are made because of their fathers wanting their kids – not just sons now, thankfully – to achieve what they couldn't.

Tanush was no different. Karunakar – a legend in tennis-ball cricket, ‘tennis cricket’ in Bambaiya parlance – was a formative influence. Like his father, a young Tanush used to hit the ball hard and run in and bowl as fast as he could. But the youngster gradually developed a fondness for turn-



ing the ball. And unlike most pushy fathers, Karunakar let him be.

"He has always been supportive, never pushy," stresses Tanush. "And him being a cricketer has always been a help. He has helped me analyse my game better. And he knows what's going through my head after a good or a bad day at the ground."

Switching to a “cricket school” – the VN Sule Guroji School in Dadar – in the seventh grade made him realise the hard yards he needed to put in. “Till then, I was among the better ones in and around Vikhroli. Once I started playing in the top-tier of inter-school, I realised that I was one among dozens of cricketers who were competing to break into Mumbai’s age-group teams. I had to work harder than ever before if I had to survive first, and then succeed, at that level.”

Working hard was never going to be a problem, especially for a teenager willing to spend 13 to 14 hours away from home every day in his quest to convert his passion into a profession.

Given these struggles, it was no surprise that Karunakar shed tears of happiness at the Wankhede Stadium this March. Tanush had not only helped Mumbai regain the Ranji Trophy but was also adjudged the Player of the Tournament.

“That has been his proudest moment so far. I just hope he will have a few more moments to savour in the next few years,” says Tanush.

A return of 502 runs – including a hundred while batting at No. 10 – and 29 wickets catapulted him into national reckoning. It also led Rajasthan Royals to sign him, as a replacement for Adam Zampa, a welcome turn of events after the snub of 2022.

Kotian got just one opportunity to showcase his talent, that too as an opening batter, and wasn't required to bowl. But right through those two months, he chased the three senior spinners – "Ash bhai, Yuzi bhai and Keshav" – for what he terms "learnings for a lifetime".

“Those two months were an education. When you have Ashwin, Chahal and Maharaj to learn from – not just by watching them prepare and bowl but even available to chat and help you out in the nets – what more can you ask for?”

While he was thrilled with his IPL experience, the manner in which he was utilised against Punjab Kings in April also led to murmurs in Indian cricket circles about whether he was a batting or bowling all-rounder.

The man himself wasn't surprised. After all, he had been dealing with such queries ever since he broke into Mumbai's under-14 squad in 2013.

Early in his career, when he started visiting coach Rajesh Sanil's nets for batting drills, Sanil gave him advice that he has etched onto his mind.

“Rajesh Sanil sir told me it doesn't matter what number you are batting at, treat yourself as a batsman and build your innings accordingly. Even while bowling, he and Pappa [father] tell me to think like a batter so that I can set the batter up.

"In short, all along I have been told and have thought that I don't want to be a batting all-rounder or a bowling all-rounder. No one should take me lightly in any department. Call me a 50-50 or whatever, I want to be a complete batter and a complete spinner."

As Kotian leaves to pick up his kit-bag, one can't help but think that, given the challenges he has overcome so far and his simple, clear approach to cricket, the 26-year-old will do everything in his power to achieve that ambition.

Finals bosses: women's tennis' best season-enders

With the 2024 WTA Finals, featuring the world's top eight singles players and doubles teams, beginning this weekend in Riyadh, we take a look at the most successful women in the prestigious season-ending tournament. Martina Navratilova, with an incredible 21 titles combined (8 singles, 13 doubles), has dominated the event, widely considered the most significant tournament on the calendar after the four Majors.



MOST SINGLES TITLES		
Player	Titles	Editions
Martina Navratilova	8	1978-79, 81, 83-86(2)
Steffi Graf	5	1987, 89, 93, 95-96
Serena Williams	5	2001, 09, 12-14
Chris Evert	4	1972-73, 75, 77
Monica Seles	3	1990-92
Kim Clijsters	3	2002-03, 10
Evonne Goolagong Cawley	2	1974, 76
Gabriela Sabatini	2	1988, 94
Martina Hingis	2	1998, 2000
Justine Henin	2	2006-07
MOST DOUBLES TITLES		
Player	Titles	Editions
Martina Navratilova	13	1977-78, 80-86, 87-89, 91
Pam Shriver	10	1981-86, 87-89, 91
Billie Jean King	4	1974, 76, 78, 80
Lisa Raymond	4	2001, 05-06, 11
Betty Stove	3	1976-77, 79
Natasha Zvereva	3	1993-94, 98
Lindsay Davenport	3	1996-98
Liezel Huber	3	2007-08, 11
Cara Black	3	2007-08, 14
Martina Hingis	3	1999-00, 2015
Tímea Babos	3	2017-19



A close-up photograph of a man's head, balding with some hair on the sides, looking upwards. A soccer ball is balanced on top of his head. Above the ball, a spiderweb is visible, with a spider perched on it. The background is blurred, showing stadium lights and structures.

The life of the top-flight manager isn't enviable. Sure, you have the money, the fame, the joy — if you're into that sort of thing — of trying to 'solve' football, even the power to tell superstars exactly where to park

their egos.

But your failings are embarrassingly public, you have 'pundits' questioning your every move and, most uncomfortable of all, you know you're just a string of poor results, or sometimes only a capricious owner's whim, away from the sack.

Erik Ten Hag's time at Man-

Chester United ended this week, after a troubled start to the season left the 20-time English champion languishing in the Premier League and Europa League amid major upheaval at the club.

The Dutch coach oversaw a spending spree in the transfer market and won two domestic

cups in his two and a half years before paying the price for United's worst start to a season.

This unfortunately apt photograph of a bubble popping on Ten Hag's head is from last season's visit to West Ham; his end came after last weekend's trip to the Hammers' home, which ended in a 2-1 defeat.