



# THE MILEAGE

THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2024 | GUWAHATI | AIZAWL | IMPHAL | ITANAGAR | PAGES 5 | Rs 3.00



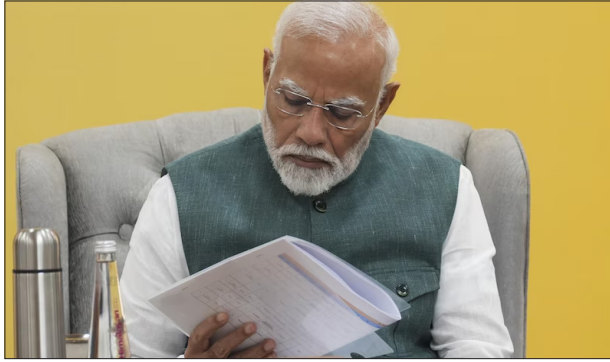
VOL 6, ISSUE 38

## PM Narendra Modi leaves for Kazan to attend Brics Summit, meet Putin

Brics emerged as important platform for dialogue, discussion on key global issues : Modi

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has departed for Russia to attend the 16th Brics Summit in the city of Kazan. Upon his arrival, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Besides Putin, the Prime Minister is likely to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, as well as hold bilateral talks with leaders from the other Brics member nations. In a statement, PM Modi said that "India values the close cooperation with in Brics which has emerged as an important platform for dialogue and discussion on issues concerning the global developmental agenda, reformed multilateralism, climate change, economic cooperation, building resilient supply chains, promot-



ing cultural and people to people connect". He said his visit to Kazan would also "further reinforce the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" between India and Russia.

The summit comes in the wake of ongoing global unrest, including the Russia-Ukraine war and the Middle East crisis.

During a recent interview, India's Ambassador to

Russia, Vinay Kumar, emphasised the nation's role as a strong advocate for peace and conflict resolution through dialogue and diplomacy. "The issue has been discussed and spoken about. India has consistently held the view that the concerned parties need to engage and find resolution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy," he said.

## Udhayanidhi Stalin claims Tamil names for children

**Chennai:** Udhayanidhi Stalin, Tamil Nadu's deputy chief minister, said on Tuesday that the people of Tamil Nadu must keep Tamil names for their children to ward off Hindi imposition attempts. In a veiled attack on the BJP-led Centre, Stalin claimed that "they are trying to impose Hindi via the new education policy".

He said new parents must come up with beautiful Tamil names for their children because "many are attempting to impose Hindi on Tamil Nadu". Udhayanidhi Stalin declared that Tamil Nadu would never accept Hindi imposition. "I request the newlyweds to come up with a beautiful Tamil name for their child.

## Punjab nod to trial of dera chief in 3 sacrilege cases



**Chandigarh:** The Punjab Government has given sanction to prosecute Dera Sacha Sauda head Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in the three main sacrilege incidents of 2015 that had caused outrage among the Sikhs, leading to protests, clashes and the death of two protesters in police firing.

The sanction comes three days after the Supreme Court vacated a stay on the prosecution of the controversial dera head. The Punjab

Government had moved the Supreme Court seeking vacation of the stay, allowed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in March.

The dera head is already convicted in a rape and murder case in Haryana. Three days before the October 5 Assembly election in Haryana, he was released on a 20-day parole by the BJP government. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who holds the Home portfolio, approved the sanction on Monday evening.

### BRIEF NEWS

#### China ends Ladakh standoff

China on Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

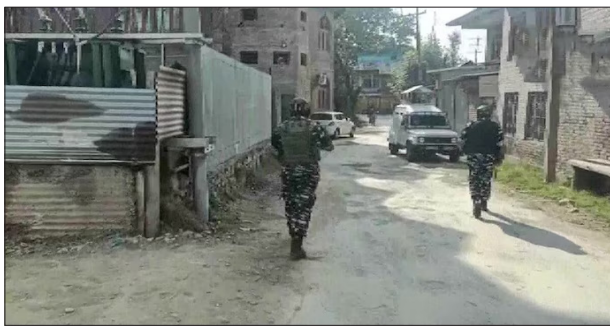
#### 15 injured, 1 missing in factory blast

**Jabalpur:** At least 15 people were injured after a major blast at an ordinance factory in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur on Tuesday. The explosion took place at Khamaria ordinance factory.

#### Cyclonic storm 'Dana' forms over Bay of Bengal

The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclonic storm named 'Dana' on Wednesday. It is expected to become a severe cyclone. The IMD said.

## Doctor, among 6 others killed in Kashmir tunnel side terror attack



**Srinagar:** The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility for the attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, which killed a doctor and six migrant workers on Sunday, sources told.

TRF chief Sheikh Sajjad Gul, a resident of Srinagar, is the mastermind of the attack and the group's local module, at his behest, carried out the attack targeting Kashmiris and non-Kashmiris together for the first time, sources said. In 2022, the NIA an-

nounced a Rs 10 lakh reward each for information leading to the arrest of Gul and three others - Saifullah Sajid and Saleem Rahmani, who are residents of Pakistan, and Basit Ahmed, a resident of Kulgam in Jammu and Kashmir, for terrorism in the Union Territory. TRF has been active in Kashmir and has targeted Kashmiri Pandits, Sikhs and non-locals in the last one-and-a-half years, marking a big change in the strategy of the outfit, which earlier killed several Kashmiri Pandits, sources said.

## Haryana polls strengthened expression of stability: Modi

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said people had given a message of stability with a mandate to his government for three consecutive terms and asserted that they strengthened this expression of stability in the recent Haryana Assembly polls.

Addressing the NDTV World Summit here, he also said India has a "double AI" advantage and that when the power of 'aspirational India' and 'artificial intelligence' combines then it is natural for development to take place at a fast pace.

Modi said India is a friend in times of crisis and cited how the country sent vaccines to scores of nations during the Covid pandemic.

"India does not have 'taken for granted' relations, its relations are built on trust and reliability. When India moves forward there is no jealousy but world feels happy about it as its prog-



ress benefits the world," the prime minister said.

"India had been a force of global growth in history but India saw slavery and was not able to take advantage of industrial revolutions. Now, this is the time of Industry 4.0. We are not enslaved anymore and are ready for it. The country is working on building the skill-set and infrastructure needed for Industry 4.0," Modi said. He said India is a developing country but also a rising power.

"We understand the challenges of poverty and also

know how to make way for progress. Our government is fast making policies, taking decisions and undertaking new reforms," he said.

India is giving hope to a world engulfed in various concerns, and is working on an unprecedented scale and speed in every field, Modi said. He said several agencies have revised India's growth forecast due to the speed of work in his government's third term. "The change in the thinking and approach of India would be noticed by you.





## SC summons Assam's top official over unpaid wages



**Guwahati:** The Supreme Court has directed the Chief Secretary of Assam to appear before the Court on November 14, 2024, to explain the lack of progress in settling the long-standing wage dues of tea garden workers in the state.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih expressed dissatisfaction with the Assam government and Assam Tea Corporation Limited (ATCL) for failing to address the issue of unpaid wages for tea estate workers in Assam. "We direct the Chief Secretary of State of Assam to personally remain present in the

Court on the next date, i.e., 14th November 2024. The state will have to seriously answer the question why there is no sincere effort made to pay the dues of the workmen who have worked in tea estates owned by the state of Assam," the Court order read. During the hearing, Justice Oka observed that despite Assam Tea Corporation Limited earning Rs 38 crore from rental income, the workers' wages remained unpaid.

Justice Oka stressed that as a state entity, the Assam Tea Corporation Limited has a duty to ensure that the workers' salaries and allowances are paid.

## Meghalaya government orders probe into road project scam



**Shillong:** The Meghalaya government has requested the police to investigate a multi-crore scam allegedly involving contractors and state engineers in the construction of Shillong-Nongstoin-Rongjeng-Tura road at the cost of Rs 2,366.77 crore.

The FIR was filed by PWD (NH) chief engineer AM Kharmawphlang with the Sadar Police station on September 10 this year, who relied on information provided to him during an ongoing arbitration proceedings conducted by the Arbitral Tribunal.

The requested investigation period spans from September 20, 2010, to September 10, 2024.

Nine people, including senior engineers of the Public Works Department (PWD) and officials of two private companies based in Telangana and Haryana, were named in an FIR lodged in this connection. "Several lapses forced the state government to lodge an FIR into the road project amounting to over Rs 2,300 crore," a senior official of the Public Works Department said.

The road project connecting the state capital Shillong with Tura, via Nongstoin and Rongjeng, was approved in 2010 as part of the Special Road Development Programme-North East of the central government.

## Assam Medical College & Hospital to launch robotic surgery in November

**Guwahati:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has announced that robotic surgery will soon be introduced in the state's leading healthcare institutes in Guwahati, Dibrugarh, and Silchar.

Taking to social media, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "For the first time in Assam – Robotic Surgery in Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Silchar, which will transform surgical procedures in the State."

Principal of AMCH Dr. Sanjeeb Kakati, during an event on the occasion of the World Anaesthesia Day celebration at the John Berry White Hall, said that a state-of-the-art robotic surgery unit will be launched at the Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) in Dibrugarh in November 2024. Dr. Kakati said that the state-



of-the-art robotic surgery will transform the healthcare landscape of Assam and the north-eastern region. Robotic surgery, also known as robot-assisted surgery, is a surgical technique that uses a robotic arm to perform procedures.

It allows doctors to perform many types of complex procedures with more precision, flexibility and control during the operation, thereby revolutionizing the landscape of surgical care. Robotic surgery

can be used for a variety of procedures such as Coronary artery bypass, Gallbladder removal, Hip replacement, Hysterectomy, and Kidney removal. It is often done through tiny openings in the skin and other tissues. This approach is called minimally invasive surgery. It can offer several benefits over traditional open surgery, including precision, fewer complications, less pain and blood loss, shorter recovery time, and smaller scars

## Dredging to restore ferry service

**Jorhat:** In view of the ferry service between Nimatighat (Jorhat) and Kamalabari Ghat (Majuli river island) remaining suspended since the past few days due to heavy silting in the route, dredging will be carried out by a dredger in the Brahmaputra riverbed from Tuesday to restore the said route.

A Majuli district administration official informed that the dredging will be undertaken under the expert supervision of a team from the Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Madras. The official stated that a dredger from Dibrugarh was already on its way to the Brahmaputra island for the purpose. The official urged the people who need to travel between Jorhat and Majuli and vice-versa regularly using the Nimatighat-Kamalabari Ghat route.

## Union Minister Nitin Gadkari reviews progress of national highways projects of Northeastern states

Gadkari reviewed the progress of 15 ongoing National Highway projects covering 423 km in AP

**Guwahati:** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari on Monday chaired a high-level review meeting of the national highway projects of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland in New Delhi.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh and Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha.

Union Ministers of State for Road Transport and Highways Ajay Tamta and Harsh Malhotra were also present along with senior officers of the ministry.

Gadkari reviewed the progress of 15 National Highway Projects in Arunachal Pradesh, 38 National Highway Projects in Manipur and 16 National Highway Projects in Tripura.

Taking to X, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari wrote,



"Reviewed the progress of ongoing 15 National Highway projects spanning over 423 Km in Arunachal Pradesh along with Union Minister Shri Kiren Rijju Ji, Union MoS Shri Shri Ajay Tamta Ji, Shri H D Malhotra Ji, Arunachal Pradesh CM, Shri Pema Khandu Ji, and senior officials in Delhi today." He said, "The discussion centered on expediting development to ensure the timely completion of critical infrastructure, reinforcing our commitment to enhancing mobility and driving economic growth in the North-east region."

The union minister said that Arunachal Pradesh's highways are undergoing

a transformation with advanced infrastructure and sustainable mobility, paving the way for a brighter future. Gadkari reviewed the progress of 38 ongoing National Highway projects covering 808 kilometers in Manipur.

"The focus of the meeting was on accelerating development in Manipur, ensuring timely completion of these vital infrastructure projects. This will not only improve connectivity but also drive economic growth, reaffirming our commitment to the advancement of the North-east region," he added.

During the meeting, the union minister also re-

viewed the progress of 16 ongoing National Highway projects spanning 324 km in Tripura. He stated, "In the meeting, we emphasized fast-tracking the development of highway infrastructure in Tripura, ensuring it is more sustainable and cost-efficient. These efforts will significantly improve connectivity, boost local economies, and further integrate the North-east into the national growth framework." Additionally, the progress of 29 NH projects covering 545 km in Nagaland was also reviewed during the meeting in the presence of Nagaland Deputy CM TR Zeliang. "We stressed the need to accelerate mobility infrastructure development in Nagaland, prioritizing sustainability and cost-efficiency. These initiatives will greatly enhance connectivity, drive local economic growth, and contribute to the region's deeper integration into India's overall development," Gadkari further added.



## Indian Navy and TVS Motor Company embark on 2,500 km expedition to inspire youth

**Shillong:** To engage and inspire India's youth, the Indian Navy has partnered with TVS Motor Company for a remarkable 2,500 km expedition across the North East, showcasing career opportunities in the armed forces. Over the next 15 days, 40 Navy personnel will ride TVS Apache motorcycles through Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam, aiming to motivate students about careers in the Navy, including the Agnipath scheme. The expedi-



tion was officially launched in Shillong by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, alongside Lt Gen Sanjay Malik and Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia. The riders, including four women as

part of the Navy's Naari Shakti initiative, will engage with schools and colleges along their route, fostering a sense of national pride and encouraging young women to consider careers in the

armed forces. Vimal Sumbly, Head Business – Premium, TVS Motor Company, emphasized the partnership's significance, stating, "This collaboration reflects our commitment to support our armed forces and empower the youth." As the riders traverse various towns, including Shillong, the initiative resonates deeply within local markets, where the spirit of adventure and exploration thrives, inspiring a new generation to consider service to the nation.

## Half of East India losing sleep due to mosquito bites and buzzing sound, reveals Goodknight survey

**Guwahati:** A recent survey by Goodknight, a leading insecticide brand under Godrej Consumer Products Ltd, has revealed that 55% of Indians attribute their disturbed sleep to mosquito bites and the incessant buzzing sound of these pests. The survey, titled 'One Mosquito, Countless Threats,' was conducted by market research firm YouGov, highlighting the significant impact of mosquitoes on sleep quality nationwide.

The findings indicate that children are particularly affected, with 49%

experiencing sleep disruptions due to mosquito activity. Regionally, West India reported the highest concern, with 61% of adults citing mosquito disturbances. In contrast, 50% of respondents from East India—including Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha—also reported significant sleep interruptions, emphasizing a widespread issue.

In Guwahati, the mosquito problem is compounded by unseasonal rains, creating ideal breeding conditions. Locals are increasingly frustrated

as they invest in various preventive measures, yet continue to face sleepless nights. Shilpa Suresh, Head of Marketing at GCPL, acknowledged the survey's findings, underscoring the need for effective solutions. Goodknight aims to address these concerns with innovative products, including their newly developed Goodknight Flash liquid vaporizer, formulated with the patented molecule Renofluthrin, which is reported to be twice as effective against mosquitoes compared to existing products.

## Sadhguru honored with CIF Global Indian Award 2024, dedicates prize to Cauvery calling

**Guwahati:** Sadhguru, the esteemed Indian yogi, mystic, and founder of the Isha Foundation, has been conferred the prestigious CIF Global Indian Award 2024 by the Canada India Foundation (CIF). This award celebrates individuals of Indian origin making significant global impacts and recognizes Sadhguru's exceptional contributions to environmental initiatives and human consciousness. Ritesh Malik, Chair of the

CIF, expressed his gratitude for Sadhguru's acceptance of the honor, highlighting his profound insights on humanity's pressing challenges. "In Sadhguru, we find a perfect blend of ancient wisdom and practical solutions," he stated, emphasizing the importance of his teachings in addressing issues like soil degradation and climate change.

Upon receiving the award, Sadhguru dedicated the associated prize money of



CAD 50,000 to the Cauvery Calling initiative, which aims to revitalize the Cauvery River and enhance the livelihoods of farmers through the plantation of

242 crore trees on private farmlands. The project has already facilitated the planting of 111 million trees. In Guwahati, the response to Sadhguru's recognition has been overwhelmingly positive. Local residents and environmental activists view this award as a beacon of hope for ongoing sustainability efforts in the region, aligning with their aspirations for environmental preservation and community empowerment.

## Dettol Banega Swasth India celebrates Global Handwashing Day, engages 30 million children across India

**New Delhi:** Reckitt's flagship initiative, Dettol Banega Swasth India (BSI), commemorated Global Handwashing Day 2024 by educating 30 million children nationwide on the critical importance of hand hygiene. Under the theme "Clean Hands for All: Advancing Health Equity through Hygiene," this year's campaign underscores BSI's commitment to providing essential hygiene knowledge to children from various backgrounds.

The campaign, supported by over 100 partners, successfully reached children in 29 states and 7 union territories through the Dettol School Hygiene Education programme. Participation included a diverse range of schools, such as Sarvodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas. In a significant innovation, BSI launched an AI-powered chatbot, "Hygieia For Good Hygiene," available in seven languages to enhance accessibility.

Local schools have eagerly embraced the campaign, recognizing its importance in fostering hygiene awareness among children. Market stakeholders emphasize the initiative's relevance, noting that improved hygiene practices can lead to healthier communities. The local response reflects a growing commitment to integrating hygiene education into daily routines, ultimately enhancing the overall health landscape.

## IOB announce robust financial results for Q2FY25

**Itanagar:** Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has announced robust financial results for the quarter ending September 30, 2024 (Q2FY25), reflecting strong growth across key financial metrics and a continued focus on asset quality improvement. Indian Overseas Bank Reports 24.32% increase in Net Profit for Q2FY25, Driven by consistent & strong Business growth and Asset Quality Improvement. Total Business grew by 12.20% to ₹5,40,801 Crore from ₹4,82,006 Crore. Total Deposits raised up by 13.75% to ₹3,10,652 Crore from ₹2,73,093 Crore. Gross Advances increased by 10.16% to ₹2,30,149 Crore from ₹2,08,913 Crore. Gross Investments increased to ₹1,08,517 Crore from ₹97,891 Crore. Operating Profit grew by 26.89

% to ₹2,128 Crore from ₹1,677 Crore.

Net Profit up by 24.32% to ₹777 Crore from ₹625 Crore. Gross NPA Ratio recorded at 2.72% as on 30.09.2024 as against 4.74% as on 30.09.2023, with a reduction of 202 bps. Net NPA Ratio stood at 0.47% as on 30.09.2024 as against 0.68% as on 30.09.2023, with a reduction of 21 bps. CASA improved to ₹1,31,856 Crore from ₹1,19,206 Crore, reflecting Y-o-Y growth of 10.61%. CASA Ratio stood at 42.44% for the quarter ended 30.09.2024. Credit to Deposit (CD) Ratio stood at 74.09% for the quarter ended 30.09.2024. Net Interest Margin stood at 3.08% for the quarter ended 30.09.2024. Provision Coverage Ratio improved to 97.06%, registering an improvement of 30 bps.

## Assam embraces digital innovation with launch of StockHolding Digidoc

**Guwahati:** In a significant step towards digital transformation, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (StockHolding) has launched its innovative platform, StockHolding Digidoc, in Assam. The launch took place at the Mission Basundhara 3.0 event, inaugurated by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The Digidoc platform facilitates the seamless digital execution of documents, including the payment of stamp duty. Initially offering services for affidavits, indemnity bonds, and mortgage bonds, the platform is set to streamline legal processes and improve service accessibility throughout the state. This initiative aligns with the government's vision for a Digital India and enhances the efficiency of legal transactions. "The ability to execute legal documents digitally, anytime and anywhere, will



greatly benefit individuals, businesses, and legal professionals alike," stated Shashikant Nayak, e-Services Head at StockHolding. He emphasized that the Digidoc platform not only simplifies document management but also supports the government's 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative by reducing administrative burdens.

With the legal backing of the Information Technology Act of 2020, digitally executed documents now hold the same validity as traditional signatures, promising a faster and more convenient process for users across Assam.

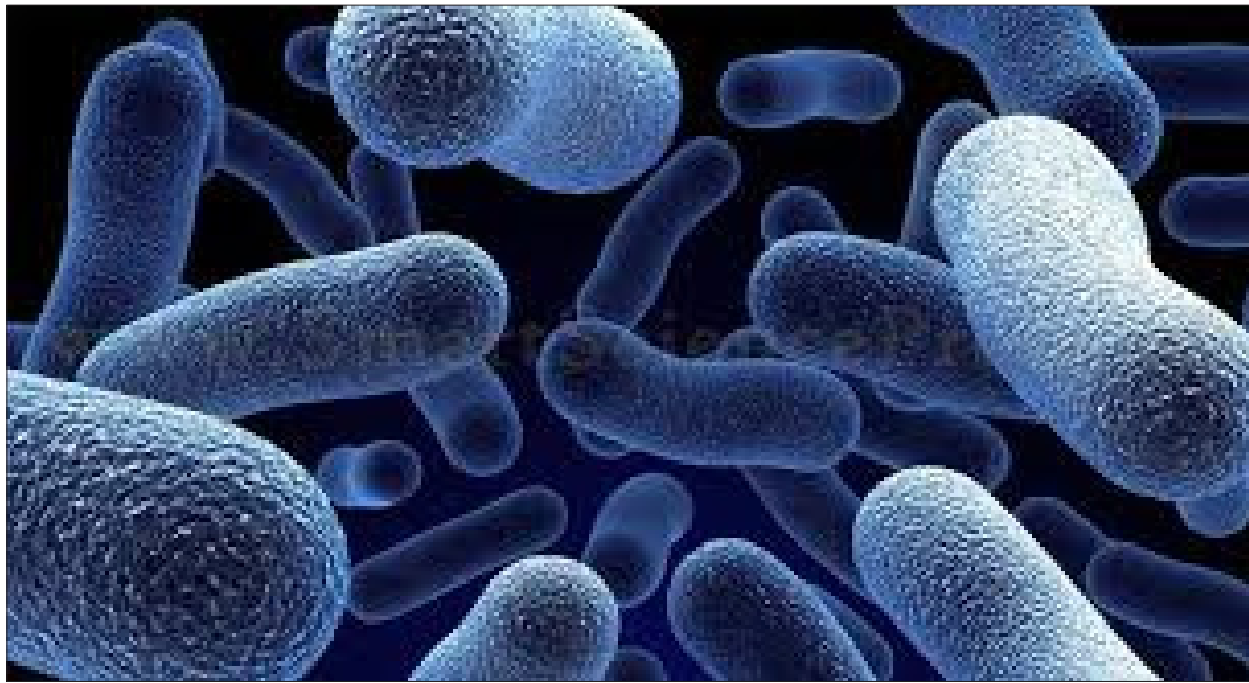


## Pathogenicity and virulence of pathogenic microorganisms

**P**athogenicity is characterised by a complex of pathogenic properties in the microbe formed in the process of the historical development of the struggle for existence and adaptation to parasitic life in plant, animal and human organisms. Pathogenicity is a specific characteristic of pathogenic microbes and is the potential capacity of certain species of microbes to cause an infectious process. Pathogenic microbes, for the most part, are characterised by a specific action. Each species is capable of giving rise to a definite infectious process.

The specificity of the infectious process is quite an important feature which becomes evident in the localisation of the causative agent, selectivity of tissue and organ affection, the clinical picture of the disease, mechanisms of isolating microbes from the organism and the production of immunity. The peculiarities of each causative agent as an extreme stimulant are taken into account when devising methods of clinical and laboratory diagnosis, therapy and prevention of infectious diseases.

Historically developed ecological factors play an essential role in the development of the specificity



of pathogenic microorganisms and their ability to cause diseases in certain species of hosts. These factors ensure a definite and regular nature of the transmission of the causative agent from one individual to another.

Virulence signifies the degree of pathogenicity of the given culture (strain). Virulence, therefore, is an index of the qualitative individual nature of the pathogenic micro-organism.

Virulence in pathogenic microbes changes under the influence of natural conditions. It can be increased by a sequence of passages through suscep-

tible laboratory animals, and also by transformation, transduction and lysogenic conversion.

Virulence can be weakened by the action of different factors on the micro-organism, e. g. the defence forces of the organism, antimicrobial preparations, high temperatures, immune sera, disinfectants, seeding from one nutrient medium to another, etc. Artificial reduction of the virulence of pathogenic microbes is widely used in the preparation of live vaccines, applied for the specific prophylaxis of a number of infectious diseases.

The virulence of microorganisms is closely linked

with the genetic function, the auxotrophic property in particular; in the presence of a deficit in two growth factors in mutant strains virulence is lost and cannot be restored while the immunogenic property is maintained.

In characterising pathogenic microbes a unit of virulence has been established — Dim (Dosis letalis minima), representing the minimum amount of live microbes which in a certain period of time bring about the death of the corresponding laboratory animals. Since animals have an individual sensitivity to a pathogenic microbe, then the absolute lethal

dose Del (Dosis certa letalis), which will kill 100 per cent of the experimental animals, has been established. This provides for a more accurate characteristic. At present, LD50 (the dose which is lethal to one-half of the infected animals) is considered to be the most suitable, the use of which allows for a minimal correction in evaluating the virulence in pathogenic bacteria and may serve as an objective criterion for comparison with other units of virulence.

That number of pathogenic bacteria which is capable of giving rise to an infectious disease is known as the infectious

dose of a pathogenic micro-organism.

In tests on volunteers, it was established, for instance, that the infectious dose is 108 cells for enteropathogenic 0124 E. coli, 105-1010 for Salmonella organisms, 105 for Salmonella typhi (a dose of 107 caused the disease in 50 per cent of infected volunteers, a dose of 108-109 in 89 to 95 per cent), 106-1011 for the El Tor cholera vibrio, and 10 to 100 bacterial cells for Shigella dysenteriae.

The action of small and large doses of microbes is of great significance in the development of the infectious process, in the length of the incubation (latent) period, and in the severity and outcome of the disease.

Under favourable conditions one microbial cell with a cell division rate of 20 minutes can give a progeny of 250000 individuals in six hours, and in several hours the amount of microbes may attain many thousand millions which create a large physiological burden on the tissues and organs of the infected organism.

The virulence of pathogenic microorganisms is associated with toxin production, invasiveness, capsule production, aggressiveness and other factors.

## Threat intelligence in modern cybersecurity strategies

**I**n today's fast-changing digital world, cyber threats are getting more advanced, common, and harmful. To handle these challenges, organisations need strong cybersecurity strategies that help them predict, find, and react to possible attacks. A key part of these strategies is threat intelligence. This means gathering, studying, and using information about possible or ongoing threats to make an organisation's defences stronger.

Threat intelligence is the process of collecting information about possible or real threats that could harm



an organisation's data security. It involves carefully gathering clues, signs of attacks (IOCs), and methods used by cybercriminals. The aim of threat intelligence is to give useful insights to security teams so

they can take action before risks turn into bigger problems. This is general information that helps organisations see the big picture of threats and trends. It's often used by senior management to make smart

decisions about where to invest in cybersecurity.

This type of intelligence looks at the methods and strategies used by attackers. It's mainly helpful for cybersecurity analysts and security teams (SOCs) to create better defences.

This gives detailed information about specific upcoming attacks, helping organisations act quickly to protect themselves from an active threat.

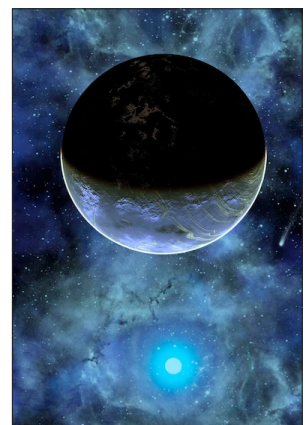
The main purpose of threat intelligence is to give a clear view of the threats aimed at an organisation, helping it create strong and flexible defences.

## Astronomers unveil new details about the invisible glue that holds the universe

**I**n a new study, a team of astronomers has used Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope to shed new light on the mysterious nature of dark matter, the invisible substance that makes up most of the universe's mass.

Dark matter is a type of matter hypothesised to make up about 27% of the universe's mass and energy. Unlike ordinary matter, dark matter does not emit, absorb, or reflect light, making it invisible and detectable only through its gravitational effects on visible matter, radiation, and the large-scale structure of the universe. The research, focused on the Draco dwarf galaxy

located about 2,500 light-years from Earth, has provided the most accurate three-dimensional understanding of stellar movements within this diminutive galaxy to date.





## Washington Sundar's addition to India squad not 'desperate' move : Assistant coach

Sundar's recent Ranji Trophy performance and past achievements highlight his selection

**Mumbai:** India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has said that the decision to add spin bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar for the second and third Test against New Zealand is far from a "desperate" measure. Ten Doeschate explained Sundar's addition, saying that the decision stems from a tactical need for bowlers who can turn the ball away from the left-handed batsmen in the New Zealand squad, which includes key players like Tom Latham, Devon Conway, and Rachin Ravindra. "Definitely not a desperate measure. We have Axar



Patel in the squad. We wanted to have someone who can take the ball away from the lefties. We want that option. It is good to see guys getting rewarded for the Ranji Trophy. We have a lot of faith in the spinners we have," said ten

Doeschate.

Washington Sundar has been in fine form, recently delivering a standout performance in the ongoing Ranji Trophy. Playing for Tamil Nadu against Delhi, Sundar scored an impressive 152 runs off 269

balls, including 19 fours and a six, while batting at the unfamiliar position of No. 3. Sundar's return to the Test squad marks a major development in his career. Although he hasn't featured in red-ball cricket since March 2021, he was a key figure in India's memorable Test series victory over Australia in the 2020-21 season. He played a crucial role in India's historic win at the Gabba, contributing with both bat and ball. In that series, Sundar scored 265 runs across four Tests, including three half-centuries, and took six wickets.

## Australia aims for big CWG presence in Glasgow



**Melbourne:** Relieved that the 2026 Commonwealth Games will finally be taking place in Scotland after its own state Victoria's shock pull-out, Australia's governing body for Commonwealth sport on Tuesday made a forecast of "more than 400 athletes and officials" participating in the heavily pruned multi-sport event. Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) welcomed the Common-

wealth Games Federation's (CGF) announcement that Glasgow will host the 2026 CWG, despite pruning the roster to 10 disciplines to keep the event budget-friendly and free of "operational risks". Several major sports like hockey, shooting, wrestling and badminton were dropped in a bid to limit the cost and streamline logistics given that only four venues will host the entire showpiece.

## India face New Zealand to begin preparation for ODI World Cup

**Ahmedabad:** It will be a trial by fire for skipper Harmanpreet Kaur as India begin preparations for next year's World Cup with the three-match ODI series against New Zealand starting on Thursday, having recently endured another failure at claiming an ICC title. The series will be vital for Kaur who has faced flak for her captaincy during the recently-held T20 World Cup in the UAE, where India failed to clear the group stage even though the skipper emerged as the team's highest scorer in the tournament.

While India look to get their act right after the forgettable outing in the UAE, New Zealand will be on a high having lifted the T20 World Cup trophy with a clinical performance throughout the tournament, barring their



group game against Australia. Kaur, 35, retained her place as captain despite questions about her leadership in recent times, and in the series against New Zealand, she will have to manage without the services of big-hitting wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh, who is due to appear in her 12th standard board exams.

The skipper was criticised for her actions in the final over of the group match against Australia in UAE, with experts and fans questioning her de-

cision to take a single on the first delivery of the last over, leaving it to Shreyanka Patil to hit two consecutive sixes. Experienced all-rounder Asha Sobhana will also miss out as she nurses an injury and was unavailable for selection, while seamer Pooja Vas-trakar, who injured herself during the tournament in UAE, has been rested for this series. The squad comprises a few uncapped players as there were maiden call-ups for Tejal Hasabnis, Saima Thakor and Priya Mishra.

## Neymar makes return after 12 months Out Injured

**Brazil:** Neymar made his return after 12 months out through injury when he appeared as a substitute for Al Hilal in their AFC Champions League game against Al-Ain on Monday.

The 32-year-old has not played since rupturing the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscus in his left knee while playing for Brazil in October 2023.

He had only played five games for Al Hilal before getting injured, having joined the Saudi Arabian side for £80million (\$102m) from Paris Saint-Germain two months earlier. "I feel good — it's (been) so hard," Neymar said after Al Hilal's 5-4 win on Monday. "I always have a good team. But I'm so happy. I'm back, I'm back."

## MLB Legend Fernando Valenzuela dead at age 63

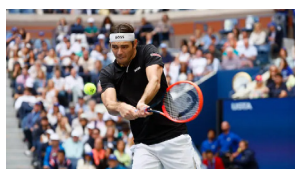


**Mexico City:** Fernando Valenzuela, the legendary pitcher whose incredible rise to stardom with the Los Angeles Dodgers captivated baseball fans and created the cultural phenomenon known as "Fernandomania," died on Tuesday, according to the Dodgers. Valenzuela was 63.

Prior to the Dodgers' postseason run in 2024, the team announced Valenzuela would step away from his usual radio broadcast duties for the rest of the season "to focus on his health." "He is one of the most influential Dodgers ever and belongs on the Mount Rushmore of franchise heroes," president and CEO of the club Stan Kasten said in a statement. MLB commissioner Robert Manfred, Jr. called Valenzuela "one of the most impactful players of his generation." He said the famed pitcher would be honored during the upcoming World Series.

## Tennis stars Taylor Fritz, slam coaching rule

**New Delhi:** The International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced on Monday that off-court coaching will be allowed starting January 1, 2025. The decision, which follows a trial period during the 2023 season across all four Grand Slams and the ATP and WTA tours, aims to enhance fairness and entertainment value in the sport, according to the



ITF. However, the ruling has received significant backlash from prominent players, including world number six Taylor Fritz and former top-10 player Denis Shapovalov. The ITF

explained that its decision was made after consulting with a wide range of stakeholders, including players, coaches, and umpires. The organization emphasized that the change will create a "fairer and, potentially, more entertaining" version of tennis, where players can receive strategic advice from coaches during matches without penalty.

## Hockey Tests

### India ready for tough Germany challenge

**New Delhi:** The Paris Olympics silver and bronze medallists are both in an early rebuilding phase after the Games

Rajinder Singh looked around in awe as he entered the iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium for practice here on Tuesday. Aditya Arjun Lalage offered his salutations to the new gleaming blue turf before stepping on the pitch. It will be a brilliant opportunity for the two youngsters to make a mark as they make their debut in the two-

Test series against Germany, to be played on Wednesday and Thursday. It marks the return of international hockey to the national capital after nine years. It was on March 15, 2015, that India women beat Poland in the final of the World League Round 2, after which the base of not just Indian but global hockey itself shifted to Odisha. A lot has changed since then. The faded green turf has been replaced. From knocking on the doors at the top echelons of global hockey,