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9 September | 9:00 AM



NOTE OF CONCERN

August rain, the lowest in a century, says IMD

NEWS » PAGE 16

PARLEY

Are natural disasters man-made?

People play a big role in enhancing risk: experts

OPINION » PAGE 11



NO RESPITE

Five more killed in fresh gunfight in Manipur

NEWS » PAGE 14

Congress seeks JPC probe into Adani row

OCCRP alleges round-tripping of millions of dollars via Mauritius-based funds managed by Adani partners; India's reputation at stake, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on the Central government after the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) investigations revealed fresh charges against the Adani Group, the Congress on Thursday called it the "biggest scam in Independent India".

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clear his name, claiming that India's reputation was at stake.

"At the very least, a Joint Parliamentary Committee [probe] should be allowed. I can't understand why the PM is not forcing an investigation, why is he quiet," Mr. Gandhi asked.

The OCCRP probe alleged that millions of dol-



New ammunition: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi showing a newspaper article about Adani Group at a press meet in Mumbai. AP

lars were invested in publicly traded Adani group stocks through Mauritius-based 'opaque' investment funds managed by partners of the promoter family.

The Adani group dismissed the charges as "recycled allegations", saying, the "reports appear to be a concerted bid by Soros-funded interests supported by a section of the foreign media to revive the merit-

less Hindenburg report."

Underlining the headlines in *Financial Times* and *The Guardian*, which called the Adani Group as close to the Prime Minister, Mr. Gandhi said that it is very important for PM Modi to clear his name.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
ADANI SHARES FALL
» PAGE 18

Statehood for J&K may take time; polls can be held: govt.

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday conveyed to the Supreme Court its inability to commit to an exact time period within which full Statehood would be restored to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

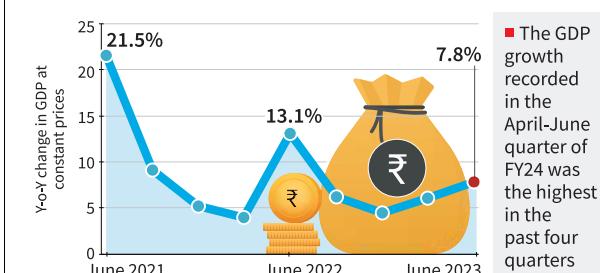
The Union government, however, said Jammu and Kashmir was ready to hold elections "any time now".

Appearing before a Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta assured the court that the Union Territory status of J&K was only a "temporary phenomenon". "Complete Statehood may take some time as the State had faced repeated and consistent disturbances for decades together," he submitted.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Growth accelerates

India's gross domestic product grew by 7.8% in the first quarter of FY24 compared with 13.1% growth in Q1 FY23



Economy grows 7.8%, fastest in 4 quarters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy sped to a four-quarter high of 7.8% in the first quarter of this financial year, but economists reckon that a weak monsoon, high inflation and global headwinds could temper the pace of growth through the rest of 2023-24.

Manufacturing GVA grew for the second quar-

ter in a row, after half a year of contraction, with the pace of growth picking up slightly to 4.7% in the first quarter (Q1) of the year, from 4.5% in the previous quarter. Agriculture, forestry and fishing GVA grew 3.5% between April and June, but it was the services sectors that saw the sharpest surge and lifted the estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Thursday.

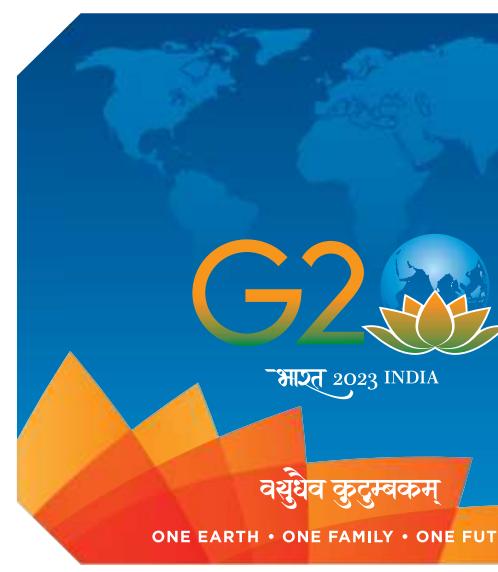
CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

EK ATOOT RISHTA BHAROSE KA

Trust is the foundation of any relationship... On our 67th Foundation Day, we thank you all for trusting us at every stage of your life and giving us the responsibility to protect and fulfil your dreams.



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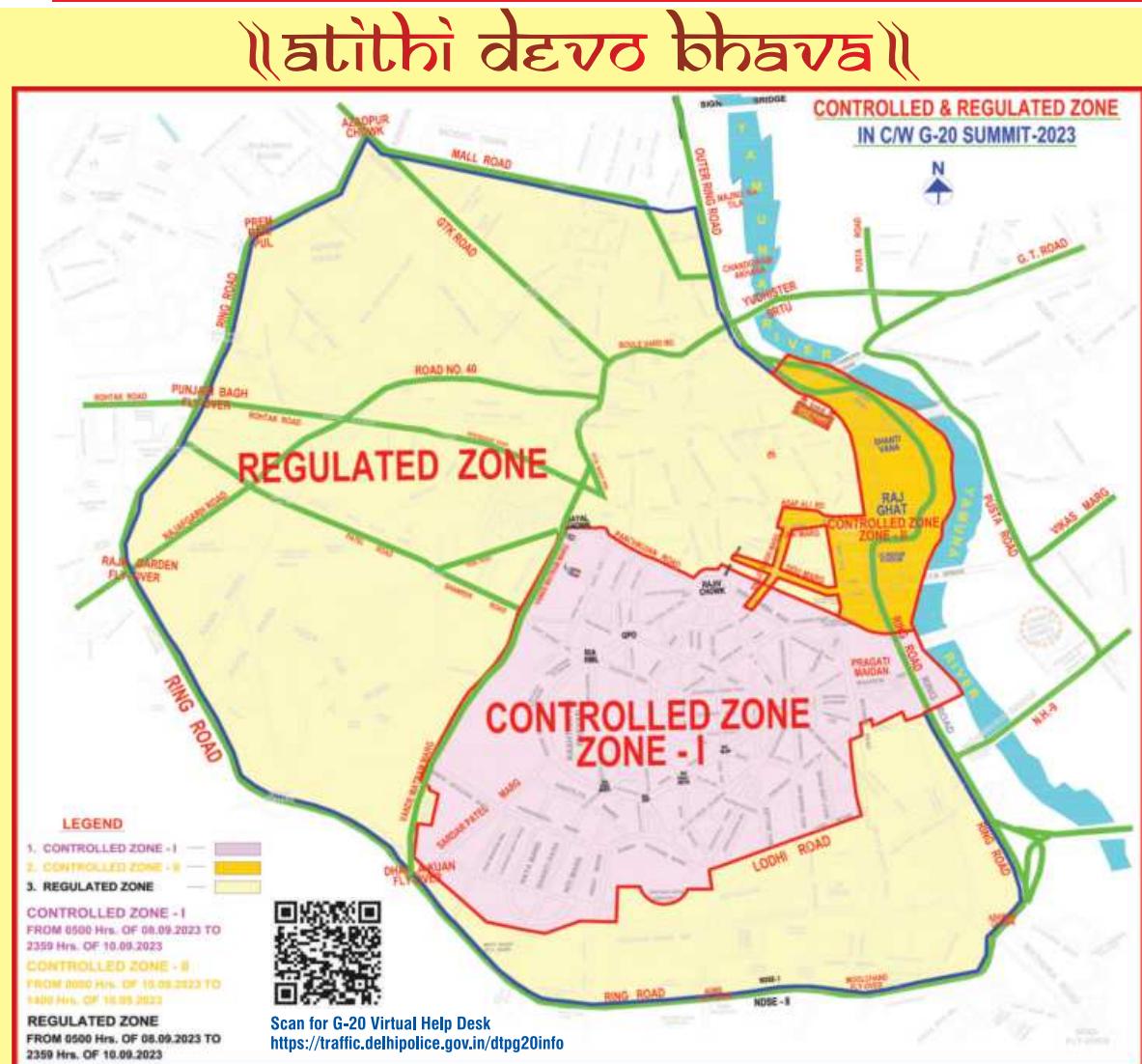
TRAFFIC ADVISORY

09th & 10th SEPTEMBER, 2023

G-20 Summit, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi



India is proud to host the 18th G-20 Summit on 09th & 10th September, 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi



TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Vehicular movement on roads/road stretches in New Delhi and surrounding areas shall be regulated as follows:

- i. Non-destined vehicles will be compulsorily diverted towards Eastern & Western Peripheral Expressways and other alternative routes. These vehicles are not allowed to enter into Delhi.
- ii. Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), Medium Goods Vehicles (MGVs) and Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) will not be allowed to enter into Delhi. However, goods vehicles carrying Essential Commodities such as milk, vegetables, fruits, medical supplies, etc. having valid 'No Entry Permissions' will be allowed to enter into Delhi.
- iii. Interstate buses will also be allowed entry into Delhi. All such buses will have terminating points on the Ring Road.
- iv. Buses already present in Delhi will operate on Ring Road & road network beyond Ring Road towards the borders of Delhi. These buses will be allowed to exit from Delhi.
- v. General traffic, including all types of commercial vehicles and buses already present in Delhi shall be allowed on Ring Road & road network beyond Ring Road towards the borders of Delhi.
- vi. TSRs and Taxis will be allowed to ply on road network outside New Delhi District. However, Taxis carrying bonafide residents and tourists having valid bookings in hotels located inside New Delhi District will be allowed to ply on road network inside New Delhi District.
- vii. Movement of passengers to Airport, New Delhi & Old Delhi Railway Stations will be facilitated. However, such passengers are advised to take suggested routes and keep sufficient time at hand.
- viii. Movement of traffic entering New Delhi District will be regulated.
- ix. Bonafide residents & authorized vehicles will be allowed to move within New Delhi District. Vehicles dealing with housekeeping, catering, waste management, etc. for hotels, hospitals & other important installations in New Delhi District will be allowed after verification. Bonafide residents, authorized vehicles and essential service providers mentioned above will have to carry documents to prove their identity.
- x. General traffic, except goods vehicles and buses, will be allowed into Delhi from Rajokari Border. Further, this traffic will be compulsorily diverted from NH-48 to Ruta Ram Marg - Olof Palme Marg. No vehicular movement will be allowed on NH-48 towards Daula Kuan.
- xi. All types of goods vehicles, commercial vehicles, interstate buses and local city buses such as Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses and Delhi Integrated Multi Modal Transit System (DIMTS) buses will not be allowed to ply on Mathura Road (beyond Ashram Chowk), Bhairo Road, Purana Quila Road and inside Pragati Maidan Sector from 0000 hours on the intervening night of 07 & 08.09.2023 to 2359 hours on 10.09.2023.
- xii. The entire area of New Delhi District will be considered as "Controlled Zone-I" from 0500 hours of 08.09.2023 to 2359 hours on 10.09.2023. However, bonafide residents, authorized vehicles and emergency vehicles will be allowed to travel on the road network of New Delhi District.
- xiii. The entire area inside Ring Road (Mahatma Gandhi Marg) will be considered as "Regulated Zone" from 0500 hours of 08.09.2023 to 2359 hours on 10.09.2023. Only bonafide residents, authorized vehicles, emergency vehicles and vehicles of passengers traveling to Airport, Old Delhi & New Delhi Railway Stations will be allowed to ply on road network beyond Ring Road towards New Delhi District.
- xiv. Further, the following roads and junctions will be treated as "Controlled Zone-II" from 0000 hrs. of 10.09.2023 to 1400 hrs. on 10.09.2023: W-Point, A-Point, DDU Marg, Vikas Marg (till Noida Link Road-Pusta Road), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Delhi Gate, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg (from Rajghat to Guru Nanak Chowk), Chaman Lal Marg (from Guru Nanak Chowk to Turkman Gate), Asaf Ali Road (from Turkman Gate to BSZ Marg), Maharaja Ranjit Singh Marg (from Barakhambha - Tolstoy crossing to Guru Nanak Chowk on Chaman Lal Marg), Mahatma Gandhi Marg (from Delhi-Meerut Expressway T-Point to Kashmere Gate), IP Flyover, Shanti Van Chowk, Hanuman Setu, ISBT Kashmere Gate and Salimgarh Bypass.
- xv. On 10.09.2023 from 0500 hrs. to 1300 hrs., traffic regulations in Controlled Zone-II will result in restricted access for the following locations:
 - a. New Delhi Railway Station from Ajmeri Gate side,
 - b. Old Delhi Railway Station from Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (SPM) Road side,
 - c. Shanti Van Chowk from Geeta Colony side,
 - d. ITO from Vikas Marg side,
 - e. Rajghat Chowk from Jawahar Lal Nehru (JLN) Marg side,
 - f. Guru Nanak Chowk from Minto Road side

MEDICAL EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Delhi Traffic Police gives topmost priority to the safety and security of commuters. With the intent to ensure that every precious human life is saved, a dedicated Ambulance Assistance Control Room will be made operational from 0000 hours on the intervening night of **07 & 08.09.2023 to 2359 hours on 11.09.2023** on the number **6628400604/112 (ERSS)**. Traffic police personnel will be present in the Control Rooms of Centralized Accident and Trauma Services (CATS), Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Major Govt. and Private hospitals. Apart from this, medical emergency vehicles assistance teams will be deployed at major junctions across the city. Separate Traffic Advisory for medical services may also be referred to [https://traffic.delipolice.gov.in/dtpg20info](https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/dtpg20info)

SUGGESTED ROUTES

Commuters are requested to avoid journey to places falling in Regulated and Controlled Zones. However, if the journey is unavoidable, the road users are advised to take following routes:

NORTH - SOUTH CORRIDOR

- Ring Road - Ashram Chowk - Sarai Kale Khan - Delhi-Meerut Expressway - Noida Link Road - Pusta Road - Yudhisthir Setu - ISBT Kashmere Gate - Ring Road - Majnu Ka Tila.
- From AIIMS Chowk - Ring Road - Daula Kuan - Ring Road - Brar Square - Naraina Flyover - Rajouri Garden Junction - Ring Road - Punjabi Bagh Junction - Ring Road - Azad Pur Chowk.

EAST - WEST CORRIDOR

- From Sun Dial/DND Flyover - Ring Road - Ashram Chowk - Moolchand Underpass - AIIMS Chowk - Ring Road - Daula Kuan - Ring Road - Brar Square - Naraina Flyover.
- From Yudhisthir Setu - Ring Road - Chandgi Ram Akhara - Mall Road - Azad Pur Chowk - Ring Road - Lala Jagat Narayan Marg.

METRO SERVICES

Metro Rail service shall remain available for commuters at all metro stations. However, boarding/de-boarding at Supreme Court Metro Station will not be permitted from 0500 hours on 09.09.2023 to 2300 hours on 10.09.2023.

For accurate maps & navigation during G20 and otherwise, please use [Mappi MapMyIndia app](https://mappi.com/getApp), India's own swadeshi maps app. Download free from mappi.com/getApp

No TSR and Taxi will be allowed to enter or ply in New Delhi District from 0500 hours on 09.09.2023 to 2359 hours on 10.09.2023. However, Taxis carrying bonafide residents and tourists having valid bookings in hotels located inside New Delhi District will be allowed to ply on road network inside New Delhi District.

CITY BUS SERVICES

City buses will operate on Ring Road & road network beyond Ring Road towards the borders of Delhi. These buses will be allowed to exit from Delhi. However, City bus service will not be available in New Delhi Area.

BUS TERMINATING POINTS

1. ISBT Kashmere Gate	2. ISBT Sarai Kale Khan	3. Ashram Chowk	4. Moolchand Flyover
5. Vivekanand Marg (Regional Passport Office)	6. AIIMS	7. Under RTR Flyover	8. Mayapuri Chowk

INTER STATE BUSES

Interstate buses will be allowed entry into Delhi and their terminating points will be on Ring Road:

Sl. No.	Buses Coming From	Terminating Point
1.	Ghazipur Border	ISBT Sarai Kale Khan
2.	Apsara Border	ISBT Kashmere Gate
3.	Chilla Border	ISBT Sarai Kale Khan
4.	Badarpur Border	Ashram Chowk
5.	Tikri Border	Peeragarhi Chowk
6.	Singhu Border	Mukarba Chowk
7.	No buses will be allowed to enter from Rajokari Border (NH-48)	

INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL PUBLIC

All Government Departments, Offices, Organizations, Undertakings, Corporations, Boards, Statuary Bodies, Educational Institutions, etc. of Central and State Government located in the NCT of Delhi shall remain closed from 08.09.2023 to 10.09.2023. All Private Offices, Educational and other Institutions located in the NCT of Delhi shall remain closed from 08.09.2023 to 10.09.2023. All Commercial banks, Financial Institutions, Shops, Commercial and Business establishments situated within the jurisdiction of New Delhi Police District shall remain closed from 08.09.2023 to 10.09.2023. General public and motorists are advised to keep patience, observe traffic rules and road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel deployed at all intersections and remain updated through **G20 Traffic Virtual Help Desk** <https://traffic.delipolice.gov.in/dtpg20info>, Delhi Traffic Police Website <https://traffic.delipolice.gov.in>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/dtptraffic>, Twitter handle <https://twitter.com/dtptraffic>, Instagram page <https://www.instagram.com/dtptraffic>, WhatsApp Number **8750871493**, and Helpline Numbers **1095/011-25844444**. It is a watershed moment in India's history and as proud Indian citizens; it is our patriotic duty to ensure that the event goes on smoothly as planned. It is, therefore, requested that people make maximum use of Metro services, plan their journey in advance and keep sufficient time in hand to avoid inconvenience.

RAILWAY STATION

FOR NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION

Passengers should note that road journey towards New Delhi Railway Station from Ajmeri Gate side will be affected on 10.09.2023 from 0500 hrs. to 1300 hrs. Passengers are requested to make maximum use of Metro services and in case of road journey they are advised to take following routes:

- From South & West Delhi: Daula Kuan - Ring Road - Naraina Flyover - Mayapuri Chowk - Kirti Nagar Main Road - Shadipur Flyover - Patel Road (Main Mathura Marg) - R/A Pusa - Pusa Road - Dayal Chowk - Panchnu Road - Outer Circle Connaught Place - Chelmsford Road for Paharganj side or Minto Road - Bhavbhati Marg for Ajmeri Gate side.
- From North & East Delhi: Yudhisthir Setu - Boulevard Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - R/A Jhandewalan - D.B. Gupta Road - Sheela Cinema Road - Paharganj Bridge and reach New Delhi Railway Station.

FOR OLD DELHI RAILWAY STATION

Passengers should note that road journey towards Old Delhi Railway Station from Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (SPM) Road side will be affected on 10.09.2023 from 0500 hrs. to 1300 hrs. Passengers are requested to make maximum use of Metro services and in case of road journey they are advised to take following routes:

- From South & East Delhi: Ring Road - Ashram Chowk - Sarai Kale Khan - Delhi-Meerut Expressway - Noida Link Road - Pusta Road - Yudhisthir Setu - ISBT Kashmere Gate - Lothian Road - Chhatta Rail - S.P. Mukherjee Marg - Kauria Bridge and reach Old Delhi Railway Station.
- From West & North Delhi: Punjab Bagh Junction - Rohtak Road - Shastri Park - Pusa Road - Noida Link Road - Delhi-Meerut Expressway - Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road) - Nizamuddin Entry-II Road and reach Old Delhi Railway Station.

FOR HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN RAILWAY STATION

Passengers are requested to make maximum use of Metro services and in case of road journey they are advised to take following routes:

- From South Delhi: Daula Kuan Flyover - Ring Road - AIIMS Chowk - Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Setu - Slip Road towards Lala Lajpat Rai Marg - Lodhi Road - Neela Gumbad - Hazrat Nizamuddin Marg - Nizamuddin Railway Station Road and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station.
- From East Delhi: Pusta Road/Noida Link Road - Delhi-Meerut Expressway - Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road) - Nizamuddin Entry-II Road and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station.
- From West Delhi: Punjab Bagh Junction - Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road) - Raja Garden Chowk - Naraina Flyover - Daula Kuan Flyover - Ring Road - AIIMS Chowk - Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Setu - Slip Road towards Lala Lajpat Rai Marg - Lodhi Road - Neela Gumbad - Hazrat Nizamuddin Marg - Nizamuddin Railway Station Road and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station.
- From North Delhi: Mukarba Chowk - D.B. Gupta Road - KB Hedge Marg (Outer Ring Road) - Majnu Ka Tila - Chandgi Ram Akhara - Left loop from Ring Road towards Yudhisthir Setu - GT Road - Shastri Park - Pusa Road/Noida Link Road - Delhi-Meerut Expressway - Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road) - Nizamuddin Entry-II Road and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station.

FOR SARAI ROHILLA RAILWAY STATION

Passengers are requested to make maximum use of Metro services and in case of road journey they are advised to take following routes:

- From South Delhi: Daula Kuan Flyover - Vande Matram Marg - Dayal Chowk - Faiz Road - New Rohtak Road - Liberty Cinema - Navhind School Marg - Sarai Rohilla Railway Station Road and reach Sarai Rohilla Railway Station.
- From East Delhi: Noida Link Road/Pusta Road - Shastri Park - GT Road - Yudhisthir Setu - GT Karnal Road - Under Rani Jhansi Flyover - Ram Bagh Marg - Veer Banda Baig Marg - Old Rohtak Road - Sarai Rohilla Railway Station Road and reach Sarai Rohilla Railway Station.
- From West Delhi: Punjab Bagh Junction - Rohtak Road - New Rohtak Road - Sarai Rohilla Railway Station Road and reach Sarai Rohilla Railway Station.
- From North Delhi: Azadpur Chowk - Ring Road - Prem Badi Pula - Maharaja Nahar Singh Marg - Inderlok Metro Station - Veer Banda Baig Marg - Old Rohtak Road - Sarai Rohilla Railway Station Road and reach Sarai Rohilla Railway Station.

THROUGH METRO SERVICES:

In view of traffic regulations, motorists might experience longer travel times than usual. Hence, passengers are requested to make travel plans with sufficient time at hand and make maximum use of Metro services, especially the Airport Express Line (Orange Line) connecting New Delhi Station to Dwarka Sector 21 Station via IGI Airport T3.

Further, passengers travelling from different parts of Delhi to Airport are advised to avail the following metro services:

From Dwarka to T3: Blue Line till Dwarka Sector 21 Station and Airport Express Line till IGI Airport T3. From New Delhi to T3: Yellow Line till New Delhi Station and Airport Express Line till IGI Airport T3. OR Orange Line from Shivaji Stadium till IGI Airport T3. From South Delhi to T3: Pink Line till Daula Kuan Station and Airport Express Line till IGI Airport T3. OR Magenta Line till Hauz Khas Station, Yellow Line till Dilli Haat-INA Station, Pink Line till Durgabhai Deshmukh South Campus Station and Airport Express Line till IGI Airport T3. From West Delhi to T3: Blue Line till Rajouri Garden Station, Pink Line till Durgabhai Deshmukh South Campus Station and Airport Express Line till IGI Airport T3. From North Delhi to T3: Red Line till Kashmere Gate Station, Yellow Line till New Delhi Station and Airport Express Line till IGI Airport T3. From East Delhi to T3: Pink Line till Welcome Station, Red Line till Kashmere Gate Station, Yellow Line till New Delhi Station and Airport Express Line till IGI Airport T3.

THROUGH ROAD JOURNEY:

Passengers should note that road journey towards IGI Airport will be affected from 0000 hours on the intervening night of 07 & 08.09.2023 to 2359 hours on 10.09.2023.

In case passengers travelling to Airport opt for road journey, they are advised to make travel plans with sufficient time at hand to take the following routes:

From Gurugram to T3: Blue Line till Gurugram Station - T3 Terminal Road, From Gurugram to T1: NH-48 - Rao Gajraj Singh Marg - Old Delhi Gurugram Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road, From Dwarka to T1: Sector 22 Dwarka Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road - Service Road NH-48 - Sanjay T-Point - Ullan Bata Marg - Terminal T1. From Dwarka to T3: Sector 22 Dwarka Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road, From New Delhi & South Delhi to T1: AIIMS Chowk - Ring Road - Moti Bagh Chowk - RTR Marg - Sanjay T-Point - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road, From New Delhi & South Delhi to T1: AIIMS Chowk - Ring Road - Moti Bagh Chowk - RTR Marg - Sanjay T-Point - Ullan Bata Marg - Terminal T1. From West Delhi to T3: Punjab Bagh Chowk - Ring Road - Raja Garden Chowk - Najafgarh Road - Panthika Road - Dabri-Dwarka Road - Road No. 224, Dabri-Gurugram Road - Sector-22, Dwarka Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road - Ullan Bata Marg - Terminal T1. From North & East Delhi to T3: ISBT Kashmere Gate - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Rohtak Road - Punjab Bagh Chowk - Ring Road - Raja Garden Chowk - Najafgarh Road - Panthika Road - Dabri-Dwarka Road - Road No. 224, Dabri-Gurugram Road - Sector-22, Dwarka Road - UER II - Service Road NH-48 - T3 Terminal Road, From North & East Delhi to T1: ISBT Kashmere Gate - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Rohtak Road - Punjab Bagh Chowk - Ring Road - Raja Garden Chowk - Najafgarh Road - Panthika Road - Dabri-Dwarka Road - Road No. 224, Dabri-Gurugram Road - Sector-22, Dwarka Road - UER II -



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MJ 5



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Full Dress Rehearsals for

G-20 Summit

shall be held on 2nd September, 2023 from 0830 hrs onwards.

As part of the rehearsals carcade will be moving from different parts of Delhi towards New Delhi District.

DETAILS OF TIMING: 0830 hrs to 1200 hrs | 1630 hrs to 1800 hrs | 1900 hrs to 2300 hrs

In order to facilitate the carcade rehearsals, there will be regulations on the movement of traffic at the following points:

- Sardar Patel Marg - Panchsheel Marg
- Sardar Patel Marg - Kautilya Marg
- Zakir Hussain Marg - Subramaniam Bharti Marg
- Press Enclave Road - Lal Bahadur Shashtri Marg
- R/A GKP
- R/A MLNP

- C - Hexagon
- R/A Brig. Hoshiyar Singh Marg
- R/A Satya Marg/Shantipath
- R/A Windsor Place
- Barakhamba Road Red Light
- R/A Claridges

- Under Moti Bagh Flyover
- Joseph Tito Marg - Siri Fort Road
- 11 Murti
- R/A Teen Murti
- R/A Gol Methi
- R/A Mansingh Road

- Mathura Road
- Bhairon Road - Ring Road
- R/A Yashwant Place
- R/A Kautilya
- Janpath - Kartavyapath
- Tolstoy Marg - Janpath

- Vivekanand Marg
- Under Lodhi Flyover
- Under Chirag Delhi Flyover
- Sershah Road

Commuters might experience congestion on these roads & junctions. Road users are requested to plan their journey in advance accordingly and avoid the above mentioned roads and junctions during the specified time slots. However, **if the journey is unavoidable commuter are advised to make maximum use of Metro Services.**

SUGGESTED ROUTES: In case of road journey motorists are advised to take the following routes:



NORTH - SOUTH CORRIDOR

- Ring Road - Ashram Chowk - Sarai Kale Khan - Mahatma Gandhi Marg - IP Flyover - Mahatma Gandhi Marg - ISBT Kashmiri Gate - Ring Road - Majnu Ka Tila.
- From AIIMS Chowk - Ring Road - Daula Kuan - Ring Road - Brar Square - Naraina Flyover - Rajouri Garden Junction - Ring Road - Punjabi Bagh Junction - Ring Road - Azad Pur Chowk.



EAST - WEST CORRIDOR

- From Sun Dial/BND Flyover - Ring Road - Ashram Chowk - Moolchand Underpass - AIIMS Chowk - Ring Road - Daula Kuan - Ring Road - Brar Square - Naraina Flyover.
- From Yudhistir Setu - Boulevard Road - Rani Jhansi Road - New Rohtak Road - Punjabi Bagh Chowk - Ring Road,



FOR RAILWAY STATIONS

Passengers will be able to use their private vehicles, Taxis for travelling to New Delhi Railway Station and Old Delhi Railway Station. However, in case of road journey they may face some congestion and consequent delays. Therefore, they are advised to keep sufficient time at hand. For easier and more convenient access to railway stations passengers are advised to make maximum use of Metro services.



FOR AIRPORT

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CITY BUS SERVICES

City Bus Services will not be affected at large. However, they may be diverted from certain road stretches in New Delhi District depending upon the real time traffic situation. Motorists are requested to have patience, observe traffic rules & road discipline and follow directions of Traffic Police personnel deployed at all intersections. People are also requested to plan their journey in advance with sufficient time at hand to avoid inconvenience.



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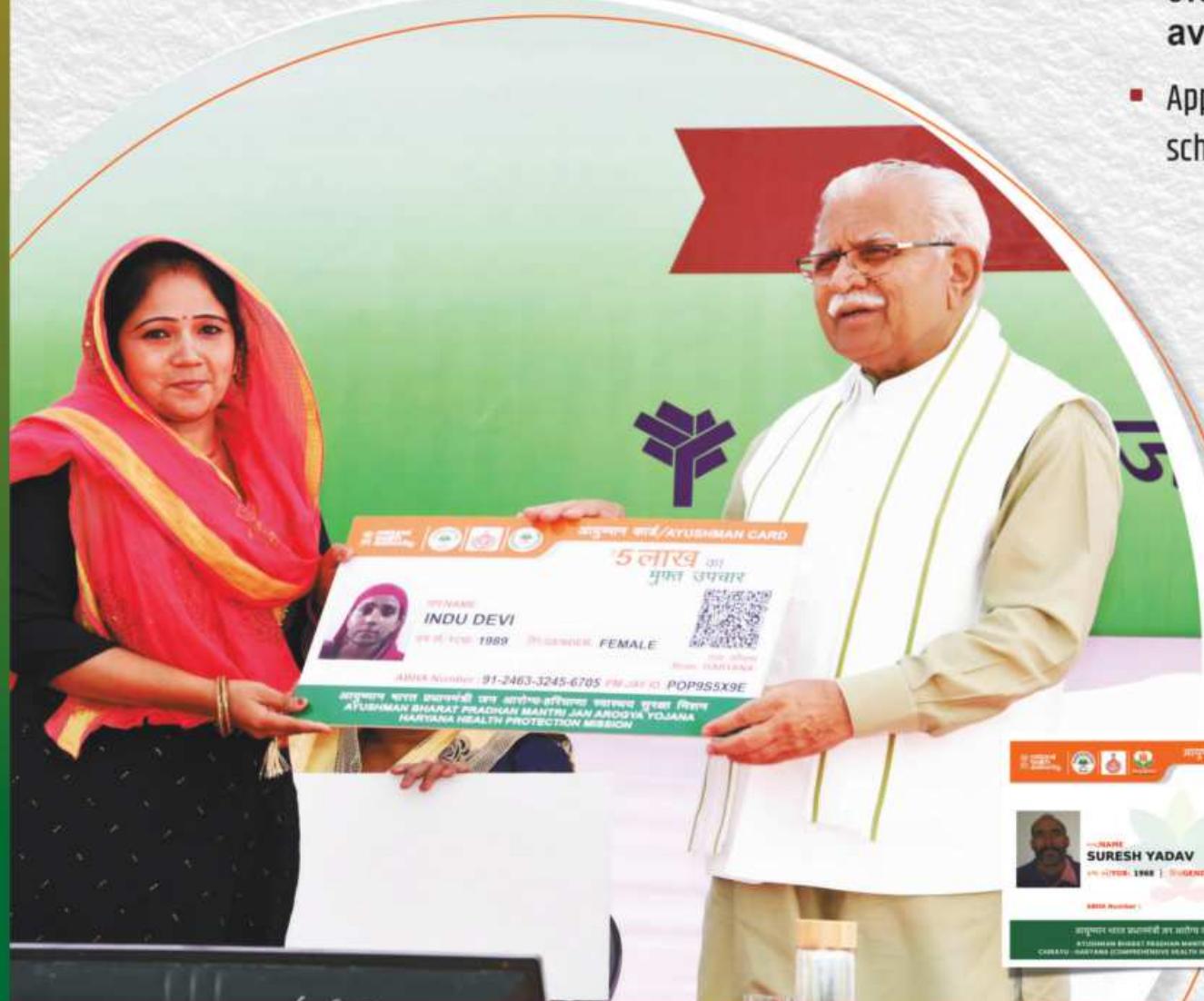
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“पिछले 9 से 10 वर्षों में पहली बार देश के गरीब से गरीब को भी एहसास हुआ है कि देश के अस्पताल उसके लिये भी आसानी से उपलब्ध हैं।”

नरेन्द्र मोदी



IN BRIEF



Gehlot clarifies remarks on 'corruption' in judiciary

A day after criticising the "corruption" allegedly rampant in the judiciary, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday clarified his remarks and said whatever he had stated was "not my personal opinion". Mr. Gehlot said several retired Supreme Court judges and even the retired Chief Justices had commented on corruption in judiciary and expressed concern over it. Mr. Gehlot said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Thursday that he had always respected and had full faith in the judiciary.

Cong. demands judicial probe into Assam cash-for-job scam

The Assam unit of the Congress has demanded a judicial probe by a retired judge into the allegations of a cash-for-job scam in the State. The party also said Vajpayee Bhavan, the BJP's State headquarters, should be brought under the process of investigation for being the epicentre of the scam. "The BJP government's tall claims about a corruption-free recruitment process has been busted by the cash-for-job scam," Congress MLA Bharat Chandra Narah said in a statement.

Aadhaar-linked birth registration in Nagaland

Nagaland on August 31 became the first among the eight States in the northeast to start Aadhaar-linked birth registration, or ALBR. The initiative, launched in the State's capital Kohima on Thursday, facilitates birth registration-based Aadhaar enrolment for children up to five years of age, officials said. "The ALBR will play a vital role in enrolling newborn babies and also cover children below the age of five," Mhabemo Yanthan, the State's Commissioner, said.

Parties to rope in top leaders as campaign for Puthuppally by-election enters final lap

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

As electioneering in Puthuppally, Kerala, enters the final lap, the mercury level on the ground has caught up with the day-time heat with party cadres scrambling through the constituency. The bypoll is scheduled to be held on September 5.

Electioneering on Thursday centred around Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam units as the candidates attended the Chatayam day celebrations organised at various locations. In consideration of the significant presence of the Ezhava community here, the parties gave a break to the



Home stretch: UDF candidate Chandy Oommen and NDA candidate G. Lijin Lal wishing each other. VISHNU PRATHAP

high-octane campaign for the day and resorted to personal canvassing.

Heating up

With just a few more days left for the election, the Congress will be bringing a handful of top leaders, in-

cluding A.K. Antony and Shashi Tharoor, to lead the campaign. In response to the Left Democratic Front's development discourse on Puthuppally, debates and presentations on the UDF's vision of development are being staged

across the constituency.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who has invested heavily in the three-week-long campaign, is slated to address three more election conventions on Friday.

National-level BJP leaders are slated to undertake tours across the constituency and join the campaign of the National Democratic Alliance. Rounding off its campaign will be Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan and former Minister Alphons K.J., besides BJP spokespersons Tom Vadakkan and Anil Antony. Prakash Javadekar, BJP leader in charge of Kerala, too, is expected to campaign in the coming days.

A warm hug from Sonia Gandhi sends Sharmila's hopes soaring

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

A warm hug from Sonia Gandhi, an invite to join the Congress, and assurance about a political future in the Telangana unit of the party at a meeting with the Congress leader and her son, Rahul Gandhi, in New Delhi on Thursday have dismantled hurdles and paved the way for a better future for Y.S. Sharmila, chief of the YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP).

The meeting that lasted for over 45 minutes veered around Telangana politics and the political future of Ms. Sharmila, but the Gandhis apparently asked her to wait for some time as the Telangana leader-



Y.S. Sharmila

ship has to be taken into confidence. They could not give total assurance on the constituency she was seeking to contest from.

Sources said Ms. Sharmila, along with her husband Anil, met Mr. Rahul Gandhi first and Ms. Sonia Gandhi joined them later.

After enquiring about her well-being and that of her family, Ms. Sonia Gandhi apparently asked Ms.

Sharmila if she could give her a hug. Then they both had a warm embrace, with Ms. Gandhi patting Ms. Sharmila on the back and appreciating her dynamism in politics like her father, the late Y.S. Rajashankara Reddy.

Sources said the meeting was fruitful, but politics was a serious affair and some serious discussion had to take place with the Telangana Congress leadership before clearing the route for Ms. Sharmila.

If at all the party is merged with the Congress, Ms. Sharmila is expecting nomination from the Palair constituency in Khammam district. There is also a talk of her entering into the fray from Secunderabad.



Tamil Nadu CM to launch 'Speaking for India' podcasts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

As part of his campaign against the BJP-led Union government, DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has decided to launch a series of podcasts titled "Speaking for India".

Translation of these podcasts in English and other Indian languages will also be available, said a DMK press release.

"It is the need of the hour that the DMK, which is nearing 75 years, its cadres nurtured by Anna (C.N. Annadurai) and *Kalaignar* (M. Karunanidhi), and the third-largest party in Parliament, has to speak up for India," Mr. Stalin said on Thursday.

In a message posted on the micro-blogging website 'X' (formerly Twitter), Mr. Stalin said, "Awakening India's Tomorrow, A Southern Voice Speaks for #INDIA!".

He was referring to the Opposition-led Indian National Democratic, Inclusive Alliance bloc of which the DMK is a key constituent.

"Wait for the voice that will come from the South," he added.

BJP MLA quits in M.P., points fingers at 'new entrants'

Shubhamoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

In a setback to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Madhya Pradesh, a sitting MLA from the Gwalior-Chambal region quit on Thursday, accusing supporters of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia of corruption and "persecution of original BJP workers".

Virendra Raghuvanshi, a two-time MLA from Kolaras in Shivpuri, accused new entrants to the BJP [MLAs who crossed over to the BJP in 2020, allowing the BJP to replace a Congress government] of sidelining and targeting party workers like him. He further alleged that when he tried to raise the matter with Chief Minister Shivraj



Singh Chouhan, he was silenced.

"In the past three-and-a-half years, ever since a bunch of MLAs under Mr. Scindia's leadership entered the BJP and some of them joined the Cabinet, there have been attempts to disrupt development works in my constituency and false FIRs have been

lodged against my supporters. One of them, the minister in charge of Shivpuri district, Mahendra Singh Sisodia, even tried to get an FIR lodged against me," Mr. Raghuvanshi said.

In his resignation letter, too, he wrote that the Minister in-charge had tried to justify corruption by comparing it to "temple of offerings". Mr. Raghuvanshi further wrote that party workers like him were not being heard.

He targeted Mr. Scindia himself in the resignation letter. "Scindia ji felled the Congress government accusing it of failing to waive ₹2 lakh in farmer loans. But after the formation of the BJP government, Scindia never spoke once about the farm loan waiver," he

wrote in his letter to State party president V.D. Sharma.

He alleged that fraud in cooperative banks in Shivpuri and other parts of the State had left farmers in a difficult position and the State government had once again failed to take any action.

BJP in a spot
The resignation comes as the BJP prepares to finalise the candidates' list, and may create headaches for the party that is fighting anti-incumbency and infighting. Since Mr. Scindia's arrival, there has been talk of accommodating new faces alongside the old in the Gwalior-Chambal region, where the BJP has been a force to reckon

with since its early days.

Reacting to the allegations levelled by Mr. Raghuvanshi, Mr. Scindia asserted that the former was free to go wherever he wished, asserting that his political switch and that of his supporters was a matter of principle.

"The *avaagaman* [entries and exits] that is happening, does happen during elections. It's every person's independent right to chart their future course and this is democracy," Mr. Scindia told journalists.

There are indications that Mr. Raghuvanshi is likely to join the Congress and contest against Minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia in the Assembly poll. The MLA said he would reveal his plans soon.

Narco-terror network: court orders attachment of accused's property

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has secured a court order for the attachment of a property belonging to Varinder Singh Chahal, who is accused of being part of a narco-terror network of international drug smugglers and the Khalistan Liberation Force.

A special court in Punjab's Mohali has ordered the attachment of the immoveable property – measuring 24 kanals, 14 marlas and 4 sarsai – under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, in connection

with the seizure of heroin and drug money in 2019.

The NIA had registered the case on January 22, 2020, based on the original first information report dated May 31, 2019, related to the seizure of 500 grams of heroin and ₹1.2 lakh of drug money from Jagbir Singh Samra and two others, including Mr. Chahal and Harpreet Singh.

The agency found that Mr. Chahal was allegedly a close associate of an international drug smuggler, Jasmeet Hakimzada, and also of the Pakistan-based self-styled chief of KLF, Harmeet Singh.

CM NDDE

Madras HC to examine special court verdicts in all MP/MLA cases

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has decided to test the correctness of all judgments in MP/MLA cases passed so far by the special courts in Tamil Nadu. The High Court observed that citizens must never get the impression of courts being playing fields for the rich and the powerful, and criticised the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption sleuths for acting like "puppets in *The Muppet Show*" depending on the political party in power.

Justice Venkatesh said the records in the case against Mr. Panneerselvam *prima facie* revealed a tale of how the criminal justice system was "subverted by the collective effort" of all stakeholders.

The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption had registered the case in 2006, when the DMK came to power after five years of AIADMK rule, and filed a chargesheet before the Theni Chief Judicial Magistrate on July 30, 2009.

On June 9, 2009, the then Speaker, R. Avudaiapan, granted sanction for prosecution. The Special Court took cognisance of the chargesheet and summoned the accused.

On May 3, 2011, a fortnight before the AIADMK returned to power, a government order was issued, constituting a special court in Madurai for cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Justice Venkatesh said ordering further investigation on the basis of a petition taken out by the accused was unknown to law.

SPOTLIGHT



(From top) Members of the Nasha Roko Committee at Ghuman Kalan village in Punjab's Bathinda district; Seera Dhillon, 25, from Joga village, Mansa district; and Parwinder Singh 'Jhota'. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The anti-drug lords

In the southern Malwa region of Punjab, a vigilante wave is sweeping through villages to tackle the decade-old drug problem that is debilitating the State. **Abhinay Lakshman** meets the groups involved, fuelled by the cult of one man and the fear of a youth-force crippled by addiction

In the 47 days since the arrest of Parwinder Singh 'Jhota', 36, a sit-in has been in progress on the premises of the Mansa district administration complex. About 15 to 20 people show up each day to join the handful camping here. They are supported every couple of weeks by a few thousands who come in from across Punjab's southern Malwa region. Organised by the Nasha Roko Committees (NRCs) that have sprung across the area to fight the drug problem that is rampant across the State, they are joined by a few farmer unions. This is their way of registering a protest against Parwinder's arrest and to show their lack of faith in the police and the government to rein in the drug problem.

Parwinder was a star athlete in school and college. He got the name Jhota, meaning bull, as a State-level boxer, though he also dabbled in cricket. He started using *chitta*, a heroin-based opioid, the first time he went to jail for a street fight. He quit in 2015 after a friend died from an overdose in front of him, a needle still in his arm.

The National Crime Records Bureau's Accidental Death report showed that Punjab had 78 deaths from narcotics abuse in 2021. The State registered 127 deaths, the second-highest in the country, due to illicit substances or spurious liquor or that year.

In early April this year, shaken by seeing children shooting up in a local park, Parwinder, now claiming to be clean, reached out to Punjab Kisan Union leader Sukhdarshan Singh Nato, who was also his neighbour. With his help, he started the 'Nasha roko, rogaar do' (stop addiction, provide employment) campaign.

The NRCs – each village has its own – have been set up organically over the last four months as informal initiatives to stop the use and sale of drugs. Districts like Bathinda, Mansa, Sangrur, and Faridkot, all south of the Sutlej river, use their networks to monitor their villages. Each committee has anywhere from 12 people to the whole village involved. They track spots that addicts frequent, raid chemists they suspect are selling drugs, set up night-watch duties shared by volunteers, and even force their way into homes they feel *chitta* is being sold out of.

Twenty of Punjab's 22 districts now figure in the Union government's list of 372 districts most affected by substance abuse across India. In March this year, the Health Minister of Punjab, Balbir Singh, told the Assembly that the State had 8.74 lakh people in government-run and private de-addiction centres for substance abuse.

The watchmen

It is 1 a.m. About 10-15 men in their 20s position themselves at key intersections leading into Ghuman Kalan village in Bathinda district. Armed with swords, sticks, and smartphones, they have a shift until sunrise. Through the night, they will check and search any 'suspicious' vehicle or person coming their way. "We check any vehicle from outside the village," says Rajendra Singh, a member of the drug vigilante squad. "If they are high, we see it in their eyes," he says, but also, "When people smoke the *chitta* off the foil paper, they use a rolled-up currency note to inhale the smoke. When we search them, we look for currency notes that are rolled up or blackened," the



One day, Parwinder came to me and said he was done [with drugs]. He locked himself in his room for a week to deal with the withdrawals.... But he made it

BHIM SINGH
Parwinder's father and former Army man

farmer in his early 30s explains enthusiastically. "If we find anyone who is an addict or a peddler, we gather around them and try to explain to them what they are doing is wrong. When they don't listen to us, we give them 10 minutes of *seva* (community service)," Jakhsir Singh of the committee in Ghuman Kalan says, chuckling along with the others. *Seva*, which forms the bedrock on which the Sikh faith is founded, usually means an activity like serving food in a gurdwara. Here, it means that they are roughed up. Then, they call the police.

Chitta is not the only substance abused in Punjab. There is also the prescription-only pharmaceutical drug, pregabalin, usually used in capsule form to treat chronic pain and opioid addiction in de-addiction centres. It is street-named 'signature', after one of the companies that manufactures it legally. In fact, the approved drug, in 75 mg doses, is available in government de-addiction centres under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. As a result, it is not under the schedule of banned substances under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, making it a challenge for the police.

This is where the committees 'step in'. They conduct 'sting operations' on chemists selling 'signature'. They live-stream these 'raids' on social media, publicly humiliating the people behind the counter and the addict. The videos have views in the thousands. The committees have no government sanction to do this, but villagers feel the police are both inactive and complicit. "We have no other option. Everything we are doing the police are capable of doing, but are not. At least now, we can keep an eye on our village," says Lucky Dhillon, 22, the youngest member of Ghuman Kalan's NRC, who records the committee's activities and puts them up on his Instagram account. "All of this started with one man: Parwinder Singh 'Jhota', he announces grandly.

The cult of 'Jhota'

"Parwinder was a tall, strapping boy. During his college days, he got into a lot of fights. He started doing drugs in jail," Bhim Singh, Parwinder's

father, a former Army man, says. "One day, he came to me and said he was done. He locked himself in his room for a week to deal with the withdrawals. He would have fevers, keep screaming, vomit. But he made it." Once he quit, after about eight years, he got married and had two children, both under 10 now. So when he saw the children in the park, something hit him.

"In April, he came to me. He said that he wanted to do something to stop the drug menace in Punjab. I asked him if he was clean first and if he could promise to remain that way. He was so sure of himself," Nato, the Punjab Kisan Union leader, says. He had known Parwinder even as a boy.

From the get-go, Parwinder chose to conduct 'stings' and began to template it, says Nato. On April 22, he got a boy to buy capsules from Sanjay Medical Store in Mansa for ₹400, and caught it on camera. He returned to the store with the drugs and told the pharmacist to stop selling them, taking back the ₹400. The video went viral and Parwinder won significant support. It also became the cause for the first of four FIRs against him over four months. The Mansa police booked him for 'extorting' ₹400 from the pharmacist.

With the FIR only bringing more support to Parwinder, he continued visiting villages and stopping at locations across Mansa district where he knew drugs were sold. Videos of him confronting addicts and alleged peddlers started going viral and every village he would visit would open an NRC – often on the very day he would visit, like the one in Ghuman Kalan.

"He kept meeting senior police officers in Mansa district and they kept asking him to stop," Parwinder's lawyer, Lakhwinder Singh Lakhpal, says. "They told him it was not his job; Parwinder kept asking them to do theirs properly. He had also given them a list of places he knew drugs were sold."

On July 15, the Mansa police arrested Parwinder when a mob that he was not a part of initially 'raided' another chemist in the town. They landed the pharmacist with shoes on suspicion of selling capsules.

His popularity had peaked so much that the news of his arrest evoked strong criticism of the

State government from Opposition parties such as the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress. In addition, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, the politically powerful representative body of the Sikhs, appreciated his work and condemned his arrest.

Hit and miss

The movement kicked off by Parwinder's campaign has also given fresh impetus to activists like Seera Dhillon, 25. He has been doing the same work at his village, Joga, in Mansa district for a couple of years now. "Jhota's work is great, and we are with him. It is clear that the police are involved, otherwise why would they have a problem with us cleaning up our villages?" Seera says. Sitting under the shade of trees next to his 4.5-acre farm currently sprouting with paddy, he talks about getting addicts in Joga to quit. He, like all other NRC members, believes they are also disrupting the supply chain by catching peddlers.

Police officers at the Joga police station are not so sure. They say that most people being caught by NRCs are addicts, not peddlers. In a year-long anti-drug operation that ended in June this year, the Punjab police had arrested over 14,000 drug smugglers and seized over 1,100 kg of heroin. But out of the over 11,000 FIRs registered, only 11% were for commercial quantities. Only 250 gm or above of heroin is considered a commercial quantity under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

"The people caught by the Nasha Roko Committees are all repeat offenders. They are addicts who usually have 5-10 gm [chitta] on them. They will sell a part of it for their next fix and then use the rest. We cannot classify them as peddlers. At most we register the case and release them on bond, because the amount is too little," says a senior officer at the Joga police station.

Another officer at the police station, which oversees 15 villages, says, "We are in touch with the committees in all the villages. Our focus is on telling them that they should call us first. They should not be taking the law into their own hands. We promise to act promptly."

Despite insisting that whoever they catch is a peddler, members of Ghuman Kalan's NRC say the biggest 'seizure' they have made in their two months of existence has been a packet containing 20 gm of *chitta*. Unapologetic about working in the realm of vigilantism, Seera says, "We need not be doing this if the police did it. Children are dying with needles in their arms. So, if my work helps people come out of it, I'll keep doing it." He talks about several young men who have joined him on his mission after quitting drugs.

Gaggu Singh, 24, is one such member of Seera's committee, who is inspired in equal measure by Parwinder and Seera. "I started doing drugs when I was 16. We used to spend at least ₹3,000 on *chitta* every day. Two years ago, I saw one of my friends overdose and die in front of me. That shook me. It was around that time that Seera found me and helped me quit," he says. He now works as a plumber and helps the NRC.

Members of the NRCs are confident about the impact of intervention. Not so much the 'elders' in villages like Joga. Lounging under a banyan in the village, panchayat member Butta Singh, says, "The committee is there, but what power does it have? They don't consult with us. They are not recognised by us. Whoever they catch, goes back to doing drugs. Children will go to the next district, get high and come back."

A substance abuse study conducted in 2018-19 by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AIIMS, Delhi, says that Punjab has the second-highest number of people across the country that need help with opioid (heroin is a kind of opioid) addiction: an estimated 7.2 lakh.

While the NRCs may not understand the problem at a macro level, they do know of its impact on individuals. "Every day that Parwinder spends in jail, more and more Nasha Roko Committees are coming up," says Seera. Regardless of whether the administration is sympathetic or antagonistic towards them, they will persevere.





A stitch in time

How heritage conservationists are preserving culturally and historically significant artefacts and monuments

Amarjot Kaur
amarjot.kaur@thehindu.co.in

At Namita Jaspal's lab in New Chandigarh, a township just outside the eponymous state capital of Punjab and Haryana, lies a piece of leopard skin on a table.

"It has come for restoration from a private collection," says Namita, the chief conservator of Heritage Preservation Atelier, a company she started in 2011.

There are old paintings in the lab too, but Namita's work takes shape outside – in the wall paintings of the 16th Century Golden Temple in Amritsar, 18th and 19th Century temples built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh across Punjab, and a nine-foot flag gifted by the Chinese to the British Indian Army in the 1800s.

"In 2013, I conserved the wall paintings at the Golden Temple. It took three-four years to complete the project as there is a lot of footfall. We have also done frescos and wall paintings in temples from Maharaja Ranjit Singh's time. In all of them, there was an amalgamation of faith. In a Krishna temple, there were paintings of all 10 Sikh gurus," she says.

Namita is among the people who are bridging the gap between

art and history in India, work which includes wall paintings and murals spanning several centuries.

Nilabh Sinha, principal director of Delhi-headquartered INTACH Conservation Institutes, has dabbled in much older wall paintings. He restored those on Ladakh's 12th Century Mangyu temple complex. Nilabh, who also

conserved nine oil paintings of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in 2008 and 2009, says it took three-four years to finish work on the paintings and the structure of the complex.

"The original paintings at Ladakh had gold and natural pigments, but they had been overpainted garishly over the years by locals. The structure is made of mud, so the paintings and the structures had been damaged because of the roof leaking during heavy rain," he



The guiding principle for an art conservator is staying true to the art. If there is no funding, you cannot actually do what you want to do

SREEKUMAR MENON
Painting conservator

says. He says his team also repaired, conserved and restored the complex's structure and employed locals and trained them to continue preserving the monastery. "Local monks were involved in our project," he adds.

Sreekumar Menon, a freelance painting conservator, was involved in the conservation project of Sumda Chun in Ladakh, which was awarded for excellence by UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2011.

"We started in 2006 and continued up to 2010," he says.

In places like Ladakh, where winter temperature drops to -20°C, work is not possible in winter. "There is more rain in Ladakh now, so it gets tougher. In

all, we could work for 10 months in a year," says Nilabh.

In both the projects in Ladakh, the biggest challenge was removing soot which had discoloured the paintings. "During the initial two-three months, there was no electricity. It was interesting to work without a mobile connection," says Sreekumar, adding, "The guiding principle for an art conservator is staying true to the art. The main thing is how much one could do to preserve a work of art. If there is no funding, you cannot actually do what you want to do."

Sreekumar, has also worked on private collections. The price to restore a painting or structure depends on the project. "You could need team members for some projects too. But, by an estimate, the price could go up to ₹20 lakh to ₹1 crore for a month," he says. "There are many variables – logistics, lodging for team, materials and many more. It is highly demanding to work on a site. Sumda Chun is among them: difficult, but rewarding."

The temple was listed as one of the 100 most endangered sites in World Monument Funds 2006 Watch List, along with three other Indian sites – the 17th Century Dalhousie Square in Calcutta, the 15th Century Dhangkar Gompa in Himachal Pradesh, and the 19th Century Watson's Hotel in Mumbai.

Recently, Namita restored 17th Century Sikh warrior Banda Singh Bahadur's *angrakha*, a piece of clothing. "We used needle and a transparent thread for it, and a weaker adhesive, so that it is removable," she says. The Golden Temple, she says, was a huge learning experience. "I needed artists, but had to make it clear that they did not have to show their artistic skills, but just fill the gaps from where the paintings were chipped off. They could not use any material; we had to tell them what pigments they needed to work with," she says. "You cannot make new art on something that has already been made; that's one of the key points of restoration."



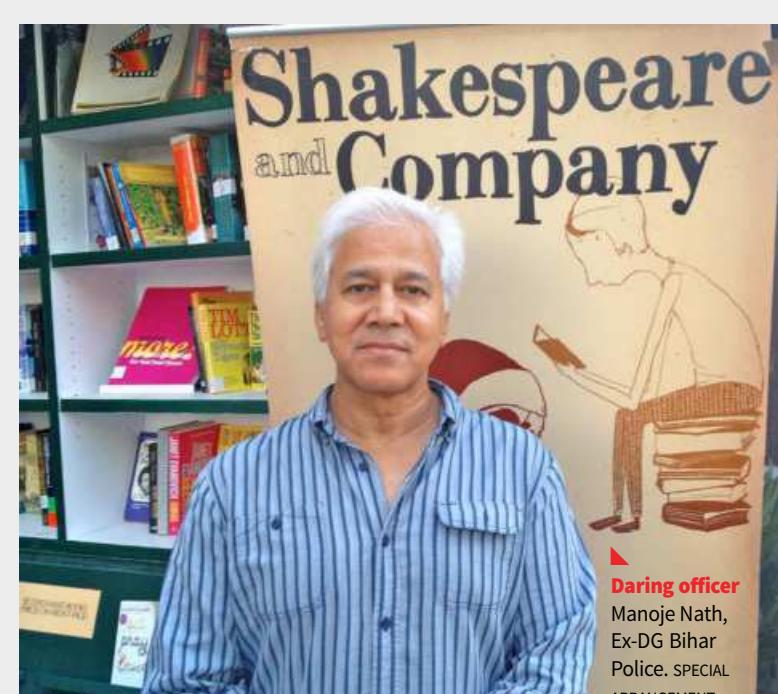
The guiding principle for an art conservator is staying true to the art. If there is no funding, you cannot actually do what you want to do

SREEKUMAR MENON
Painting conservator



Some blunt truths from a top cop

Tales from Banana Republic by
Manoje Nath, former Director-General of Police, Bihar, describes the complex interplay of power in politics and governance



Daring officer
Manoje Nath,
Ex-DG Bihar
Police. SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT

government of the day? I wanted to write about the perils that face a police officer who fancies himself an agent of law but at every step finds himself at variance with the organisational culture.

Q: So, where is this banana republic?
A: O Henry's Anchuria, original banana republic where, "Outside in the shade of the lime-trees the crew chewed sugar cane or slumbered, well content to serve a country that was contented with so little service," might have been describing a normal day in our country; in Government offices, banks, customer care centres, even in the emergency wards of hospitals. We see people well content to serve a country that was contented with so little service.

Kleptocracy, legislators for sale, the phony majesty of the sovereign citizen, intolerance to the stories contrary to officially ordained truth are now the givens in democracies. I have used the banana republic term because of its association, in my mind, with the whimsies of power which leaves a diminished democracy, a dysfunctional system, a deranged society.

Q: Why did you resort to humour?
A: In uniformed service, one always came across people so hung up on issues of form, seniority and protocol that they lost sight of

everything else. The senior was also a junior to someone and the ease with which people slipped down or climbed up into their roles of subservience and superciliousness never ceased to amuse me. 'We only joke to avoid an issue with someone. Humour is the most engaging cowardice', said Robert Frost. So lampooning and ludicrous caricature were the only weapons available to a junior officer to get back at the system.

Q: You say the stories do not lampoon any particular public figure, but dwell on character traits of those who wield power. They must have been drawn from real life?

A: I have not consciously lampooned anyone. Of course, one draws upon what one sees around. The permeability of the boundary between your own experience,

Q: Who do you think would be your readers?
A: I write for people like myself, for kindred citizens, befuddled by the system, lost in this maze that is both maddening and easily lends itself to mockery.

Q: What were the challenges you faced as a fiercely independent officer?
A: The greatest challenge for the police was, has been, and shall remain to be – applying law as if all citizens were equal before law

fiction and information absorbed from a welter of other sources as the stuff of fiction is an accepted fact.

Of many, a particularly funny incident stuck to my memory. A nonentity of an officer, courting this man's favour and that man's forgiveness, rose to become the police chief. Post-retirement, he was given an extension in instalments of three months each which he greedily accepted. All official activity came to a halt as he, along with his courtiers, waited for the message giving him the lease of life.

On a particular occasion, the message of another extension was received few minutes before midnight. Apocalypse Postponed may have its origin in this idea, but I am not sure.

Q: Who do you think would be your readers?
A: I write for people like myself, for kindred citizens, befuddled by the system, lost in this maze that is both maddening and easily lends itself to mockery.

Q: What were the challenges you faced as a fiercely independent officer?
A: The greatest challenge for the police was, has been, and shall remain to be – applying law as if all citizens were equal before law

Journey of faith

A solo exhibition by artist Jai Khanna as a seeker of Krishna in today's world

Artist Jai Khanna celebrates the exquisiteness of Krishna by giving a contemporary twist to traditional art forms. His depiction of Krishna is based on his pilgrimages to various shrines. The miniatures he does in natural colours on cloth or thin board retain the essence of the art form and reflect his faith as a follower.

Coinciding with Janmashtami, some of his colourful artworks are on display at the exhibition titled Sacred Forms at the Surendra Paul Art Gallery in Vasant Vihar.

The concept of Janmashtami is a celebration of Krishna as a cowherd. Devotion is at the core of his artwork Gopashtami that represents cows under the spellbinding sound of the flute.

The emotions and the dedication with which Jai draws out the joyful stories of Krishna's birth and childhood, the collective mood and expressions of his companions (monkey peacocks, cows and parrots) as they are amazed, awakened, delighted and surprised on surrendering to him are a treat to the eyes.

Each painting is swathed in spirituality and is engrossing for its themes and the colour palette. Govind, a form of Krishna sheltered by a giant tree of life, a representation of Radha, is unique as Krishna is decorated with the flowers of the same tree, in a divine expression of



Spiritual fervour Miniature painting titled Lallan and its companions by artist Jai Khanna. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

love and compassion. The knowledge of appearances of Krishna (whether as Shyama Balmukunda, Lallan or vriksha Govindham) are perfect in measure, structure and feeling in every canvas.

The exhibition is on display till September 7 at Surendra Paul Art Gallery, Sangeet Bhawan, Block-A, Vasant Vihar

—Soma Basu

STEP OUT



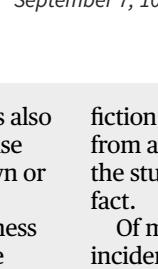
A parampara
Pracheen Kala Kendra is organising its 21st quarterly Baithak with a vocal recital by Shiv Prasad Rao and Kathak duet by Praveen Parihar and Arpita Bhardwaj. At Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, Mandi House; On September 1; 6.30pm; Entry first-come-first-served basis.



Culinary odyssey
Explore the flavours of Anatolia with Chef Gokhan at a Turkish food festival. At Farmers Basket, Pullman Hotel Aerocity; Till September 3; 7.30pm to 11.30pm



South Asian art
The sixth edition of the Delhi Contemporary Art Week has six participating galleries, helmed by women, showcasing a line-up of artists from the sub-continent under the title Conjunction of the Spheres. The work of 18 artists in a kaleidoscope of styles, themes, and techniques reflecting the evolving canvas of South Asian creativity is curated by Girish Shahane. At Bikaner House (near India Gate); September 3 to 7; 10am to 7pm



Artistic wonder
Solo exhibition titled Glimpses of Santiniketan by Kiran Dixit Thapar features 30 life-size figures in mild steel plate, 20 bronzes and 30 drawings and water colours. At Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre; Institutional Area Lodi Colony; inauguration on September 1, 5pm; Till September 7, 10am to 8pm



Mapping ties

China must show its neighbours the sensitivity that it demands of them

A week after the first conversation in many months between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, India and China appear nowhere near coming to any kind of understanding to repair their relations. On the contrary, relations this week have faced yet another storm, with the two sides clashing over China issuing a new map and reports on Thursday suggesting that Mr. Xi may skip the G-20 Summit in New Delhi next week. The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not confirm those reports, but it also chose not to deny them. Events this week, meanwhile, served a reminder of the currently low levels of trust, with relations arguably at their lowest since the normalisation of ties in the 1980s. On August 28, China issued what it called a "standard map" for 2023, which showed the entire State of Arunachal Pradesh, the Aksai Chin region and the South China Sea as Chinese territory, drawing protests from India, Malaysia and the Philippines. Beijing defended the map as "routine" and asked India to not "over-interpret" it, after the Ministry of External Affairs lodged a strong protest. While it may be true that the map made no new territorial claims and depicted borders as in previous Chinese maps, it is clear that the needless issuing of a new map, amid multiple, live territorial disputes, has only further complicated them. The responses of China's neighbours make that clear.

When India in 2019 issued a new map following the internal reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir and creation of the new Union Territory of Ladakh, Beijing responded with strong statements and initiated discussions at the United Nations Security Council, even though that map, too, did not change India's external boundaries or territorial claims *vis-à-vis* China. In the view of some observers, China's increasingly aggressive mobilisation on the Line of Actual Control, leading to the on-going crisis that has plunged relations to this low level, was partly a response to India's reiteration of its claims to Aksai Chin in 2019. In the recent up-and-down history of India's ties with China, summit meetings have offered the platform for the two countries to dial down tensions by giving the two leaders the opportunity for high-level interventions, as was the case at the 2017 BRICS Summit following the Doklam stand-off. Regardless of whether Mr. Xi visits New Delhi next week, the prospects of a similar rapprochement remain dim. Repairing relations will require slowly rebuilding trust on a foundation of greater mutual sensitivity. Indeed, China would do well to show its neighbours the sensitivity that it demands of them, if it has any inclination towards repairing increasingly fraught relations.

Neighbours, rivals

The Asia Cup remains hostage to India-Pakistan relations

The Asia Cup, a tournament originally launched to promote Asian solidarity in cricket, is often caught between the fissures that define Indian subcontinental history. Started in 1984 with bonhomie between the big three – India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – the championship soon became captive to the political issues that cropped up between these nations with the India-Pakistan narrative being the primary basis for grudges. Still the continental skirmish has developed deep roots, lasted the distance, embraced new teams such as Bangladesh, Afghanistan and even had Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates. And when the 16th edition commenced at Multan in Pakistan on Wednesday, even Nepal was in the fray. The latest edition also had its share of heartburn. Originally scheduled to be entirely held beyond the Wagah border, India's refusal to tour Pakistan forced a compromise with Sri Lanka stepping in as a co-host. Pakistan bristled and then got practical and it is a sad reality that India's last tour of its neighbouring country happened during the 2008 Asia Cup in Karachi. Much water has flowed down the Indus but old wounds continue to fester. The current version has six teams split into two groups leading towards the super-four stage before concluding with the final at Colombo on September 17.

It is a travesty that matches involving India and Pakistan are reduced to guest appearances within ICC events and Asia Cup jousts. Away from the diplomatic crossfire, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will look at the Asia Cup as a preparatory stage for the World Cup commencing in India during October. The Indian squad will try to fix the missing links in the coming weeks but with K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and even Jasprit Bumrah winging back from injuries, there is anxiety. The last named did well as a leader during the recent T20Is in Ireland and yet the Indian line-up looks unsettled. Much will hinge on the batting thrust that skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli can lend while Suryakumar Yadav needs to find his feet in ODIs. Incidentally this Asia Cup will consist of ODIs while in some of its previous avatars it had dallied with T20Is. Sri Lanka too is in a transitory phase but the most heartening story would be Afghanistan's resilience even if back home the Taliban's restrictions tend to suffocate life and sport. Meanwhile Bangladesh, yet to win the Asian title, gets another tilt but all eyes will be glued to Saturday's India-Pakistan tussle at Pallekele. This contest may offer clues to the Asian angle in the upcoming World Cup.

A progressive UCC must protect the child's best interests

At a time when the government may bring in a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) by holding a special session of Parliament on September 18-22, 2023, there is a need to think beyond polygamy and divorce and other such issues. A UCC cannot confine itself to merely changing the rule of the father being the natural guardian. It must go beyond this and provide for, in unequivocal terms, the 'best interests of child' principle in all custody disputes. It must deny absolute rights of biological parents *vis-à-vis* adoptive parents.

The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 considers the welfare of the child as the prime consideration in the determination of custody. Section 6 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956 declares the father as the natural guardian and 'after him' the mother; the mother would ordinarily have custody till the child attains five years of age. The person would lose custody if she/he ceases to be Hindu. In *Githa Hariharan* (1999), the Supreme Court of India held that the expression 'after him' does not necessarily mean 'after life-time' of the father but, instead, 'in the absence of'.

Child custody and the biological link
Interestingly, custody under Islamic law is the right of the child and not of the parents. In fact, the father is at number six in terms of the right to custody after the mother, mother's mother, howsoever high, paternal grandmother, sister, maternal aunt and paternal aunt. Under the Hanafi school, the mother does not lose custody after she ceases to be a Muslim.

Islamic law gave custody to the mother till a boy attains seven years and a daughter till she is 17, under the Hanafi school. The Shafii and Hanbali schools gave custody to the mother till a daughter is married. Under the Maliki school, the mother gets custody of even a male child till puberty and female child till her marriage. Thereafter, the child gets the right to make a choice.

Let us consider the issues that are far more complex than custody claims between father and mother – i.e., the claims of biological parents after adoption, and of an 'accused of rape' biological father. Indian courts are attaching greater importance now to the claims of biological parents in preference to adoptive parents without due consideration to the best



Faizan Mustafa

a constitutional law expert, is currently the Vice-Chancellor of the Chanakya National Law University, Patna, Bihar

It must not overemphasise the point of biological ties and must also consider the rights of adoptive, single, surrogate and even LGBT parents

interests of the child. On July 26, 2023, two women judges of the Bombay High Court ordered that the custody of a child who had already been adopted to be given to the biological father (he is accused of rape which resulted in this child being born). In October 2021, the 17-year-old biological mother on realising that she was pregnant is alleged to have eloped with him, and gave birth to a boy on November 26, 2021. Based on a complaint by the minor mother's father – alleging rape and various crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act, 2012 – the biological father was arrested but was granted bail later.

The mother and child were sent to a home in Mumbai. In 2022, the biological mother got married to another person and in the larger interests of the child, surrendered the boy to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for adoption. The child, under Section 38(3) of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, being an unwanted child of a victim of sexual assault, was declared free for adoption by the CWS. He was handed over to his adoptive parents on January 3, 2023.

Surprisingly, on the biological father's *habeas corpus* petition, the High Court stayed the adoption proceedings and despite the trauma to the child and adoptive parents, the child was returned to the shelter home. In July, the CWC rejected the biological father's application for custody on the ground that a biological father cannot take advantage of his own crime and giving custody to him would not be in the best interests of the child. On July 26, the High Court handed over custody of the child to the biological father without hearing the biological mother. The alleged love story is the version of the father and not of the mother who, under Section 164, had said that she was coerced to go with him and that the sexual relationship was not consensual. Unfortunately, neither the best interests of the child nor the biological mother's emotions were taken into account. The mother was opposed to giving the child to the biological father. The requirement of consent of the rapist father in such adoptions would set the wrong precedent.

A case of adoption

Similarly, in *Nasrin Begum* (2022), a two-judge Bench of the Allahabad High Court gave the custody of a girl child to her biological parents in preference to the rights of the adoptive parents

who, under a notarised deed, had adopted a three-month-old child. The family court on the basis of the testimony of the child, now six years old, and in the best interests of the child, had decided in favour of the adoptive parents. The biological parents asserted that mere custody for sometime was given to the adoptive parents. Does not Section 2(2) of the JJ Act provide that adoption completely severs the ties between the biological parents and the child?

Why would any parent leave a three-month-old child in another country without the child being given in adoption? The family court rightly concluded that children cannot be treated as the 'chattel and property' of their biological parents and she should not undergo the trauma of separation from her adoptive parents who had given her all the love and care over six years or so. The High Court overlooked the fact that the biological parents had spent the summer vacations every year from 2014 to 2018 with the child and the allegation of a denial of visitation by them was not made out from the facts. In fact, the adoption deed did not contain any visitation rights by the biological parents.

The trauma which a child and its adoptive parents would undergo was not given much consideration though the court did acknowledge that the child would 'undergo some difficulty' in the beginning due to separation from the adoptive parents. The court gave much importance to the right of the child to know her real identity and the right of her biological parents to her custody. The court moved on the premise that there was no legal adoption and, therefore, the adoptive parents having no right in respect of the child. But the Bombay High Court in *Ifiqar* (2021) ignored that the fact of adoption was not valid in terms of Muslim law. The court in the interests of the child had refused to give custody to the biological parents as the adoptive parents were given a five-day-old child; it was only because of their care that the child recovered from jaundice.

A progressive UCC should not overemphasise biological ties. It must protect the rights of adoptive parents; otherwise people would not adopt children. Similarly, it should not insist on the matrimonial bond between parents and should ideally make provision of guardianship even for a single parent, surrogate parent and queer parents.

Dalit-targeted violence, a dimming of Tamil Nadu's halo

In an incident in Tamil Nadu earlier this month, a Dalit school student, Chinnadurai, was attacked by three students wielding a machete. His sister was also attacked when she tried to intervene. Dalits continue to face violence in some form or the other across India every day. However, the incident, which took place on August 9, in Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district, shocked the State as the perpetrators were school students, who belong to the numerically dominant community in that region.

Earlier too, there have been similar incidents in the State where Dalit students have been attacked – Muruganandam and Pradeep, from Cheranmahadevi, on August 4; Hariprasad of Kazhugumalai, on August 14, and a case on a bus near Karur on August 28. The perpetrators were either students or youth aged between 16 and 25 years. It is common knowledge that many students, particularly in rural Tamil Nadu, wear specific colour bands on their wrist as a mark of caste identification. In a State that has a history of caste violence against Dalits since Independence, the latest incidence is cause for worry. These incidents must not be seen in isolation. There are many factors such as a mushrooming of caste organisations that run high on caste pride, a near total absence of anti-caste activism within the powerful Other Backward Classes (OBC) by social and political organisations, and even the feeble response from non-Dalit intellectuals.

Caste pride

Today, the primary role of the caste organisations, most often patronised by youngsters, is to create exaggerated caste-specific symbolisms. These organisations typically portray Dalits and their development as a threat to their interests of their community. By organising 'guru poojas', every caste has found a social icon around which to rally. It is not far-fetched to imagine that the youngsters behind the violent incidents mentioned above were influenced by this. In the past three decades, every government and other political parties have not only allowed but also fully participated in the celebration of these caste icons.

After the arson and violence against Dalits in Dharmapuri in 2012, orchestrated to separate an inter-caste couple, several caste organisations began to openly oppose inter-caste marriages. For instance, the Pattali Makkal Katchi, which represents the Vanniyar community in Tamil Nadu's northern and western districts, rallied



Stalin Rajangam

is a historian and writer



A.B. Rajasekaran

is an advocate

Social and political organisations must acknowledge that the issue of violence against Dalits in the State exists and needs addressing

non-Dalit organisations against the Dalit community in 2014. Though it petered out, it was a development that reflects the changes within Tamil society.

In 2015, Dheeran Chinmamalai Peravai leader Yuvaraj and his accomplices killed a Dalit student, Gokulraj, for speaking to a caste-Hindu girl. In 2016, a Dalit youth, Sankar, was killed in Uduvalapettai for marrying an OBC girl. Former Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam even denied instances of caste-based honour killings in Tamil Nadu on the floor of the Assembly in 2015 when there was a demand for a special law against it. This reality, much like the rest of India, is in stark contrast to the halo that exists around Tamil Nadu outside the State.

The political factor

The Dravidian parties – the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam – and all national parties have a presence in the State. While it is true that these parties, except the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), do not directly support these caste organisations, the ruling parties seldom speak against them or take action when there are transgressions committed by these organisations. This is because these political parties are dependent on the vote bank of the numerically dominant OBC communities; there is political competition to appease them. The political parties, which see no contradiction with these caste-organisations, are quick to form an electoral alliance with them if they manage to mobilise their communities.

After opposing the hegemony of Brahmins and pursuing the politics of anti-Brahminism, the Dravidian movement did not do much to oppose the dominance of powerful OBC communities or speak about these issues vociferously. It is only Dalit and Left organisations and individuals that are spotlighting the extent of the violence that Dalits face. Violence against Dalits by powerful OBC communities is not a new phenomenon either. Pandit Iyoothee Thass's *Thamizhan* newspaper reported many such incidents in the early 20th century.

Why are Dalits facing violence in a State ruled by political parties that boast of promoting social justice? Why did not anti-Brahmin politics transform itself into anti-caste politics? What is the connection between social changes that have taken place so far and the situation now in Tamil

Nadu? There has been no research, no debate or political narratives to explain this emergent phenomenon.

Another worrying development is the rise of the BJP in Tamil Nadu. BJP-led Hindutva politics, as in other places, pampers the caste pride of powerful Brahmin and non-Brahmin caste organisations. There is open support for caste-based outfits and encouragement to castes to reclaim their past based on myths. Such myths only reinforce caste consciousness in the minds of upper caste students. BJP State Unit President K. Annamalai, on a 'yatra' across Tamil Nadu, did not speak about the violence while he went to Nanguneri.

Public intellectuals rarely speak about these problems in Tamil Nadu today. If Dalits flag the violence and discrimination, Brahmins are portrayed to be the common enemy and the voices of Dalits disregarded and suppressed. In Tamil Nadu, Dalits have historically been at the forefront and continue to be ideological opponents of Brahminism. It is true that Brahminical hegemony exists and should be opposed. However, does that mean that the issues faced by Dalits should not be discussed and debated in a transparent manner?

Ushering in reform

Rather than suppress the Dalit critique, social and political organisations must acknowledge that there is urgent need to address the issue of violence against Dalits in the State. They must discourage the formation of caste-based organisations, and delegitimise existing caste organisations. Governments must stop participating in 'guru poojas' and establishing memorials for caste leaders. Importantly, the idea of equality should be propagated earnestly in schools, colleges and workplaces. In schools and colleges, monitoring committees that involve teachers and parents must be set up to handle discrimination. The police must be held accountable where there is lax investigation and in bringing the perpetrators of violence against Dalits to justice.

The Dravidian movement stands for social justice. The criticism of Dalit activists, political parties and intellectuals is not to negate the achievements of the movement on the social justice front in the last 100 years, but only to point out the chasm between its lofty ideals and the situation on ground in an effort to correct its course in the pursuit of inclusive social justice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water rights, the future

River water sharing has become a very politicised issue. Instead of fighting against each other, the stakeholders should think ahead of how to manage water. With climate change a reality now, ways and means must be thought of to conserve water. Recycling, arresting leakage

and better water use must be thought of. More tanks and afforestation along rivers will help. Almost all rivers are rain fed and serious thought must be given to better water use. **Gopalaswamy J.**, Chennai

China's actions

China's justification in

bringing out a new map is nothing but an audacious act of provocation and a deliberate attempt to ruffle feathers. China cannot dictate terms to India which needs an appropriate response at the highest political level, since rebuttals through diplomatic channels seem to have little impact. China's

action has rendered the recent talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping a farce. India needs to counter Beijing's irresponsible claims firmly. **V. Johan Dhanakumar**, Chennai

China understands and respects force and power. It is unfortunate that Beijing

continues to treat India like a weakling. India needs to stop its weak diplomatic protests and begin to act like a major power. Perhaps a non-binding alliance with NATO can be thought of. Next, India should embark on a tour to promote democracy across Asia, starting with Taiwan. Lastly, India must clearly state that

Tibet is disputed territory. **Anandasubramanian C.P.**, Chennai



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

Are natural disasters man-made?

**PARLEY**

Torrential rains in several parts of north India, particularly Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, damaged highways and buildings, and took hundreds of lives. While a warming Arctic is said to be a cause for the unusually heavy rains, years of haphazard planning and construction have multiplied the tragedy. Are natural disasters man-made? Vimal Mishra and Lubaina Rangwalla discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Jacob Koshy. Edited excerpts:

Every year, particularly in the monsoon, we witness extreme natural calamities. However, this is also the result of poor planning. To what extent are natural disasters man-made?

Lubaina Rangwalla: The scale of natural disasters that we now see across the world are definitely man-made. Some sections of the population are more vulnerable to them and more at risk than others. We need to figure out systems and solutions that can be channelised specifically towards this large pool of people. We need to build stronger systems from the bottom up and learn to do it collectively.

Vimal Mishra: Humans have played an important role in enhancing the risk from climate hazards. The frequency and intensity of hazards have increased, and anthropogenic climate change has played a major role in that. We have built on floodplains, encroached water bodies, and planned our cities without thinking about sustainability. So, humans are responsible. Not fully, but we have played a considerable part in increasing the problem. But we should find solutions and learn from our failures.

While natural variability and anthropogenic causes have a role to play, India was affected by natural disasters even before the framing of climate change as a catalyst. Whether excessive flooding in Mumbai or landslides in the hills, do you see disaster-preparedness having evolved over the years?

LR: There are a few different ways in which the landscape of disasters in India has changed. We are constantly talking about the importance of urban planning and how the movement of people to urban centres has affected natural landscapes. Some [landscapes] have changed drastically and exceeded their carrying capacity and this has exacerbated the extent of loss and damage in these areas. I don't think that



The damaged Kiratpur-Manali road following heavy rainfall, near Pandoh in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh. PTI

agencies regulating the manner in which cities, villages and towns have urbanised have kept up. It is heart-wrenching to see a beautiful ecosystem crumble; it is a failure of planning in understanding how to ensure that certain critical ecosystems are kept alive and natural systems are kept at the core of the way we live.

In Mumbai, we have seen floods viscerally and the city has continued to grow. Mumbai has its own Disaster Management Agency. It has been engaging with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, which develops models to predict floods better. Also, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's storm-water drainage department has, in the last decade, built larger water-holding tanks. Mumbai has been able to perform much better in this regard than, say, Delhi, which is seeing recurrent floods. With the kind of sea-level rise expected and the coastal inundation projected in the coming decades, I am not confident that some of the planning decisions that we have made are very wise.

If you consider the historical development of cities everywhere, it is the story of urbanisation. Increased population density means greater dependence on fossil fuel and greater climate-disruptive anthropogenic forces. So, in one sense, aren't we caught between the devil and the deep sea?

VM: Development translates to infrastructure growth. However, we don't pay enough attention to whether our development pathways are sustainable. Sustainability means emphasising not only economics, but also society and environment. Any sustainable development will consider the environmental implications. So far, we have just run behind the economics, you know, the land holdings, finding cheaper land, filling the water bodies, removing



The frequency and intensity of hazards have increased, and anthropogenic climate change has played a major role in that.

VIMAL MISHRA

palaeochannels (deep underground stores of groundwater) and destroying natural drainage systems. So, yes, we are caught in the trap and we are facing a lot of challenges because of that. The only solution is adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, implementing careful urban planning, and creating roads and streets keeping these in mind.

LR: I don't think we are at a dead end. We are developing and growing, and people will need houses, jobs and services. But as Dr. Mishra said, we have allowed certain business-as-usual practices to persist in city planning. We did a workshop with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's storm-water drainage department about a year ago. Stakeholders from planning, design, landscape firms, private developers, community-based organisations, and citizens who have been impacted by landslides, disasters and routine flooding were present. At the end of it, the workshop led to the realisation that cities had to start thinking of long-term solutions. It comes down to understanding that there are no quick-fix solutions to what we are going through; we will have to think about long-term risk assessments, vulnerability assessments, and understand how socioeconomic drivers are worsening the problem in certain communities compared to others in the city.

We have building codes to determine how and where structures and roads ought to be constructed. Municipal authorities are trained and clearly know what to do. So, is it the case that knowledge already exists but our experts are unable to implement them for various reasons, or is there genuinely a lack of knowledge among city planners in terms of accounting for climate hazards and natural disasters?

VM: Knowledge is never complete. We learn new things every day and have some knowledge from past events, but the challenge is most often from a lack of awareness, or from ignoring a risk. And the risk is not clearly estimated or defined when we implement a new infrastructure project. Let's say we are going to build a new highway in a mountainous region and we have to calculate the risk from an

extreme weather event. We will have some idea of it based on past events; it is not that nobody knows what to do. The problem is, most of the time this risk is underestimated. Why? Because often, we don't have a complete record that informs planners about current and upcoming disasters. Data sets are often pretty old and do not directly provide sufficient information about the future. If you talk about the Himalayan territory, for instance, we have a very limited understanding because of an inadequate observational network. So, if you go and survey how many rainfall recording stations we have, what is the density of rainfall, I would say they are fewer than that we have in other parts of the country where it is easier to manage, install, monitor, and take care of such infrastructure.

LR: There are excellent institutions even within the government that are constantly monitoring and understanding the scale of the climate crisis in terms of rainfall patterns, trends, and the ways in which risk is becoming more pronounced in certain regions versus others. I think the disconnect is in the ways in which decisions continue to be taken. And while we understand that there are certain regions that are increasingly becoming more flood-prone, what we really have to do is think transformatively. We have to analyse the implications of imposing a strict carrying capacity in certain regions and not allowing for more urbanisation to happen in certain areas or restricting certain ways in which infrastructure is built. This need to constantly shorten travel time and to make it easier to connect tourist destinations, for example, has run counter to the ways in which we in the environment space have been talking about preserving, conserving, and building stronger relationships with ecosystems. These two desires are also part of the schizophrenic nature in which government agencies function. These desires are constantly at conflict. And so, it's not so much the knowledge. If you really want to make the right decisions, you will bring in experts from both private and public agencies and you will have very good solutions on the table, current and modern ways of understanding the scale of a disaster, where the risk is, and what kinds of solutions should be modelled around it. Whether there is political will to take action in that manner is the question.



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NOTEBOOK

The pull of words

Why literary festivals are often the closest connect between the reader and writer

Sudipta Datta

What is it about literary festivals and readers? Why do readers flock to hear their favourite writers and get books signed? Why are such festivals an important part of the literary calendar?

In India, the literary festival cycle begins at Jaipur, which hosts one of the country's biggest literary events. Though the Jaipur Literature Festival may be at the top of the carnival of books, through the year, there are literary festivals in several cities including Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhurbaneswar, Dehradun, and Dumka. Literature apart, there is music, art, theatre and a host of other activities, which add to the festive atmosphere.

This year, at the Dumka Literature Festival, readers of the Jharkhand town got to listen to Geetanjali Shree about her International Booker Prize-winning novel *Tomb of Sand*, translated by Daisy Rockwell from *Ret Samadhi* in Hindi. Her presence in Dumka brought her new readers, and her session, 'How I Came to Writing', must have been an inspiration for those wanting to take up the pen.

At the recent Bhutan Echoes' Drukyul's Literature Festival, Ms. Shree spoke about the importance of embracing your mother tongue and the joy of learning as many languages as possible. "There's no reason to have only one language. Polyphony gives a culture its richness," she said. Indians in the audience nodded, but also the Bhutanese – in the tiny kingdom, 24 languages are spoken all over.

Literary festivals usually invite Nobel Laureates and other prizewinners. Abdulrazak Gurnah, who bagged the 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature, was in attendance at Jaipur this year. There is already a buzz around the French memoirist Annie Ernaux who won the Prize in 2022, and whether she will be in India next year.

To discover writers old and new, a festival is sometimes the perfect place. A prize usually helps draw more attention to a writer's oeuvre. Accolades for Nagaland's Easterine Kire (*When the River Sleeps*) or Dalit writer Manoranjan Byapari

(*Interrogating My Chandal Life - An Autobiography of a Dalit*) at The Hindu Lit for Life introduced their work to a wider audience.

During the Kolkata Literary Meet this year, one of the best sessions involved writer Damodar Mauzo, who lives in Goa and writes in Konkani. Jerry Pinto, who hosted it, drew Mr. Mauzo out gently to talk about his layered stories of a cosmopolitan Goa where many faiths and communities have found a way to live together. He spoke about his famous novel, *Karmelin* (1981), the story of a mother and her struggle to bring up her daughter in a village in south Goa, and his short stories (*The Wait and Other Stories* and *Teresa's Man and Other Stories from Goa*).

For literary festivals, the venue too adds to the atmosphere. Bhutan Echoes was held at the Royal University of Bhutan with its intricate wooden interiors and beautifully decorated exteriors. In the backdrop were cloud-capped, blue-green mountains, a perfect sight for a breather during sessions. The Kolkata Literary Meet is held on the grounds of the British Raj-era Victoria Memorial, which prompted Sri Lankan writer Shehan Karunatilaka to joke that some colonial ghosts may be hovering around to listen to him talk about his ghostly Booker Prize-winning tale, *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*.

The curtains have just come down on the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the world's largest book festival. It is a perfect fit for the city, designated as the world's first UNESCO City of Literature in 2004. Scotland is the birthplace and home to renowned writers such as Robert Burns, R.L. Stevenson, Walter Scott, Arthur Conan Doyle, Muriel Spark, and Ian Rankin. This year, one of the star attractions was a young Scottish writer, Martin MacInnes, whose Booker Prize-2023-longlisted novel, *In Ascension*, has moved readers and critics alike.

For more such discoveries, here is to Jaipur, from February 1-5, 2024, where stories will once again hope to unite writers and readers – and other literary festivals.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A treat for the eyes



The 'Super Blue Moon' rises above the Apollo Temple in ancient Corinth, Greece, on the night of August 30. According to NASA, the moon is called 'super' because it's slightly closer to earth and 'blue' because it was the second full moon in the month of August. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE AUGUST 31, 1973 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1973

Arrangements for repatriation

New Delhi, Aug. 30: The 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war in India will be repatriated from four different points along the India-Pakistan border according to the plans already finalised. Logistic arrangements are being made by the Government of India to take the POWs to Wagah, Hussainiwala and

The *Hindu*.

Fazilka border check posts, and Gadra Road in Rajasthan. According to informed sources, the repatriation from four different points would make for speedy completion of the process, which may take two months given adequate rail transport facilities. The sources said the prisoners are now held in three States: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. There are over a dozen POW camps in these States, the biggest being those at Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Saugar (Madhya Pradesh) and Ranchi (Bihar). The trains transporting the POWs will be treated as army specials. Each train will have full army guard, a big kitchen, and a doctor. The army is co-ordinating the whole process with the railways.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1, 1923

League of nations

Special Cable, London, Aug. 31: The Indian delegates at the League of Nations Assembly will, I am told, find on their hands a fierce fight to make their Government abandon its opium policy. The Americans consider the Government of India for the sake of revenue pursues a policy which strongly offends against the Hague Convention on opium and are concentrating their forces to make the Government realise that fact. That Government, however, contends that the Convention was designed only to abolish the smoking of opium in China and has nothing to do with the eating of opium.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The bid amount for broadcasting India's home series

6,000 in ₹ crore. Viacom 18 has created a near monopoly by bagging both TV and digital rights of the national team's home series for the next five years. PTI

Increase in economic growth in India in April-June quarter

7.8 in percentage. India's economy has clocked up impressive growth, mainly due to good performance by the agricultural and financial sectors, as per data by the National Statistical Office. AP

The increase in tea production in India in the month of July

6.2 in percentage. Tea production increased to 165.01 million kg in July from 155.29 million kg in the year-ago period. North Indian tea production during July stood at 143.05 million kg. PTI

Number of firms that have applied for the IT hardware PLI scheme

40 Companies, including Dell and Lenovo, have applied for the scheme with a commitment to make personal computers, laptops and other equipment worth ₹4.65 lakh crore during the scheme period. PTI

Increase in production of key infrastructure sectors in July

8 in percentage. The rise in production is attributed to expansion in the production of coal, crude oil, and natural gas, according to Commerce and Industry Ministry data. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Decoding the OCCRP's Adani report

What were the terms of reference given by the Supreme Court in the Adani-Hindenburg investigation? What is Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957? What did the OCCRP investigation find? What are its implications?

EXPLAINER

Prasenjit Bose

The story so far:

In its order dated March 2, on the batch of petitions concerning the Adani-Hindenburg matter, the Supreme Court of India had directed the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to conduct investigations in accordance with specific terms of reference. The first term was to probe whether there has been a violation of Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957. Two more terms were set by the apex court related to non-disclosure of related party transactions and the manipulation of stock prices in contravention of existing laws. In addition, a separate Expert Committee was formed to *inter alia* examine whether there has been a regulatory failure in dealing with the alleged contravention of laws by the Adani group. Now, a media investigation has brought forth further allegations.

What is Rule 19A?

Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957, inserted through an amendment made with effect from June 4, 2010 under "Continuous Listing Requirement", stipulates that every company listed in the Indian stock market has to maintain at least 25 percent public shareholding. "Public" is defined in the said Rules as persons other than "the promoter and promoter group" – defined as any spouse of that person, or any parent, brother, sister or child of the person or of the spouse, besides "subsidiaries or associates of the company". This 25 per cent minimum threshold for public shareholding vitally ensures that adequate shares of a listed company are available for trading in the stock market to enable price discovery. Violations of this rule indicate likely stock price manipulation and insider trading, jeopardising the integrity of the equity market.

What are the latest revelations?

An investigation conducted by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), as reported in the *Financial Times* and *The Guardian* on August 31, has found that two Mauritius based funds, namely the Emerging India Focus Fund (EIFF) and the EM Resurgent Fund (EMRF) had invested and traded in large volume of shares of four Adani companies between 2013 and 2018. Two key foreign investors of these funds were Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli from the UAE and Chang Chung-Ling from Taiwan.

The money was channelled through a Bermuda-based investment fund called the Global Opportunities Fund (GOF). The value of the investments of Nasser Ali and Chang Chung-Ling in Adani stocks was around \$430 million in March 2017 (approximately ₹2,795 crore at prevailing exchange rate). In January 2017, these two investors together held 3.4% of total shares in Adani Enterprises, 4% in Adani Power and 3.6% in Adani Transmission.

The OCCRP investigation has further revealed that a UAE-based secretive firm named Excel Investment and Advisory Services Limited owned by Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani and member of Adani promoter group, had received over \$1.4 million in "advisory" fees from management companies of EIFF, EMRF and GOF between June 2012 and August 2014. The investigators have not only dug up invoices and transaction records, but also internal emails which suggest that EIFF, EMRF and GOF were investing funds into the Adani group stocks at the



Scandal and outrage: The findings of the SEBI on stock price manipulation and insider trading in Adani stocks are difficult to take at face value. AFP

behest of Excel Investment and Advisory Services Limited, that is, Vinod Adani.

Therefore, there is now *prima facie* evidence that entities like EIFF, EMRF and GOF were fronts through which Vinod Adani has invested massive funds into Adani group companies stocks. If one adds the shareholding of Vinod Adani in three Adani companies – through offshore individuals and entities like Nasser Ali and Chang Chung-Ling via EIFF, EMRF and GOF, with the disclosed promoter group shareholding of those companies – the promoter group shareholding of Adani Enterprises and Adani Transmission stood at over 78% in January 2017. This would be in clear breach of the 75% threshold contained in 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules.

The OCCRP evidence is over and above the ones already provided by the Hindenburg report which alleged a vast global web of tax haven based shell companies run by Vinod Adani through individuals like Chang Chung-Ling and offshore funds such as EIFF, EMRF etc. If more shell companies and transactions are investigated, it could further reveal breaches and contraventions of rules and regulations by the Adani group via the Vinod Adani channel.

The Adani conglomerate, however, has vehemently denied all the charges made by the OCCRP.

SEBI and the DRI probe

A significant revelation by the OCCRP relates to the correspondence between the director general of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the SEBI chief in January 2014 on "the dealings of the Adani Group of companies in the stock market". One of the letters was accompanied by a CD of evidence from a DRI probe into allegations of over-invoicing of capital equipment imports against Adani power projects, stating that "there are indications that a part of the siphoned-off money may have found its way to stock markets in India as investment and disinvestment in [the] Adani Group."

SEBI has not disclosed the receipt of such a letter and evidence from the DRI till date before the Supreme Court. Rather, they have categorically stated before the Expert Committee that the

There is now *prima facie* evidence that entities like EIFF, EMRF and GOF were fronts through which Vinod Adani has invested massive funds into Adani group companies stocks

investigation into possible contraventions of rules and regulations by the Adani group of companies started on October 23, 2020 after receipt of complaints in June-July 2020.

The revelation of the DRI letter suggests that either SEBI has suppressed facts and provided false information which amounts to perjury; or that the then SEBI chairperson instead of acting on the DRI letter preferred to close the ongoing investigations into the Adani group. The matter deserves the attention of the apex court because the SEBI chairperson in January 2014 retired only in February 2017 and is currently serving as "Non-Executive Independent Director-Chairperson" of NDTV, which was acquired by the Adani group in 2022.

In its latest affidavit before the Supreme Court on August 25, SEBI has stated that they have conducted 24 investigations into Adani-Hindenburg related matters since March 2023, of which 22 investigations have been completed while interim reports have been submitted for two investigations. It is noteworthy that the two incomplete investigations include the one on the violation of Rule 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957.

Mentioning the time period covered under this investigation as between April 1, 2016 to September 30, 2020, SEBI has submitted to the Supreme Court that they have been unable to establish the "economic interest shareholder" in 13 suspected overseas entities because of their tax haven jurisdictions and that efforts are still being made to gather more details. It is noteworthy that the names of EIFF and EMRF, which have been alleged to be fronts of Vinod Adani by the OCCRP investigation also figure in SEBI's list of 13 suspected Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). SEBI owes an explanation as to how a consortium of investigative journalists could collate evidence on such tax haven based entities while a national regulator has failed to unearth so far.

The SEBI investigation and fallout
OCCRP's exposé adds to the already substantial body of evidence which suggests that SEBI's role in the Adani group matter goes beyond regulatory failure and possible regulatory capture.

SEBI has already been indicted by the Expert Committee for amending the FPI and Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement (LODR) Regulations since 2018 which opened up regulatory loopholes facilitating concealment of "ultimate beneficiary ownership" of FPIs and transactions with "related parties". It is now clear that those amendments were made after the alleged contraventions of the 75% rule of SCRR 1957 by at least two Adani group companies in 2017, as found by the OCCRP investigation. Therefore, the findings of the SEBI on stock price manipulation and insider trading in Adani stocks are difficult to take at face value. The Expert Committee has already reported that 849 alerts were generated vis-à-vis the Adani scrips through SEBI's automated surveillance systems, between April 2018 and December 2022. Out of this, 603 alerts related to price volume movements were closed by SEBI and 246 alerts on suspected insider trading were still work in progress.

As per the Expert Committee findings, 13 FPIs suspected by SEBI sold around 8.6 crore shares of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) between April 2021 and December 2022 when AEL's share price skyrocketed from around ₹1,000 to over ₹3,800. The Life Insurance Corporation of India bought 4.8 crore of these shares during the same period. Yet, SEBI gave a clean chit to the suspected FPIs citing their "net seller" status during the period of price rise; whereas, it is obvious that the suspected FPIs were the major gainers of the abnormal price rise and a public sector financial company enabled those gains. It is only through a thorough forensic audit of all the listed Adani group companies and the 13 suspected FPIs by an independent auditor that the real nature and extent of the alleged economic crimes committed by the Adani group via the Vinod Adani channel can be revealed. While being very meticulous, the OCCRP investigation has only been able to expose the tip of the iceberg.

Prasenjit Bose is an economist and activist based in Kolkata

THE GIST

The investigation conducted by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project has found that two Mauritius based funds, namely the Emerging India Focus Fund (EIFF) and the EM Resurgent Fund (EMRF) had invested and traded in large volume of shares of four Adani companies between 2013 and 2018.

The investigation has revealed that a UAE-based secretive firm named Excel Investment and Advisory Services Limited owned by Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani and member of Adani promoter group, had received over \$1.4 million in "advisory" fees from management companies of EIFF, EMRF etc between June 2012 and August 2014.

SEBI owes an explanation as to how investigative journalists could collate evidence on such tax haven based entities while a national regulator has failed to unearth so far.

IN THE LIMELIGHT



Need for policy: Members of the Women in Cinema Collective at a press conference in Kochi in 2018. THULASI KAKKAT

For Malayalam film industry, no dearth of committees, but concrete action missing

It remains to be seen whether the latest committee will come up with anything concrete, and whether it will take into consideration the changing contours of the industry with the evolution of technology and the various issues highlighted by the Hema Committee report

S.R. Praveen

Setting up a committee can serve either of two purposes – open new pathways to understand issues so that they can be a guiding light to solve those or provide a comfortable cushion to delay decisive action on contentious issues. In Kerala, members of the Malayalam film fraternity are wondering which of these purposes a committee set up by the State government to draft a film policy, will fulfill. Controversy erupted soon after the constituting of the committee, with various film bodies accusing the government of forming the committee unilaterally without consulting industry stakeholders.

Even worse, some of those included in the committee were reportedly not consulted before their names were announced, and filmmaker Rajeev Ravi and actor Manju Warrier opted out of it citing other commitments. The 10-member committee headed by filmmaker Shaji N. Karun, the Chairman of the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC), was constituted as per an order issued by the Department of Cultural Affairs on July 15.

A controversial committee

Mr. Karun was placed as the head of the committee at a time when the KSFDC is facing criticism for the way it has handled the government's project to promote films by women filmmakers and those from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. At least two women filmmakers, whose films were funded under the programme, have publicly spoken out against the way that the KSFDC had treated them, making them run from pillar to post at every turn and causing them mental trauma.

The film policy committee, which is expected to submit its report within two months, would also look into the Hema Committee report to address issues of sexual harassment and gender inequality in the Malayalam film industry and include appropriate recommendations

from it in its report. The mention of the Hema Committee report in the order has reignited the debate on why the government has been reluctant to make it public or take any action on the report, three and a half years after it was submitted. The Hema Committee, constituted in the aftermath of the actor assault case, a seminal event which fuelled questions related to gender in the film industry, had submitted the report to the Chief Minister on December 31, 2019.

Though the government, following criticism over inaction, constituted yet another committee to study the report in January 2022, the panel is not known to have met till date or taken any action on the recommendations. In this context, many suspect whether the latest committee is aimed at providing an easy way out for the government without publishing the Hema Committee report. The Hema Committee, headed by Justice K. Hema, had submitted a report on issues related to sexual harassment, wage disparity and other injustices within the film industry. Many women in the industry had given detailed testimonies to the committee of the harassment they experienced. Hinting at the presence of big names, actor Parvathy had said in 2022 that many 'idols' will fall if the report comes out.

History of film committees

One of the first known committees related to cinema in India was set up in the pre-Independence era. The Indian Cinematograph committee headed by lawyer-politician T. Rangachari in 1927 was set up mainly with a focus on censorship of films. Nothing much was done about the report and major recommendations for giving assistance to the film industry were dropped as they involved considerable expenditure.

Post-Independence, the Indian government constituted the Film Enquiry committee headed by politician S. K. Patil to suggest means by which the film industry can be "put on a sound footing and be developed as a medium of education and healthy entertainment".

Over three years, the committee held wide consultations with over 6,000 people from the industry as well as with the general population. The report, prepared after 43 sittings across the country, is an exhaustive record on the state of the Indian film industry at the time of Independence.

Though the Patil committee had its share of censorship-oriented recommendations, it also had several important suggestions aimed at improving the film industry, that would be implemented in the succeeding decades. Some of these recommendations which were implemented later, include the setting up of a corporation to finance film productions (the National Film Development Corporation of India was established in 1975), instituting of awards to encourage production of films with high aesthetic and technical standards (the National Film Awards established in 1954) and the starting of institutions to train technicians and artistes (the Film and Television Institute of India was established in 1960).

Within the Malayalam film industry
In Kerala, the KSFDC was established in 1975 with the aim of facilitating and aiding the production of Malayalam cinema within the State, at a time when much of the industry was centred in Chennai (Madras at that time). Over the years, it has succeeded in that endeavour. It has also, to some extent, nurtured meaningful cinema through funding and production support. The Kerala State Chalachitra Academy formed in 1998 has played a key role in the evolution of a new generation of filmmakers who have grown up on a diet of world cinema brought to their doorsteps through the annual International Film Festival of Kerala and the International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala.

In 2014, a committee headed by filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan was appointed to study the existing state of the Malayalam film industry and suggest ways to improve it. The Adoor committee report stated that government theatres

must compulsorily be made available for the screening of award-winning Malayalam films. Though shows are provided for such films, even the makers of government-funded films have often accused the KSFDC of relegating their films to morning slots and not providing the necessary publicity. The Adoor committee also made wide-ranging recommendations regarding various types of funding support for films, some of which have been implemented in different forms over the years.

In November 2020, the Chalachithra Academy submitted suggestions to tackle the various issues prevailing in the industry, recommending among other things the formation of an Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) in every film set to address complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace. In 2022, producers of Senna Hegde's film *1744 White Alto* formed a four member ICC, which was the first case of such a committee being formed in a film set in the Malayalam industry. However, it has not yet become a widely-followed model.

Considering this context, film bodies have reacted with apprehension about the way the latest committee has been constituted. The Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) said that it is uncertain about the committee's potential impact. "Will it be a statutory body? And will its recommendations, like those of the Hema Committee report, be left to languish, gathering dust without meaningful implementation? This approach seems to indicate a troubling disregard for a genuinely urgent concern that has been raised repeatedly. We firmly believe that arbitrary committees do not offer a viable solution to the deeply entrenched issues within our workplace," the WCC had said in a statement.

It remains to be seen whether the latest committee will come up with anything concrete, and whether it will also take into consideration the changing contours of the industry with the evolution of technology, the impact of artificial intelligence on the filmmaking process, along with other long standing concerns.

THE DAILY QUIZ

World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on August 13. In this quiz, we scratch the mere surface of the vast field of organ transplantation

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

Which nation in the world has the highest organ donor rate in the world? It reportedly had a donor rate of 46.7 per million people in 2017.

QUESTION 2

Advances in technology have now made it possible to do a successful half-matched or partially-matched transplant. The donor, a close family member, can be a half match for the patient. What is this transplantation called?

QUESTION 3

After death, any part of the human body can be donated, why, even the whole body can be donated for scientific research. But when a person is alive, what are the organs that one can technically donate to another?

QUESTION 4

Which was the first human organ to be transplanted successfully? And when?

QUESTION 5

This is an easy one. What is the law that governs human organ transplantation in India? Not so easy: Which two States are/were exempt from this law?



Visual question:

Who is this and why is she relevant to the quiz? AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This television host took over the second iteration of the Late Show franchise. **Ans: Stephen Colbert**

2. This show began on January 26, 2003, replacing Politically Incorrect. **Ans: Jimmy Kimmel Live!**

3. In this show, the host extensively satirised Indian PM Narendra Modi in a segment. **Ans: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver**

4. The host of StarTalk. The other presenter who often makes an appearance on the show. **Ans: Neil deGrasse Tyson, Bill Nye**

5. In this show, each episode is hosted by a celebrity guest, who usually delivers the opening monologue and performs in sketches with the cast. **Ans: Saturday Night Live; The opening slogan of the show is "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!"**

Visual: Name this show. **Ans: The Dick Cavett Show**

Early Birds: Anamika Kashyap| Sumeet Parmar



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. K. Rao, Varanasi, wants to know the difference between 'credulous' and 'gullible'."

"A credulous person is one who tends to believe anything he hears. He doesn't take the trouble to think about it. A gullible person is one who doesn't have the intelligence to think about what he hears and hence accepts everything he hears as true. A gullible person is easily fooled or deceived. He never suspects anyone, he is too trusting. Both 'credulous' and 'gullible' are uncomplimentary words, but 'gullible' is more uncomplimentary than 'credulous'."

"Sir, Mr. A. Ranganathan, 852, Poonamallee High Road, Madras, writes: 'George Macaulay Trevelyan, a great historian and a master of English prose had used expressions such as 'an historical survey' and 'an historian'. And I am inclined to agree with him."

"'H' in 'historical' and 'historian' was not pronounced during the time of Trevelyan but now it is pronounced. No language is static and English is no exception. Shakespeare used 'er' in the sense of 'wander' and we don't use it in this sense. We don't follow his pronunciation. Fowler said that the word 'aggravate' shouldn't be used to mean 'annoy' or 'vex'. This is what you find in his Modern English Usage. 'The use of these (aggravate, aggravation) in the sense annoy, vex, annoyance, vexation, should be left to the uneducated. It is for the most a feminine or childish colloquialism, but introduced occasionally into the newspapers. To aggravate has properly one meaning 'to make (an evil) worse or more serious'. Writers these days give respectful inattention to Fowler's view on the use of 'aggravate'. The word is being used in informal context in the sense in which he said it should not be used. In the second edition of Fowler's Modern English Usage revised by Sir Ernest Cowers (1983), you find the following: 'For many years grammarians have been dinning into us that to aggravate has properly one meaning – to make (an evil) worse or more serious – and that to use it in the sense of annoy or exasperate is a vulgarism that should be left to the uneducated. But writers have shown no less persistence in refusing to be trammelled by this admonition... It is time to recognise that usage has beaten the grammarian, as it often does.' What is true of grammar is true of pronunciation and usage. Readers who swear by Fowler, Wren and Martin and other grammarians should keep in mind that they wrote about the language of their time and not all that they have said is applicable to contemporary English. I have dwelt at length on this question as some readers keep on writing about the views of the grammarians of 'long ago and far away'."

"Sir Ms. G. K. Barua wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of 'acme'."

"'Acme' means 'highest point, point or period of perfection'.

He reached the acme of his career when he became Headmaster.

The 'a' in 'acme' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man', 'c' is pronounced 'k' and the 'e' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'pin'. The stress is on the first syllable.

Published in The Hindu on March 28, 1989

Word of the day

Supine:

lying face upward; passive as a result of indolence or indifference

Synonyms:

inactive, passive

Usage:

His reaction to the news was supine.

Pronunciation:

bit.ly/supinepro

International Phonetic Alphabet:

/s(j)u:pɪnə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'.

From Page One

Congress seeks JPC probe into Adani row

The revelations, Mr. Gandhi said, come at a time when India is getting ready to host the G-20 summit. Waving copies of the *Financial Times* and *The Guardian*, which published reports on the OCCRP probe, he said these newspaper reports affect investments in India and world's perception of the country. The charges have put India's reputation on the line, he said.

"Over a billion dollars of money went from India. It was circulated in different places and then it came back to India. First question is, whose money is it? Is it Mr. Adani's or someone else's?" Mr. Gandhi asked. The newspaper reports have called out two foreign nationals Chang Chung-Ling and Nasser Ali Shabhan as the masterminds for the round-tripping of the funds. "The second question that arises is, why are these two foreign nationals allowed to manipulate the valuation of the company that controls almost all of India's infrastructure," Mr. Gandhi added.

Doubts over SEBI probe

The Congress leader also raised doubts about the recent investigations by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which he said gave a clean chit to the Adani group. "The person who conducted the investigations is now a director in one of the Adani firms," Mr. Gandhi alleged.

The fresh allegations by OCCRP – which is funded by George Soros and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, among others – comes months after U.S.-based short seller Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of engaging in accounting fraud, stock price manipulation, and the improper use of tax havens.

Making a strong pitch for a JPC probe, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh also questioned SEBI's investigation into the role of shell companies linked to the Adani Group.

Economy grows 7.8%, fastest in 4 quarters

Financial, real estate and professional services GVA grew 12.2% in Q1, while GVA from trade, hotels, transport, communications, and services related to broadcasting rose 9.2%. The GVA from public administration, defence, and other services, as well as the employment-intensive construction sector, rose 7.9% each.

Below expectations

"Although a supportive base propelled GDP growth to a four-quarter high of 7.8%, it nonetheless printed below our expectations of 8.5% as well as the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee's projection of 8%," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar. She attributed the slower-than-expected growth mostly to the meek uptick in manufacturing and a deceleration in the construction sector.

Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran argued that this was a good growth number that keeps the economy poised to grow 6.5% this year, and downplayed interpretations of a weak manufacturing sector. "The data is not seasonally adjusted, so to say manufacturing is not doing well is not something that I would subscribe to," Mr. Nageswaran said, noting that the numbers were distorted by weaker cement production.

Crisis chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi was not as sanguine, predicting that the 7.8% growth would likely be the "peak growth performance" for this year.

Statehood for J&K may take time, govt. tells SC

On Tuesday, Mr. Mehta sought time till August 31 to get instructions from the government about a time frame to restore Statehood to J&K.

The erstwhile State was reorganised into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh in August 2019. Ladakh would continue to be a Union Territory unlike J&K, the Centre said on August 29.

"I am unable to give an exact time period right now for the Statehood... I assure you we are progressively proceeding to make Jammu and Kashmir a complete State," Mr. Mehta submitted. The Centre was catalysing the progress to Statehood by pumping investments to the tune of ₹28,400 crore, he said.

Mr. Mehta said J&K had seen "enormous changes" post abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Terrorism, infiltration, stone-throwing and casualties among security personnel had reduced. There were 1,767 incidents of secessionist-spurred stone-throwing in J&K in 2018, he said. "Now it is nil... In 2018, there were 52 instances of organised bandhs, now it is nil," the Solicitor-General said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the petitioners, objected to Mr. Mehta presenting figures to prove his case of "enormous change". "They had 5,000 people under house arrest and Section 144 [curfew] was ordered... Then how could there be any bandhs... These figures are irrelevant to the challenge," Mr. Sibal said.

The Chief Justice said the constitutional challenge to the abrogation of Article 370 would have to be answered by the Centre on constitutional grounds, and not by quoting these statistics.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mehta said the Election Commission had been doing the groundwork for elections in the erstwhile State. He said the three-tier polls in J&K would be held for the first time after 2019. These would include polls to panchayats (rural areas), municipality and to the Assembly.

Chinese President Xi yet to confirm presence at G-20 summit in Delhi

If he does not attend, Chinese Premier Li Qiang is likely to replace him at the summit; U.S. President Joseph Biden and leaders of the U.K., France, Germany, Canada, Japan, Brazil, Indonesia have already confirmed their presence for the meet

Suhasini Haidar
Ananth Krishnan

NEW DELHI

With just a week to go for the G-20 Summit in Delhi from September 9 to 10, Chinese President Xi Jinping has not confirmed his presence, sources in New Delhi and Beijing said, amid reports that he may skip the high-powered event.

Most other leaders, including U.S. President Joseph Biden and leaders of countries such as the U.K., France, Germany, Canada, Japan, Brazil and Indonesia, have confirmed their presence, and are expected to arrive at various times on September 8. Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, is likely to be given an exceptional welcome as a state guest, and he will stay on for a bilateral visit on September 11.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador have already said they will not be present in New Delhi. They will instead send Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Mexican Economy Minister Raquel Bernal Sanchez.

In case Mr. Xi does not attend, Chinese Premier Li Qiang will replace him at the summit, after attending the East Asia Summit in Jakarta on September 7, the international news agency Reuters reported. "I



Chinese President Xi's absence would be seen as a downgrading of China's participation in the Delhi summit, say analysts. PTI

have nothing to offer in this regard at the moment," said Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Thursday.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declined to comment. Asked about the confirmation from leaders, including Mr. Xi, at a briefing earlier this month, Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "It would be a better place for the visitors to res-

pond to whether they are coming... We have invited all the participants and we look forward to their participation."

Mr. Xi's absence would be a break from the past, and would be seen as a downgrading of China's participation in the Delhi summit, say analysts, at a time when several differences persist in producing a consensus joint statement at the summit.

Since taking over as President in 2013, the Chinese President has attended every G-20 in-person and virtual summit, apart from the Rome G-20 in 2021, when China was still in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, Mr. Xi attended the Bali summit as well, and a decision not to travel to Delhi will be significant, especially given that he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met just a week ago on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in South Africa.

Since then, New Delhi and Beijing have sparred

over the readouts of that meeting, with Mr. Wang saying the two leaders, who met in the leader's lounge for an informal, unscheduled conversation, had agreed to direct officials for an "expeditious disengagement and de-escalation" of troops to resolve the situation at the Line of Actual control (LAC). This week, the MEA crossed swords with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs over China's publication of a "standard map" that includes Indian territory, including Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin.

On Thursday, the MFA took issue with the travel of three retired former military chiefs to Taiwan on August 8. "We hope the country concerned [India] will abide by the one-China principle, prudently and properly handle Taiwan-related issues and refrain from having any form of military and security cooperation with Taiwan," Mr. Wang said during the MFA briefing.

Case slapped on right-wing outfit over razing mazars

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Members of a right-wing group called Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan demolished two *mazars* (tomb shrines) in Rishikesh town and allegedly broadcast their act live on social media last week.

The Uttarakhand Police lodged a First Information Report (FIR) against unknown persons for hurting the religious sentiments of people after the video surfaced and went viral. No arrest has been made in the matter so far.

In the videos, members of the group chanted "Jai Shri Ram" before hammering the walls of a *mazar* erected in the backyard of a Hindu man.

Jagat Singh, in-charge of Shyampur police post, under whose jurisdiction the *mazar* falls, told *The Hindu* that the police have filed a *suo motu* complaint against unknown persons for promoting enmity between communities and hurting religious sentiments after the video of the demolition went viral.

SC issues notice about fake website, phishing attack

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Registry on Thursday issued a notice about a website faking its own, trying to inveigle personal and confidential information from unsuspecting users. The Registry said it was a "phishing attack".

"A fake website, impersonating the official website has been created and hosted on the URL 1 - <http://cbins/scigv.com> and <https://cbins.scigv.com/> offence. The attackers through the URL - <https://cbins.scigv.com/offence> are soliciting personal details, and confidential information," the statement said.

The official website is available on the domain www.sci.gov.in. The Registry has flagged its concern to the law enforcement agencies and urged them to investigate the phishing attack. Access to the Article 370 case hearing is available via the official website, which has attracted more Internet users.

The SC Registry flags its concern to law enforcement agencies asking them to investigate the attack

It strongly advised the public to neither click nor share links they receive without verifying the authenticity.

"Please note that the Registry, Supreme Court of India will never ask for personal information, financial details or other confidential information," the statement said.

The Manipur police said an exchange of fire had occurred between armed miscreants at Lomphai and Khouasabung. "Security forces deployed in the area responded and subsequently firing has subsided. Situation is tense but under control," a police

5 more killed in Manipur; police say situation tense, but under control

Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

As a heavy exchange of fire continued between two groups in the areas bordering Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts of Manipur for the third consecutive day, five people were killed on Thursday, the police said.

A defence source said that women-led groups in Meitei-dominated Bishnupur have been stopping additional security forces from reaching the areas where the two groups have engaged in an intense gunfight since the early hours of Tuesday, leaving at least eight people dead.

The Manipur police said an exchange of fire had occurred between armed miscreants at Lomphai and Khouasabung. "Security forces deployed in the area responded and subsequently firing has subsided. Situation is tense but under control," a police



The SoO groups are asking for a Union Territory with legislature to be created for the Kuki-Zo-Hmar dominated districts in Manipur. PTI

statement said.

The violence continued even as A.K. Mishra, the Union Home Ministry's security adviser for the North East, held talks with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups that are in a suspension of operations (SoO) pact with the government. The SoO groups have scaled up their earlier demand of a separate administration, and are now asking for a

Union Territory with legislature to be created for the

Kuki-Zo-Hmar-dominated districts in Manipur. The talks will continue on Friday. The demand is likely to create consternation among the Nagas, as many areas have a mixed population.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum, a Kuki-Zo body, said in a statement that the "unending attacks are clearly a ploy to derail the political talks between the tribal SoO groups and the Union government." It

J&K police start drive to trace 734 absconders for their involvement in militancy

The Hindu Bureau

SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) police have started a major exercise to identify and trace 734 absconders in the Union Territory, suspected to have a role in militancy-related cases.

According to the police, eight absconding terrorists and their associates, involved in serious crimes of terrorism and disruptive activities around three decades ago, have been arrested from Doda district of Jammu. A police spokesperson said the Special Investigation Agency, assisted by CID inputs, had "detectives working quietly for months to apprehend these eight absconders, wanted in the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act cases for 27 to 31 years".



Major crackdown: The police say that out of the 369 absconders, 215 are from Jammu and 154 in Kashmir. NISSAR AHMAD

The police said these terrorists had managed to escape from the clutches of law for decades "by going underground and remaining untraced". "Then they resurfaced to enjoy normal family life at their native or some distant places. Some of these terrorists have managed to get government services and contracts, others found engaged in private businesses and even working in the court," the police said.

According to the SIA, 369 – 215 in Jammu and 154 in Kashmir – out of the 734 absconders have been identified in J&K so far. "Out of the 369 verified absconders, 127 remained untraced, 80 have died and 45 are residing in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and other countries and four are in jail," the police said.

The guidelines asked States and Union Territories to submit their proposals by September 30.

E-buses will be allotted to cities based on population

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The 10,000 electric buses under the PM e-bus Sewa scheme would carry a uniform branding provided by the Union government and would be allocated based on the population of a particular city.

In guidelines on the implementation of the scheme issued to States on August 28, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation said the 169 eligible cities would be categorised into four groups based on whether their population was between 15 and 20 lakh, 10 and 15 lakh, five and 10 lakh or less than five lakh. The first category will get 150 buses, second and third groupings 100 each and the last 100.

The guidelines asked States and Union Territories to submit their proposals by September 30.

Cdr. Abhilash Tomy to assist ISRO with astronaut recovery

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

Cdr. Abhilash Tomy (retd.), ace circumnavigator and the only Indian to complete the Golden Globe Race (GGR), will mentor and coach two volunteer women Naval officers, Lt. Cdr. Dilna and Lt. Cdr. Roopa who will be undertaking *Sagar Parikrama IV*, a circumnavigation sailing expedition on Indian Naval

Sailing Vessel Tarini scheduled for next year. He is also currently working with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on its manned space mission, *Gaganyaan*, advising on recovery of astronauts at sea. Ahead of the formal commencement of preparations for *Sagar Parikrama IV*, the Navy's Ocean Sailing Node signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Cdr. Tomy.



APPEAL
Baby of Priyanka, daughter of Sachin Kumar Varadananav, 3 months admitted in Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center is suffering from "Primary Immunodeficiency". It is a potentially life threatening condition if not treated promptly. The only cure for treatment is bone marrow transplant. The approximate total cost of treatment is Rs. 28,00,000/- Please send donation however small and save the baby. Cheque/D.M.O. favouring Save Poor Lives A/c Baby of Priyanka. Our Account Details: S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC Code: SBIN00013487. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T.A.C. 2013. SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Cebotri Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No. 044 42044165 & 044 35691848. Mobile: 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Special Session of Parliament from Sept. 18 to 22; agenda under wraps

The session will have five sittings; Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi says amid *Amrit Kaal*, the government is looking forward to fruitful discussions and debate in Parliament; Congress says the government is trying to divert attention from the recent media reports on Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday announced a Special Session of Parliament from September 18 to 22, shortly after the conclusion of the G-20 Summit here on September 10.

In a post on the micro-blogging site X (formerly Twitter), Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the Special Session would have five sittings, and amid *Amrit Kaal* (the Prime Minister's description of the 25 years leading to 100 years of Independence), the government was looking forward to having fruitful discussions and debate in Parliament.

The Opposition said the sudden decision was meant to divert public attention from media reports

exposing the Adani Group and the INDIA meeting.

The government has not revealed the agenda of the session, though sources said it could be related to the G-20 Summit and the events held to celebrate 75 years of Independence. Some say the session will be held in the new Parliament Building inaugurated in May. There is also the thinking that the government may bring in special Bills on long-pending issues such as women's reservation in Parliament and the Assemblies.

Chandrayaan-3 and India's goals for *Amrit Kaal* may be part of the wider discussions during the session, sources said.

A senior Congress leader said the government might do away with the Winter Session and explore early Lok Sabha elec-



Face to face: The new and old Parliament buildings. The venue of the Special Session of Parliament has not been revealed. ANI

tions along with the Assembly elections in five States. "The country is staring at a drought-like situation and food inflation has crossed 11%. The government would like to avoid going to elections when food inflation increases further," he said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the move was a reflection of Centre's panic. "Whenever you touch the Adani matter, the PM gets very uncomfortable and very nervous," he said in Mumbai.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the announcement was to manage the news cycle in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's style. In a post on X, he said the latest revelations on the Adani Group dominated the news on Thursday. On Friday, the INDIA parties were meeting in Mumbai. To counter this, the government had announced the Special Session, Mr. Ramesh said.

"Regardless, the JPC demand [the Opposition's demand to constitute a Joint

Parliamentary Committee to investigate the Adani Group] will continue to resonate inside and outside Parliament," he said.

Manickam Tagore, Congress Working Committee member and MP, "thanked" the Centre for convening the session. "The Adani Mega Scam is the largest corruption scandal in Indian history. Who are Chang Chung-Ling and Nasser Ali Shabhan, who ended up controlling 13% of Adani shares through offshore operations from Mauritius? Question remains," he said.

The Opposition leaders questioned the way the session was announced through a social media post without a proper notification. The Shiv Sena questioned the dates of the session as it clashed with Ganesh Chaturthi.

IN BRIEF



Akhilesh meets family of bus conductor in *namaz* episode

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday met the family members of Mohit Yadav in Mainpuri, who was found dead after being terminated from service of the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) for halting a Delhi-bound bus to allow two Muslim passengers to offer *namaz* in Bareilly three months ago.

(Those in distress may call 011-40769002)

Bihar BJP leaders mock Nitish Kumar's 'illusion of being PM'

BJP Bihar president Samrat Choudhary, and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Vijay Kumar Sinha, on Thursday took a dig at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at a time when the INDIA Opposition grouping is meeting in Mumbai. Both leaders claimed that Mr. Kumar's "illusion of becoming the Prime Minister" was going to shatter.

New Press, Registration of Books Act notified

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union government has issued a notification for the implementation of the amendments to the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, from September 1. The changes substantially decriminalise and do away with imprisonment provisions for certain offences.

Recently, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, has replaced or amended some sections in the Press and Registration of Books Act.

Earlier, there was no direct role of the Press Registrar to regulate irregular/defunct newspapers. New provisions have now been added for suspension and cancellation of certificate of registration by the Press Registrar (Section 12) on the grounds of irregularity, ceasing of publication, not furnishing annual statement, or false statement, etc.

As the provision of imprisonment has been removed for most violations, the quantum of fines has been rationalised and converted to penalties to be imposed by the Press Registrar, said a government official.

In Section 12, as opposed to six month imprisonment and fine up to ₹2,000 for violation of Section 3 (printing with incorrect particulars), now there is only penalty by the Press Registrar up to ₹10,000.

Also, Under Section 8C of the Act, the jurisdiction of Press and Registration Appellate Board (PRAB) included District Magistrate only. It will now include orders by the Press Registrar also regarding imposition of penalty, and suspension/cancellation of registration by the Press Registrar.

INDIA parties likely to have common social media team

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

The idea is to reach a bigger audience, spanning the current social media outreach of all the INDIA constituents

The voter sitting in the remotest corner of the country should be aware of what our policies are and what we stand for," the source said.

Detailed plan

While the INDIA parties are trying to put off their seat-sharing negotiations for now, delaying a possible confrontation, they are instead focusing on creating a joint apparatus. This will include a coordination committee, a secretariat for election management, a common research wing, 10 INDIA spokespersons drawn from various parties, a common media team, and a committee to frame a national agenda.

The parties also have to finalise their common campaign issues and a joint action schedule for public rallies and other outreach programmes.

"These are a few ideas that have been mooted, but they will be formalised depending on the consensus in Friday's meeting," the source said.

There is a bit of unease among some INDIA parties on bringing uniformity as it could threaten their individual existence.

At INDIA dinner, food for thought on seat sharing, early elections

Sobhana K. Nair

MUMBAI

The third summit of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance began here on Thursday, with several leaders conveying that it is time for the bloc to pick up pace and show a "sense of urgency".

At least two leaders – Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and senior Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav – spoke of the need to have a seat-sharing formula in place at the earliest.

Ahead of a dinner hosted by former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the leaders sat together for an informal chat, where each expressed opinions. There were no discussions on the post of convener or chairpersons. It was decided that at Friday's meeting, a set of working groups, including a coordination committee and a joint committee for communication, campaign and public programmes, will be decided. A panel of national spokespersons could also be announced.

The Union government's decision to hold a Special Session of Parliament from September 18 to 22 prominently came up during the talks. Mr. Kejriwal, it is learnt, argued that the Special Session could be an indication that the Narendra Modi government would call for early election, clubbing the As-



United stance: RJD chief Lalu Prasad, with CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury and CPI leader D. Raja, arriving for the INDIA meeting at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Mumbai on Thursday. EMMANUEL YOGINI

sembly and Lok Sabha elections. Keeping this in mind, he said, the seat-sharing formula should be in place by September 30. The talks could be particularly difficult between the AAP and Congress in Punjab and Delhi. In Punjab, the AAP, after its victory in the Assembly election, wants to be in the driver's seat, but the Congress is not willing to ride the pillion.

Mr. Yadav, sources said, remarked that the BJP was not a force in the south, but Uttar Pradesh, which sends 80 MPs to the Lok Sabha, would be crucial in tilting the scales. Seat-sharing for the State should be locked in at the earliest, he said.

Janata Dal(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar echoed Mr. Kejriwal's views that the Special Session of Parliament

could mean early polls. In fact, he has been making public statements speculating about government advancing the election.

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool president Mamata Banerjee, sources said, spoke on the need to have a common agenda and manifesto, which she recommended should be unveiled on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on October 2 at the Rajghat in Delhi. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M.K. Stalin echoed the need to have a common agenda.

The publicised schedule of the meeting has a plan to unveil a common logo. At the dinner meet, there was no debate around this issue. The Left parties are not comfortable with having a common logo, which they feel will undermine their own individual posi-

tions. Instead, the Left insisted that the time for discussions was long over and the parties should now hit the roads.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, it is learnt, gave some sort of an assurance that the coordination committee that will oversee the entire campaign, could be expanded to accommodate more parties. After the Bangalore meeting, he had announced that the coordination committee will consist of 11 members drawn from 11 leading Opposition parties.

According to the sources, nine regional Opposition parties – three from Assam (Asom Jatiya Parishad, Rajor Dal, Anchalik Gan Manch), three from Uttar Pradesh, one from West Bengal and two others – have requested to join the bloc.

Assam to relaunch drive against child marriage

The Hindu Bureau

GUWAHATI

The drive against child marriages in Assam will be relaunched in September, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday.

The last such drive in February caused a commotion across the State after 4,235 complaints were registered and more than 3,000 people, including 93 women, were arrested for involvement in child marriage.

On Thursday, Mr. Sarma said that he had instructed officials to start another drive.

He also sought to create awareness among the vulnerable populations so that girls were not married off before they attain 18 years of age and get every opportunity to pursue their dreams in life.

The fresh push against child marriage followed the CM's announcement on Independence Day that the State was determined to come up with a piece of robust legislation for abolishing polygamy.

An expert committee headed by retired judge Rumi Phukan was assigned to go through all legal aspects for introducing a suitable piece of law against polygamy.

Although some tribal communities practise polygamy, the February drive was seen as being targeted at Bengali-origin Muslims.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AND DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.
E PROCUREMENT T.N.O.C/AM/AP/GNT/Ep/16/2023-24, Dated: 31-8-2023

Department of Agricultural Marketing (DOAM) inviting bids for Engagement of Services Provider for End-to-End digitization of Rythu Basars in Department/Agri. Marketing, Govt. of A.P. from interested IT companies. Eprocurement site opens on DL1-9-2023 at 3:00 P.M. Any other information can be had from the www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in & http://market.ap.nic.in or from the Chief Engineer (AM), O/o Commr. & Director of Agrl. Marketing, Chutugunta Center, Guntur-522004.

Chief Engineer (AM),
O/o Commissioner and Director of Agrl. Marketing
Govt. of A.P., Guntur.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM REPUTED TRANSPORTERS

OPG Power Generation Private limited (OPG) is operating 414 MW Capacity coal fired power plant located at Gummidi poondi. OPG annually imports around two million tons of coal directly from Indonesian/Australian mines and holds the position as major importer of coal in Tamilnadu.

OPG is looking for engaging reputed transporter for transporting coal from Ennore to their power plant.

Interested companies who have their own fleets of trucks, having experience in moving bulk materials, may please respond to this requirement by sending their Expression of Interest along with their credentials for last three years, to the following address through email within seven days.

Head (Procurement)
OPG Power Generation Private Limited,
No: 6, Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032
Tamilnadu, India
Email ID - paul.h@opgpower.com



NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

DNB/DrNB FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – OCTOBER 2023

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next DNB/DrNB Final Theory Examinations on 12, 13, 14 and 15th October 2023.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in> for eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates

Availability of Information Bulletin	31 st August 2023 Onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	31 st August 2023 (3 PM Onwards) to 20 th September 2023 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	12, 13, 14 and 15 October 2023

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराहार्ड अंतर्राष्ट्रीय केन्द्र / VIKRAM SARABHA SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान बूर्झ / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
डी-निविटेंडरिंग्स/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 22 / फैसल नं. 0471-256 5669 / 4568 / 4537

भारत के राष्ट्रीय की ओर से निर्माणवित कार्य के लिए इ-टेंडरिंग द्वारा अनुसंधान मन्त्र द्वारा निविटेंडरिंग अपील की जाती है। On behalf of the President of India, through the National Space Research and Development Commission, the Ministry of Space invites tenders for the construction of the following projects:

विक्रम साराहार्ड अंतर्राष्ट्रीय केन्द्र के संस्थानात्मक भूमि का निर्माण (स्थिर तथा पौराण वार्षिक) / Construction of the VIKRAM SARABHA SPACE CENTRE (Space Stationary and Annual) Land.

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 01.09.2023, 11:00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 14.09.2023, 23:00 बजे/hrs

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य जीवनों को पालने के लिए इच्छुक निविटेंडर द्वारा निर्विरुद्ध आपील लायी जानी जाती है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.

Sd/- गुण निदेशक / सीएमजी, वीएमएससी, Group Director/CMG,VSSC



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

BANGKOK

Former Thailand PM Thaksin has applied for royal pardon: Minister



Thailand's jailed former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has requested a royal pardon, a Minister said, as rumours of a backroom deal for clemency swirl. The 74-year-old billionaire, twice elected PM and ousted in a 2006 military coup, was sent to prison last week immediately after returning from a 15-year-long self-exile. AFP

JERUSALEM

Israeli soldier, Palestinian driver killed as truck rams check point



A Palestinian rammed a truck he was driving into three Israeli soldiers near a checkpoint in the occupied West Bank, killing one before being shot dead. Violence linked to the Israel-Palestinian conflict has surged, and Thursday's attack comes a day after a 14-year-old Palestinian stabbed a civilian at a tram station. AFP

MOSCOW

Local elections under way in Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine



Kyiv condemned local elections in Moscow-occupied Ukrainian territories that opened on Thursday. Voting was due to take place on September 10. But occupation authorities in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia organised early elections from Thursday, while voting in Kherson and Lugansk will open on Saturday. AFP

LIBREVILLE

General who toppled Bongo to be sworn in as President of Gabon



The General who overthrew Gabon's 55-year Bongo dynasty will be sworn in on Monday as transitional President, the Army said, as the Opposition called for its candidate to be recognised as the winner of weekend elections. The swearing in of General Brice Oligu Nguema will take place at the constitutional court. AFP

Over 70 killed in fire at illegal housing block in South Africa

At least 7 children among the victims; 52 injured in the building situated in a crime-ridden area that was turned into illegal housing after being abandoned; most of the residents were foreigners

Agence France-Presse

JOHANNESBURG

A fire that engulfed a five-storey building taken over for illegal housing killed more than 70 people including children in central Johannesburg overnight, the South African city's emergency services said on Thursday.

Another 52 were injured in what was on track to become one of the deadliest fires worldwide in recent years.

Bodies were discovered piled up at a security gate that was closed, preventing people from escaping the blaze, an official said.

City authorities said the building in a deprived crime-ridden area had been turned into illegal housing after being abandoned.



Damage control: Firefighters deployed in front of the burned apartment block in Johannesburg on Thursday. AFP

Most of those living there were foreigners, one resident said.

At least seven children were among those killed, the youngest under two years old, he said. Some were left burned beyond recognition.

"I'm grateful to be alive,

there was a lot of us running, trying to find the fire exit and a lot of people eventually died because of the smoke inhalation," said Kenny Bupe, a survivor caught up in the blaze while visiting a friend.

The 28-year-old told AFP he was part of a group

that managed to break open a locked fire escape gate and run to safety, while others "jumped out" of the windows to save themselves.

Blankets and sheets used for escape hung from the burned-out windows, a reminder of the dramatic scenes.

"This is a great tragedy, felt by families whose loved ones perished in this terrible manner," President Cyril Ramaphosa said at an event in the southern city of Gqeberha.

"Our hearts go out to every person who is affected by this disaster."

It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze.

Authorities said candles used for lighting inside the structure or stoves and other heating devices were a likely cause.

After India, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia protest China's map

Ananth Krishnan

The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia on Thursday released separate statements voicing their opposition to China's new "standard map" for 2023, which has also drawn a strong protest from India.

Beijing on Thursday again defended the issuing of the map on August 28, when asked about the protests from India, Malaysia and the Philippines. The map showed within China's borders all of the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin, as well as the entire South China Sea. While these were also displayed on previous versions of China's official map, the issuing of the new map has been seen by China's neighbours as complicating territorial disputes that are being negotiated.

The competent authorities of China routinely publish standard maps of various types every year, which aims to make standard maps available to all sectors of society and raise public awareness of the standardised use of maps. We hope parties concerned can view it in an objective and rational light," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

The Philippines Foreign Ministry in a statement said it "rejects" the 2023 version of China's "standard map" and the inclusion of the so-called nine-dash line.



Contested claim: China's neighbours feel the new map may further complicate territorial disputes. AP

map "which shows unilateral claims to Malaysia's maritime territory" including parts of the Malaysian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

'Respect UN norms'

Indonesia was the third ASEAN country to issue a statement, with Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on Thursday quoted as saying by the national Antara news agency that "the drawing of territorial lines, including in the 2023 Edition of the Standard Map of China, must be in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS)."

"Any line drawn and any claims made must be in accordance with the 1982 UNCLOS," the Minister said.

India on Tuesday lodged a strong protest over the map, which External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar described as making "absurd claims" on territory.

Pakistan's election commission to hold general elections by February

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Election Commission has assured political parties that general elections would be held by January end or mid-February, allaying fears about the fate of the polls in the cash-strapped nation.

The Election Commission

sion of Pakistan (ECP) gave assurance to the Awami National Party (ANP) when the party leaders met the election body, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The meeting held on Wednesday was chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja.

Pakistan's National As-

sembly was dissolved on August 9. The elections in the country should be held within the stipulated time of 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly.

Pakistan President Arif Alvi appointed Anwaar ul Haq Kakar as caretaker Prime Minister in mid-August until fresh elections.

Trump pleads not guilty in poll subversion case

Associated Press

ATLANTA

Former U.S. President Donald Trump pleaded not guilty on Thursday and waived arraignment in the case accusing him and others of illegally trying to overturn the results of the 2020 election in Georgia.

That means he won't

have to show up for an arraignment hearing set for next week. The decision to skip an in-person appearance averts the dramatic arraignments that have accompanied the three other criminal cases Mr. Trump faces in which the former President has been forced into a courtroom and entered "not guilty" pleas.

Grant Shapps replaces Ben Wallace as Defence Secretary of the U.K.

Agence France-Presse

LONDON

Grant Shapps was on Thursday appointed U.K. Defence Secretary, succeeding Ben Wallace who formally stepped down after a key role shaping the country's military backing for Ukraine against Russia.

Mr. Wallace, a popular

lawmaker once tipped as a potential leader of the ruling Conservative party, was the longest-serving Tory Defence Secretary since Winston Churchill.

He announced in July that he would step down before the next government reshuffle and not contest the next election.

Mr. Shapps, 54, who has

no military experience, briefly served as Home Secretary last October in Liz Truss's short-lived government and before that as Transport Secretary under Boris Johnson. He was also Business Secretary under Mr. Sunak before taking over as Minister responsible for energy security and net zero.

Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited
Proposals are invited for Empanelment of LCOs/MSOs for providing services through AP Fiber Grid Network. Details of the RfPs and corrigenda may be downloaded from APSFL website: www.apsfl.in DIPR 2315PP/CL, Dt: 31-08-2023

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY 6-TENDER CALL NOTICE No.EM/PED-31/2023
No.EM/PED-TECH-50/2021/343 Date : 30/08/2023
Name of the work : "Supply, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of HT/LT Cables at different locations of Paradip Port. Estimated Cost : Rs.2,71,58,742/- Last Date & time of submission of bid : dt.19/09/2023 up to 17:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app/> Executive Engineer (E), PED - II PPA/PR/45/2023-24, Dt.31/08/23

COCHIN SMART MISSION LIMITED
4th Floor, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Metro Station, Kochi, Kochi-682050, Kerala Email: info@csml.in Ph: 0484-2795700
TENDER NOTICE
1)PAN CITY SMART LED STREETLIGHTS IN KOCHI CORPORATION UNDER SMART CITIES MISSION, KOCHI (THIRD CALL) Tender reference no: CSML/Energy/RFP/003-02 Tender Id: 2023 KMRL 598696 1 Bid Submission End Date14-Sep-2023 05:30 PM
The EPR document can be downloaded from the following website www.csml.in and www.kochimetro.org and in organization name Kochi Metro Rail Ltd

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.: CCE, KIP-(KCD-II) -08 / 2023-24 (Pertaining to Kanpur Canal Division-II, Rimali)
1 Name of the Work "Construction of Phulakanji Distributary from RD 00m to RD 10, 560m including all structures off-taking at RD 6, 870m of Tail Distributary of Kanpur Irrigation project".
2 Estimated Cost Rs.682.00 Lakh
3 Period of Completion 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months including rainy season
4 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal Dt.07.09.2023 from 10.00 Hours to Dt.21.09.2023 up to 17.00 Hours.
5 Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal 21.09.2023 up to 17.00 Hours
6 Date & Time of Opening of Tender 22.09.2023 at 11.00 Hours
7 Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid Er. Prasanna Kumar Pani, Chief Construction Engineer, Kanpur Irrigation Project, At/PO: Basudevpur, Dist- Keonjhar, Odisha 758047
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "<https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in/>" (Er.Prasanna Kumar Pani) Chief Construction Engineer, Kanpur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar, Odisha OIPR-32376/11/0010/2324

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER TEL BASIN, BHAWANIPATNA, DIST. KALAHANDI
Tel No. 06670230209, email-celtelbasinbhp@gmail.com
Government of Odisha - 'e' Procurement Notice No-CE&BM,TEL-09/2023-24
Bid Identification No.CETEL-BOUD-01/2023-24
Online tenders are invited for EPC Contract for "Construction of In-stream storage structure (ISS) at Kharimal across River Mahanadi in the district of Boudh including Hydro-mechanical works, Power Connectivity works, Road Connectivity, Staff Quarters including Survey, Investigation, Planning, Design and Estimate of all Components with Operation and Maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the Project of State of Odisha."

1. Name of Work "Construction of In-stream storage structure (ISS) at Kharimal across River Mahanadi in the district of Boudh including Hydro-mechanical works, Power Connectivity works, Road Connectivity, Staff Quarters including Survey, Investigation, Planning, Design and Estimate of all Components with Operation and Maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the Project of State of Odisha."

2. Approximate Value of Work put to Tender. Rs.830,36,44,068/-

3. Period of completion 36 Calendar months including rainy season

4. Date & time of availability of Bid document in the portal Date- 04-09-2023 from 10.00 AM to Date- 03-10-2023 up to 5.00 PM

5. Last date/Time for receipt of Bids in the portal Date- 03-10-2023 up to 5.00 P.M.

6. Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid. Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawaniapatna OIPR-32317/11/0011/2324
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in/>" Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawaniapatna OIPR-32317/11/0011/2324

GOVT OF INDIA LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION
(Department of Health Services)
KAVARATTI ISLAND 682 555, Phone: 04896 263650 E mail: gnckavaratti@gmail.com
F.No.5/9/2021-DHS (Part) Vol.1 Dated: 24.08.2023.
NOTIFICATION
Application for the post Principal Cum Professor, Associate Professor on contract for Govt. Nursing College, Kavaratti, U.T. of Lakshadweep has been invited. The application and other details can be had from www.lakshadweep.gov.in. The last date of submission of application will be on 27th September 2023.
-Sd- (DR.SHRIKANT R TAPDIYA, (DANICS) Director of health Services

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
A Statutory Body of the Govt. of India (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 Phone: 011-29581000 Website: [https://www.aictc-india.org](http://www.aictc-india.org)
Advertisement for the post of Research Fellows in IKS Division of MoE at AICTE
Online applications are invited for the post of Research Fellows on contractual basis for Indian Knowledge Systems Division of MoE:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Fixed Remuneration per month inclusive of all allowances
1	Research Fellows	02	Rs.75,000/-

All other details such as Eligibility Criteria, Qualifications, Experience, Procedure for submitting online application and General Terms and Conditions of appointments will be available at the AICTE website (<https://www.aictc-india.org/bulletins/advertisements>) from 01.09.2023.
The last date for submission of online application is 22.09.2023.
The Council/MoE reserves the right to increase or decrease or cancel the above mentioned post without assigning any reason thereof.
Advt. No. Admn.(Estt.)/AICTE/08/03/2023 Member Secretary

भारत सरकार / Government of India
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सिर्विस / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान एवं वैज्ञानिकी संसाधन/ Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
वि. अ. प्राप्ति विज्ञान 1956 वर्ष से पारा 3 व अपनी मात्रित विविधायाच विभाग
[Declared as Deemed to be University under Sec.3 of the UGC Act 1956]
द्रवित्रय: Phone: 0471-2586843/603, कैफ्स: Fax:0471-2586802, ई-मेल: recruitment@iast.ac.in
संविधान आवारित पोर्ट पर सिटेक्स 08, 2023 के प्रतिक्षा साक्षात्कार
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR CONTRACT POSITIONS ON SEPTEMBER 08, 2023
भारतीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान एवं वैज्ञानिकी संसाधन (आर्जा-आईएसएस) विभाग के आधार पर चिकित्सा अधिकारी, स्थानिक सहायता वैद्यनीक वर्कर, उच्चायोग एवं कार्यालयक संस्थायाच विभाग भारतीय विज्ञान परिवर्तन विभाग विभाग के आधारावाहिक विभाग विभाग के आधारावाहिक विभाग विभाग के आधारावाहिक विभाग विभाग के आधाराव

IN BRIEF



Isuzu Motors unveils crew cab pickup in CV segment

Isuzu Motors India has announced the unveiling of the D-Max S-Cab Z pick-up at an introductory price of ₹14,99,910 (ex-showroom, Chennai).

"With the addition of this top-end variant, Isuzu Motors India now offers a more comprehensive and versatile range for all business and professional requirements," the automaker said in a statement. The variant will be available in cosmic black, galena grey, splash white, nautilus blue and titanium silver.

Fidelity raises fair value of Meesho investment by 14%

Boston-based Fidelity Investments, which invested about \$42 million in Bengaluru-based Meesho in September 2021, has marked up the fair value of its investment in the e-commerce platform to \$43.24 million as of July 3, indicating a 14% uptick, reversing the 10% cut it made in the start-up earlier this year, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filing. Meesho is also backed by other investors such as Prosus Ventures, SoftBank, and Facebook.

TVS Srichakra showcases agri radial tyres in the U.S.

TVS Srichakra Ltd. displayed a new range of agricultural radial tyres under the TVS Eurogrip Tigertrac radial series, at the Farm Progress Show 2023 held in the U.S. from August 29 to 31. Some of the products displayed include the Tigertrac FL909 Steel Belted and FL900 Textile Belted flotation radials for agricultural transport and implements, the company said. "We believe such programmes will help us expand our footprint in the U.S.," said COO Arvind Singh.

Royal Enfield will roll out first e-bike by 2025: Siddhartha Lal

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



Siddhartha Lal

Royal Enfield, a division of **Eicher Motors Ltd. (EML)**, will unveil its first electric motorcycle by 2025, EMIL MD & CEO Siddhartha Lal told media persons.

According to Mr. Lal, various prototypes of e-bikes are being tested and refined further.

The company would continue to invest in petrol bikes, he said. Asked if the firm were looking at separate dealerships or a company to sell e-bikes, he said they were open to all options. On fund-raising, he said, "We have much money that we don't expect to raise separately for this business."

Announcing the ap-

pointment of Ducati veteran Mario Alvisi as chief growth officer to drive the EV business, Mr. Lal affirmed that the e-bike plan was on track.

Royal Enfield, along with EMIL, had applied for the performance-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, under which it would invest ₹2,000 crore, said Royal Enfield CEO B. Govindarajan.

ONDC a pivotal force set to enhance digital commerce

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) will be a pivotal force enhancing India's digital commerce sector, which is projected to touch \$350 billion by 2030, as per a whitepaper released by Deloitte India on Thursday.

The ONDC framework, building on India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), presents an opportunity for businesses of all sizes to connect and transact seamlessly, the paper observed. It sketched out the evolution of digital commerce in India, detailing

the challenges faced in the initial stages, including concerns over security. Sathish Gopalaiyah, President, Consulting, Deloitte South Asia said, "ONDC is a remarkable opportunity for India's economy spanning diverse industries. I am optimistic

about India's forthcoming growth phase, where empowerment shifts to consumers and SMEs, aligning with ONDC's mission of illuminating Bharat."

On the agriculture front, through ONDC farmers could gain direct access to buyers while Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) can establish direct connections with potential clients, bypassing intermediaries. This integration optimises the value chain, facilitating trade amongst stakeholders, as per the study. At present, e-commerce represents just about 4.3% of retail commerce in India, detailing

the challenges faced in the initial stages, including concerns over security. Sathish Gopalaiyah, President, Consulting, Deloitte South Asia said, "ONDC is a remarkable opportunity for India's economy spanning diverse industries. I am optimistic

Adani shares fall on allegations investors had ties to promoters

Hundreds of millions of dollars were invested in Adani stock via opaque Mauritian-based investment funds, the OCCRP alleges in a new report

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

Adani Group companies' shares fell on Thursday, with the flagship Adani Enterprises sliding as much as 5.1%, in the wake of a report by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) that sought to affirm allegations of share price manipulation by people close to the promoters.

The Adani Group rejected the allegations as "mischievous and malicious".

The OCCRP, a global network of investigative journalists, alleged in its report released on Thursday that documents obtained by it show that "two men who spent years trading hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of Adani Group stock: Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli and Chang Chung-Ling, had close ties to the Adani family, including appearing as directors and shareholders in affiliated companies".

"Records show that the investment funds they used to trade in Adani Group stock received instructions from a company controlled by a senior member of the Adani family," the OCCRP said.

Adani Enterprises pared losses to close 3.8% lower on the BSE at ₹2,418.80. Adani Ports & Special Eco-

Stocks slide again

Adani Group stocks fell after OCCRP's allegations, raising the spectre of February's rout in the wake of the Hindenburg report



- Adani rejects latest allegations as "mischievous and malicious"
- Flagship Adani Enterprises slid as much as 5.1% before paring losses to close 3.8% lower on the BSE
- OCCRP names Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli and Chang Chung-Ling as the overseas investors with ties to the Adani promoters

nomic Zone shed 3.4% while Adani Power lost 2.2% and Adani Green Energy slid 4.4%.

The report was "yet another concerted bid... to revive the meritless Hindenburg report," the Adani Group said in a statement, referencing the January report by U.S.-based Hindenburg Research, in which the short seller had alleged that the Indian conglomerate had indulged in corporate fraud and share price manipulation.

"These claims are based on closed cases from a decade ago when the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence probed allegations of over invoicing, transfer of funds abroad, related party transactions and investments through FPIs (foreign portfolio investors)," the group asserted.

"As per the Expert Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court,

there is no evidence of any breach of the Minimum Public Shareholding requirements or manipulation of stock prices," it added.

Mauritius route

As per the OCCRP's allegations, documents show how hundreds of millions of dollars were invested in Adani stock through opaque investment funds based in Mauritius.

"In at least two cases, representing Adani stock holdings that at one point reached \$430 million, the mysterious investors turned out to have widely reported ties to the group's majority shareholders, the Adani family," the OCCRP alleged in its report.

If the two investors had acted on behalf of the promoters, "their stake in the Adani Group would mean that insiders altogether owned more than the 75% allowed by law," it added.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit – the gap between expenditure and revenue – was ₹6.06 lakh crore as of end-July, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 20.5% of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of FY23.

In the Union Budget, the

government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in FY24. The deficit stood at 6.40% of the GDP in 2022-23 against the earlier estimate of 6.71%.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Centre for the April-July period of FY24, the CGA said the net tax revenue was ₹5.83 lakh crore, or 25% of the BE, for FY24.

Total expenditure in the first four months stood at ₹13.81 lakh crore, or 30.7% of BE. The expenditure touched 28.6% of BE in the year-earlier period.

Core sectors grew 8% in July, output shrank 2.2% from June's level

Vikas Dhohotri

NEW DELHI

All of India's eight infrastructure industries logged year-on-year growth for the first time in 14 months in July, with the core sectors' average output rising 8% after a five-month high surge of 8.3% in June.

Data from the Commerce and Industry Ministry showed crude oil output grew 2.1% in July, with five of the eight sectors clocking lower output than in June. The only infrastructure industries to see a sequential rise in output were crude oil, natural gas and fertilisers.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	64,831	-0.39
US Dollar	82.70	-0.08
Gold	60,250	0.24
Brent oil	86.67	1.57

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2419.25	-93.85
Adani Ports	792.20	-26.50
Apollo Hosp	4814.10	-60.40
Asian Paints	3256.10	-38.60
Axis Bank	973.50	-9.85
Bajaj Auto	4613.80	-61.20
Bajaj Finance	1488.90	-12.60
Bharti Airtel	7163.00	-10.50
BPLC	340.55	-11.40
Britannia Ind	4467.75	-83.05
Cipla	1257.60	21.45
Coal India	230.05	1.30
Divis Lab	3592.10	-38.70
Dr Reddy's Lab	5067.85	-41.90
Eicher Motors	3336.60	-69.15
Grasim Ind	1790.95	-15.70
HCL Tech	1172.15	1.65
HFDC Bank	1571.45	-7.25
HFDC Life	644.75	7.70
Hero MotoCorp	2915.95	-35.90
Hindalco	459.85	3.10
Hindu Unilever	2505.05	-26.90
ICICI Bank	958.75	-0.15
IndusInd Bank	1378.15	-14.30
Infosys	1435.45	0.30
ITC	439.70	3.10
Jio Financial Services	233.50	2.25
JSW Steel	779.65	-7.50
Kotak Bank	1758.15	-16.15
L&T	2702.70	-6.30
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5193.40	19.75
M&M	1575.40	-7.80
Maruti Suzuki	10003.20	207.40
NestleIndia	21986.40	-121.20
NTPC	220.30	-0.10
ONGC	174.15	-1.60
PowerGrid Corp	244.55	-2.55
Reliance Ind	2407.00	-11.05
SBI Life	1292.55	-8.05
State Bank	561.35	6.05
Sun Pharma	1111.60	3.30
Tata Consumer Products	834.35	-14.00
Tata Motors	601.00	-4.55
Tata Steel	122.90	0.80
TCS	3356.80	-34.15
Tech Mahindra	1201.95	4.75
Titan	3104.45	22.25
UltraTech Cement	8297.45	31.50
UPL	591.15	-8.75
Wipro	408.40	1.20

Fiscal deficit touched 33.9% of FY24 target at end-July: CGA data

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit in the first four months of 2023-24 touched 33.9% of the full-year target, government data showed.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit – the gap between expenditure and revenue – was ₹6.06 lakh crore as of end-July, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 20.5% of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of FY23.

In the Union Budget, the

government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in FY24. The deficit stood at 6.40% of the GDP in 2022-23 against the earlier estimate of 6.71%.

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Total expenditure in the first four months stood at ₹13.81 lakh crore, or 30.7% of BE. The expenditure touched 28.6% of BE in the year-earlier period.

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 31

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.91	82.91
Euro	89.79	90.14
British Pound	104.73	105.14
Japanese Yen (100)	56.61	56.83
Chinese Yuan	11.33	11.38

BAGGING A DOUBLE

Viacom 18 wins BCCI's telecast rights for India's home series



Viacom 18 on Thursday created a near monopoly in the Indian cricket broadcasting sphere by bagging both the TV and digital rights of the national team's home series for the next five years with a cumulative bid of approximately ₹6000 crore, beating Star India and Sony in a three-way battle.

IN GOOD NICK

Malan and Brook guide England to victory and a 1-0 lead against NZ



David Malan and Harry Brook took England to an easy win against New Zealand in the first T20I in Chester-le-Street on Wednesday. **The scores:** New Zealand 139/9 in 20 overs (Phillips 41, Luke Wood 3/37, Carse 3/23) lost to England 143/3 in 14 overs (Malan 54, Brook 43 n.o.). **PoM:** Carse.

MAKING THE NATION PROUD

A great honour to meet PM Modi, says Praggnanandhaa



R. Praggnanandhaa, who won a silver at the FIDE World Cup met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday. "It was a great honour to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister @narendramodi at his residence! The PM, on his social media feed said, "Delighted to meet you, @praggnchess along with your family. Proud of you!"

STAYING ON

Hamilton and Russell extend contracts at Mercedes



Lewis Hamilton and George Russell renewed their contracts with Mercedes until 2025, the Formula One team announced on Thursday. Seven-time world champion Hamilton is reportedly set to earn around £50 million a season with Mercedes with whom he won six of his drivers' titles between 2014 and 2020.

Pathirana proves too hot before the batters take Lanka home

The hosts, well served by Samarawickrama and Asalanka's half-centuries, romp home with five wickets and 11 overs to spare despite a shaky start while chasing Bangladesh's 164; Shanto's 89 the silver lining in the visitors' innings

ASIA CUP**Dhruva Prasad**

PALLEKELE

The hype around the burgeoning rivalry failed to live up to its billing as Sri Lanka coasted to a five-wicket victory against Bangladesh in their Asia Cup contest at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium here on Thursday.

It didn't look like a straightforward chase when Sri Lanka lost its openers within the first four overs. But the calmness and composure shown by Sadeera Samarawickrama (55, 77b, 6x4) and Charith Asalanka (62 n.o., 92b, 5x4, 1x6) – the two forged a 78-run partnership for the fourth wicket – turned the tide.

With 44 needed in 21 overs, a sudden rush of blood got the better of Samarawickrama who stepped out and was beaten by the turn



Swing factor: Pathirana's fiery spell left the Lankans with a modest total to chase. GETTY IMAGES

and stumped off Mahedi Hasan. Ten balls later, Dhananjaya de Silva was castled while giving Shakib Al Hasan the charge.

Asalanka, however, worked his way to an 85-ball fifty and helped amplify the decibel levels of a

middling crowd with the solitary six of the match before the win was sealed.

Earlier, in the absence of its first-choice pace trio and ace leg-spinner, the Sri Lankan bowling unit comfortably by bundling

Bangladesh out for 164.

Shakib's decision to bat under rain clouds hovering above wasn't ideal and a two-paced pitch didn't help. Bangladesh packed its top four with left-handers and Sri Lanka pressed into action off-spinners

Maheesh Theekshana and Dhananjaya in the first eight overs.

The ploy worked like a dream as both took a wicket each off their second and fourth deliveries of the match respectively.

Dasan Shanaka's rotation of bowlers received another shot in the arm when Matheesa Pathirana struck with his fourth ball of the match, his extra pace resulting in Shakib gloving the ball behind.

Najmul Hossain Shanto (89, 122b, 7x4) and Towhid Hridoy arrested the slide with a composed 59-run stand that took the Tigers to the threshold of the 100-run mark by the 24th over.

But, Bangladesh lost the next six wickets for 69 runs with Pathirana wrapping up the tail.

The scores: Bangladesh 164 in 42.4 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 89, Matheesa Pathirana 4/32) lost to Sri Lanka 165/5 in 39 overs (Sadeera Samarawickrama 54, Charith Asalanka 62 n.o.). **PoM:** Pathirana.

Kishan to replace Rahul for Asia Cup preliminary stage

Amol Karhadkar
PALLEKELE

Ishan Kishan is set to play the wicketkeeper-middle order batter's role for the preliminary stage of the Asia Cup in the wake of K.L. Rahul's unavailability.

With Rahul having stayed back at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, it had paved way to a few theories over whether Sanju Samson, the travelling back-up member, should be inducted in the squad to replace Rahul.

The ploy worked like a dream as both took a wicket each off their second and fourth deliveries of the match respectively.

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The scores: Bangladesh 164 in 42.4 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 89, Matheesa Pathirana 4/32) lost to Sri Lanka 165/5 in 39 overs (Sadeera Samarawickrama 54, Charith Asalanka 62 n.o.). **PoM:** Pathirana.



Ishan Kishan . PTI

been passed on to him to be ready to play the middle order batter's role besides keeping wickets.

Meanwhile, while Team India will have its maiden training session under floodlights at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Friday, Rahul is set to feature in a practice match in Bengaluru on Friday in a bid to prove his fitness.

While the nature of Rahul's injury after recovering from a quadricep surgery is not made official, *The Hindu* understands that he suffered a groin strain in the lead-up to the Asia Cup.

Newcastle, PSG, Milan & Dortmund in same group

Agence France-Presse
MONACO

Manchester United will face Bayern Munich in this season's Champions League while Thursday's draw for the group stage also placed Paris Saint-Germain and Newcastle United together.

Bayern and United will be the favourites to advance from Group A which also includes Danish champion FC Copenhagen and Galatasaray, the Turkish champion.

Group F looks to be the toughest of all with Newcastle facing AC Milan, Borussia Dortmund and PSG.

The groups:

A: Bayern, Manchester United, FC Copenhagen, Galatasaray; **B:** Sevilla, Arsenal, PSV Eindhoven, Lens; **C:** Napoli, Real Madrid, Braga, Union Berlin; **D:** Benfica, Inter Milan, Salzburg, Real Sociedad; **E:** Feyenoord, Atletico Madrid, Lazio, Celtic; **F:** Paris Saint-Germain, Borussia Dortmund, AC Milan, Newcastle; **G:** Manchester City, RB Leipzig, Red Star Belgrade, Young Boys; **H:** Barcelona, Porto, Shakhtar Donetsk, Royal Antwerp. (Matchday one on Sept. 19-20).

Gukesh ends Anand's reign as India's numero uno

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

On Thursday, 17-year-old Gukesh replaced his mentor Viswanathan Anand as the country's top-ranked player on the published world rating list, effective Sept. 1. For the first time since taking over as India's numero uno on 1 July 1986 – in other words after 37 years and two months – Anand relinquished the India No. 1 spot.

The five-time World champion is currently ranked ninth – a spot below Gukesh on the world list – is semi-retired from active chess. Since last August, Anand has been performing the duties of the FIDE Deputy President of the FIDE (the world chess federation), as a commentator and mentor to the new crop of players.

In live ratings, Anand did slip briefly in March 2016 when he lost to Sergey Karjakin in the fourth round of Candidates Tournament to be behind compatriot Harikrishna. The defeat brought down Anand's live rating to 2763 – as against Harikrishna's 2763.3 – and placed him at the 14th place, one behind his younger countryman. World No. 8 Gukesh is the new India No. 1 with a rating career-high 2758. He also gatecrashed into the top-10 bracket after gaining three spots since Aug. 1.

'Getting past Vishy sir's current rating is special'

The country's youngest GM looks back at his progress, evaluates his World Cup performance and opens about the game against Carlsen

INTERVIEW**D. Gukesh**

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Magnus Carlsen has named D. Gukesh as the strongest teenager in classical chess. The Norwegian World No. 1 went on to rate his first game against the 17-year-old Indian in the recent World Cup quarterfinals as his best of the competition.

In the latest World ranking list, released on Thursday evening, the country's youngest Grandmaster has officially taken over the India No. 1 spot from his mentor Viswanathan Anand by becoming World No. 8.

In this exclusive interview, Gukesh looks back at his progress and the recent World Cup performance, particularly the game against Carlsen.

What does it feel to replace your mentor Vishy sir as the new India No. 1?

Getting past Vishy sir's current rating, for me, it's surely a very special achievement. We are in different phases of our ca-



Self-effacing: Gukesh says he still has a long way to go to match Anand's level of greatness. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

reers. Obviously, I am not even close to achieving what all he has achieved throughout his career. I still have a long way to go to match his level of greatness. But I am happy to become India No. 1. It was never in doubt, for me, in the past few months.

Can you revisit the moment when you overtook Anand in live ratings?

It didn't feel anything huge at that moment. It was a bit strange because it came during the World Cup. The World Cup had just started and I was hoping to go deep into it. So I was not really focused on the rating that I had reached. It surely felt very nice but I was try-

ing to focus on the next game. I was trying to go further in the World Cup.

How would you reflect on your World Cup performance?

I was feeling quite good and I was in good shape. It was a decent performance but disappointing in the end. The Magnus match (in the quarterfinals) was a tough challenge. In the first game, he got a position, he excels in. He could just keep pressing a slight edge without any risks.

I couldn't handle the problems that he was creating on the board. It was a very complex end-game and he had a much better understanding of the position.

Zhang sends Ruud packing, makes history; Wozniacki marches on

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Zhang Zhizhen sent fifth seed Casper Ruud crashing out of the US Open on Wednesday, creating tennis history by becoming the first man from China to beat a top-five player.

The 26-year-old from Shanghai – ranked 67th in the world – produced the match of his life to defeat last year's US Open finalist 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 0-6, 6-2 in 3hr 19min.

Zhang's victory was the first time any male Chinese player has beaten a player ranked in the world's top five.

Earlier, tempers had flared after Ruud had levelled the match at two sets apiece with a 6-0 fourth set.

Zhang left the court for several minutes to take a toilet break and change clothes in a move that clearly disrupted Ruud's momentum.

The Norwegian was broken immediately in the first game of the final set, and a frustrated Ruud complained angrily at the chair umpire, accusing him of failing to enforce time limits.

Ruud's exit left just two other top-10 seeds in Novak Djokovic's half of the draw after Stefanos Tsitsipas' US Open misery continued.



Marathon: Zhang produced the match of his life to defeat last year's finalist Ruud in a five-setter. AP

The Greek crashed out to 128th-ranked Swiss qualifier Dominic Thiem in five sets, and has still not gone beyond round three in six visits to New York.

Dominic Thiem, plagued by injury since his 2020 US Open victory, retired early in the second set against Ben Shelton after losing a tie-break.

Caroline Wozniacki's fairytale return to Grand

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Second round: 12-Zverev (Ger) bt Altmaier (Bul) 7-6(5), 6-2, 6-2, 6-3; 19-Dimitrov (Bul) bt Murray (GBR) 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; Mmoh (USA) bt Isner (USA) 3-6, 4-6, 7-6(3), 6-4, 7-6(7); 6-Sinner (Ita) bt Soni (Ita) 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; Draper (GBR) bt Hurkacz (Pol) 6-2, 6-4, 7-5, 32-Djere (Srb) bt Gaston (Fra) 6-1, 6-2, 6-3; 10-Tiafoe (USA) bt Safin (Rus) 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; 14-Paul (USA) bt Safin (Rus) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 12-Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 16-Zhang (Chi) bt 5-Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 18-Ostapenko (Bel) bt Avanesyan (Den) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 20-Stosur (AUS) bt 9-Fritz (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 22-Mannarino (Fra) bt Marozsan (Hun) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; 24-Linette (SA) 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; 25-Pliskova (Cze) 6-4, 6-2, 6-1; 26-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 27-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 28-Pliskova (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 29-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 30-Cirstea (Rom) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 31-Kalinskaya (Rus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 32-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 33-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 34-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 35-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 36-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 37-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 38-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 39-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 40-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 41-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 42-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 43-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 44-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 45-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 46-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 47-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 48-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 49-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 50-Stepanek (Cze) 6-3, 6-2, 6

'Creating infrastructure and scientific coaching our motto'

Telangana Sports Minister Srinivas Goud, who delivered the inaugural address of the event with Focus on Telangana, underlines the government's commitment to expanding the reach of all sports in the State

SPORTSTAR CONCLAVE

Sports Bureau

The Sportstar Conclave caravan returned for its second edition on Thursday, with the Focus on Telangana, in Hyderabad. The event discussed issues in different sports disciplines and ways to improve playing conditions.

Telangana Sports Minister V. Srinivas Goud delivered the inaugural address and underlined the government's commitment to expanding the reach of all sports in the State. He said, "Creating infrastructure and scientific coaching is the motto of our government. We have distributed around 17,000 sports kits and covered villages and mandals. We have covered games like football, volleyball, and kabaddi, and soon there will be cricket grounds in the village. Recently, we conducted inter-State games where 6,800 players from Hyderabad participated."

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi was named the 'Emerging Hero', and badminton coach S.M. Arif was



Pupil and the master: P.V. Sindhu and S.M. Arif share a light moment at the Sportstar Conclave in Hyderabad on Thursday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

named 'Sportstar Hero Unsung Champion' during the event. Two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu felicitated Arif, under whose tutelage she began her career.

Former India women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj graced the occasion and gave valuable insights on ameliorating the standard of women's cricket in Telangana. Nooshin Al

Khadeer, former India cricketer, echoed Mithali's sentiments in a panel discussion titled 'Bringing women's cricket to the forefront'.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand expressed his opinion on the significance of sports in community building and the positive impact it has on the nation. Former Indian cricketer Arshad Ayub

emphasised the importance of a proper process for Hyderabad cricket to reclaim the Ranji Trophy, last won in 1987. He said during a panel discussion titled 'Cricket at Crossroads', "Though there is enough talent, the process needs improvement."

During a panel discussion on 'Nurturing the Future of Telangana Sports', national athletics coach N. Ramesh stressed that it is unfair to compare different sports as each sport has its own unique set of challenges. He further added that the current strategy for producing champions needs to change. Other panelists included Victor Amalraj (former Indian football captain), Varun Tripuramani (co-owner, Hyderabad FC), Prasad Mangipudi (co-founder, PBL), and Norman Isaac (secretary, Telangana Basketball Association).

In a discussion on the role of schools and academies in promoting sports, Praveen Raju (Chairman, Suchitra Academy), Dr. Sudheer Dara (Founder & Director, Epione), Abhijit Rao (CEO, Sreenidhi Educational Group), Esha Singh (World Championship medallist, shooting) and Dr. A.R. Khan (Director, Khan Study Group) expressed their views.

The Conclave was held in association with Hero We Care - a Hero MotorCorp CSR Initiative, Carrera, Indian Oil, ISBC, NTPC, Khan Study Group, KPMG, Sprint Diagnostics, Sneha Fresh Chicken, Great Sports Tech, Epione and NewsX.



Wishlist: V. Srinivas Goud and L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group, called for greater public-private partnership. NAGARA GOPAL

allocated 0.5% of seats in professional courses among students. This step is to motivate the young talent to come forward."

The government has allocated land for sports infrastructure development, not just in Hyderabad but also in rural areas.

Dedicated stadiums
The Telangana Sports Minister announced that each constituency will have dedicated stadiums, and sportspersons will receive financial assistance.

"Under our Chief Minister and IT Minister K.T. Ra-

ma Rao, we have covered all areas. Each constituency will have one stadium in the coming future, and at village levels, we have also allocated grounds. We are extending financial assistance to sportspersons, jobs and lands to train the young sportspersons, and Telangana's vision is to make the State a premier sports destination."

The minister congratulated Sportstar and The Hindu Group for a successful conclave, bringing together diverse sportspersons to discuss sports development.

'In Prannoy, I see a person who is in pain, still fighting with all his might'

Sports Bureau

H.S. Prannoy, bronze medallist in the World badminton championships held in August 2023, shared his journey which he described as "topsy-turvy" and full of injuries. He said the initial years were very difficult and transitioning into the senior circuit was challenging.

"That time I had a lot of injuries. But that taught me how to work (on the court), and how to work off court. I have understood that managing the body is the key. I'm glad things are working out now," Prannoy said during a panel discussion titled 'Perseverance and Sports' at Sportstar's Sports Conclave - Focus Telangana here on Thursday.

P. Gopichand, chief national team coach, praised the shuttler for his ability to bear the pain and fight through adversity.

"The way he has been fighting through the physical pain is truly remarkable.



Overcoming obstacles: Gopi Chand, Prannoy and Ayon Sengupta, Editor, Sportstar, at the panel discussion on 'Perseverance and Sports'. NAGARA GOPAL

ble. I just wish that people could understand my feelings and write about it accurately. When I look at him, I see a person who is in pain, but still fighting with all his might. I have never seen an athlete bear such a heavy burden. I hope he continues to do so for a long time to come," said Gopichand.

Over the past two years, Prannoy has achieved a series of remarkable results, including his crucial victory that led India to win the Thomas Cup champion-

ship in 2021. Prannoy considers this period as the best for India, which is the outcome of a decade-long effort dedicated to the sport.

"The past decade has been nothing short of outstanding. We have achieved numerous victories and consistently raised the bar. Winning anything less than a Super 750 tournament is no longer considered newsworthy. This has become the new standard for us. Initially, it was the women's team, but

now, the men's team has also set this benchmark. The singles players and the doubles duo of Chirag and Satwik have all contributed to this achievement.

"I am thrilled about the positive changes that have taken place. Winning the Thomas Cup was a significant milestone that we did not anticipate. However, it was the result of 10 years of hard work and dedication. We were able to build a team that was worthy of being crowned world champions."

"When an athlete wins his or her first medal in any competition, he or she wants to win the Olympic medal. For others, Olym-

pics come only once every four years, but for an athlete it comes every day," said Narang, who mentors budding shooters at his Gun for Glory Academy in Hyderabad.

Kashyap said, "During the 2012 London Olympics, our entire team had only one physio. The physio of the badminton team was also taking sessions with boxers and wrestlers. It was tough for us as we

did not have anyone to attend to our needs. We now have two physios dedicated to badminton itself."

"Recently, H.S. Prannoy won a bronze medal at the World Championships. It reminded me of my time in 2013 when I went in as No. 6, but I didn't have a coach in the quarterfinals. I lost from match point up, and it was frustrating. Saina (Nehwal) was playing at the next court, and Gopi sir was sitting there. I could see the difference between then and now with Prannoy. It makes a huge difference when a coach is there in crucial moments."

Kashyap: "I have noticed that countries like China and Japan send around 20-25 singles players for 20 tournaments in a year, and they all work together and compete against the best. I believe we can implement a similar approach in India, especially for the under-19s and under-17s, so that they can have exposure and experience before they reach the age of 24."

Gagan: "I don't agree with the notion that India has not won as many medals as China and the USA because there are more people in the country. This is not a fair comparison. We have a diverse playing field, and we just need to make a few changes to improve. Our system has produced results, but it's time to optimise it."

More matches needed, not trials: Mithali

Sports Bureau

Former India cricket captain Mithali Raj on Thursday emphasised the significance of nurturing grassroots talent and suggested that hosting women's cricket matches in Hyderabad could aid in the growth of women's cricket in the region.

"While I haven't had the opportunity to play at Uppal, my colleague (V.V.S.) Laxman has been fortunate enough to do so. I wholeheartedly agree that Hyderabad should host women's cricket matches to generate interest among young girls," Mithali said during a panel discussion titled 'Bringing women's cricket to the forefront' at Sportstar's Sports Conclave - Focus Telangana here on Thursday.



Words of wisdom: Mithali Raj shared her insights on the efforts needed to ameliorate the state of women's cricket in the State. Nooshin Al Khadeer, second left, Vijay Lokapally, right, and moderator Lavanya Lakshminarayanan, left, were also a part of the panel. NAGARA GOPAL

"Perhaps for Telangana, we can encourage clubs to have women's teams and select the best State side from them. A league for women within the State can also be established to help young girls get exposed to the environment and not feel overwhelmed when franchises pick them," she added.

The veteran cricketer reflected on her playing days and noted the progress in women's cricket. "Initially, many clubs were reluctant to include women cricketers, but we still attended training camps. There should be more matches for women rather than relying on trials. Back then, there were no turf wickets available for women, and sponsorships were scarce. Many of us

had to dig into our parents' pockets to afford equipment, while others relied on scholarships. Despite the limited facilities, we managed to develop our skills," Mithali said.

Nooshin Al Khadeer, former India cricketer spoke of the time she travelled the length and breadth of the State in search of talent.

"As a coach, I visited various places such as Adilabad, Khammam, and Warangal, in search of that girl who could make a difference.

"With the implementation of contracts in BCCI, there were changes in the State association. Today, around 1800 girls are registered with BCCI, and as a coach, identifying the right talent has become a crucial task."

Legends of past, tasks of future



Moment to rejoice: The Sportstar Sports Conclave in Telangana brought together the region's illustrious legacy and its promising future, looking at pathways to ensure consistent success in sports. G. RAMAKRISHNA & NAGARA GOPAL

IN BRIEF



Surrey ropes in Sai Sudharsan for rest of County season

Uncapped Indian opener B. Sai Sudharsan on Thursday signed up for Surrey County Cricket Club for the remainder of its County Championship season. Surrey head coach Alec Stewart said, "With the busy schedule of international and domestic cricket around the world, I'm pleased to add Sai Sudharsan to our available squad of players."

Defender Pavard transfers from Bayern to Inter Milan

Champions League finalist Inter Milan has acquired defender Benjamin Pavard from Bayern Munich. Pavard is the second player that Inter has signed from Bayern in this transfer period after goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

LIVE TELECAST

Europa League: Group-stage draw: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 p.m.
Conference League: Group-stage draw, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6 p.m.
US Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Saturday)
South Africa vs Australia: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 9.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Saturday)
England vs New Zealand: 2nd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)

Mohun Bagan fights back to pip FC Goa

The win takes it to the final where it will meet East Bengal; Albanian forward Sadiku, a second-half substitute, nets the Kolkata side's winner



Celebration time: Mohun Bagan came back from a one-goal deficit to make it to the title round.

DEBASISH BHADURI

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant came back from a one-goal deficit to beat FC Goa 2-1 in the second semifinal of the 132nd Durand Cup and entered the final where it will take on traditional rival Emami East Bengal for the season's second Kolkata derby.

Goa went ahead midway through the first half when its Moroccan striker Noah Sadaoui scored with a nice solo effort. Mohun Bagan equalised through a penalty converted by its Australian striker Jason Cummings minutes from

the break before its Albanian forward Armando Sadiku, who came in as a second-half substitute, found the winner just past the hour mark.

Mohun Bagan, which last won the title in 2000, will now have to better East Bengal, which last won the final derby (2-1) of the same tournament in 2004 in Delhi. Mohun Bagan last played the Durand final in 2019 but lost (1-2) to Gokulam Kerala FC.

The aggressor

FC Goa played the aggressor and enjoyed the initial leverage with Sadaoui keeping the Mohun Bagan defence under pressure.

Sadaoui's first attempt in the seventh minute went over, but when Mohun Ba-

gan's French midfielder Hugo Boumous made a miss-pass in the 23rd minute, the Moroccan striker came up with a solo effort to score.

Mohun Bagan launched a fight back and equalised through Cummings, who scored from the spot in the 42nd minute after Ashique Kuruniyan was brought down inside the box.

Mohun Bagan absorbed a barrage of Goa attacks after the break and then found the winner through Sadiku's brilliance, who scored a spectacular pile-driver to put his team in the final.

The result (semifinal): FC Goa 1 (Sadaoui 23) lost to Mohun Bagan SG 2 (Cummings 41-pen, Sadiku 61).

Nagal ousts second seed Piros to make the last eight in Como

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Sumit Nagal beat second seed Zsombor Piros of Hungary 6-3, 6-4 in the pre-quarterfinals of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Como, Italy, on Thursday.

The results: €73,000 Challenger, Como, Italy: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Sumit Nagal bt Zsombor Piros (Hung) 6-3, 6-4.

€73,000 Challenger, Mallorca, Spain: Doubles (quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Tomas Barrios Vera (Chi) & Nicolas Meija (Col) 6-2, 7-5.

\$80,000 Challenger, Zhangjiagang, China: Doubles

(pre-quarterfinals): Francis Casey Alcantara (Ina) & Fajing Sun (Chn) bt Rithvik Bollipalli & Arjun Kadhe 6-0, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Siddhant Bantia bt Leo Vithoontien (Jpn) 6-4, 0-6, 6-2; Moerani Bouzige (Aus) bt Siddhant Rawat 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Han Seon Yong (Kor) & Thantub Suksumrarn (Tha) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha & Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul (Tha) 7-6(2), 6-3; Congsup Congcar (Tha) & Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Francois Musitelli (Fra) & Kody Pearson (Aus) 4-6, 6-3, [10-8]; Ishaque Eqbal & Faisel Qamar bt Sun Qian & Tang Sheng (Chn) 1-6, 7-6(5), [19-17].

\$25,000 ITF women, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Anastasia Zakharova bt Vaideh Chaudhari 6-4, 6-1; Luksika

Kumkhum (Tha) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-1.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Vaideh Chaudhari & Zeel Desai bt Gozal Ainiitdinova (Kaz) & Anastasia Zakharova 7-6(4), 6-3; Luksika Kumkhum (Tha) & Park Sohyun (Kor) w.o. Shivali Bhamidipaty & Anastasia Kovavala.

\$15,000 ITF women, Baku, Azerbaijan: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Polina Leykai bt Teja Tirunelveli 6-1, 7-5; Maria Toma (Rou) bt Tanisha Kashyap 6-3, 6-2; Evgeniya Burdina bt Paavanii Paathak 6-4, 6-2; Nadeza Khalturina bt Sravya Shivan 6-4, 3-2 (retired).

Doubles (quarterfinals): Sravya Shivan & Snehal Mane bt Abigail Amos (GBR) & Arabella Koller (Aut) 6-1, 1-6, [10-8]; Lilia Ludenko & Alana Tuayeva bt Evgeniya Burdina & Saumya Vig 3-6, 6-4, [10-8].

AITA TENNIS

Sejal to take on Kashish for the honours

JHAKJAR: Seventh seed Sejal Bhutada bounced from a slow start to beat qualifier Samaira Malik 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals of the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygoan Academy on Thursday. In the final, Sejal will challenge second seed Kashish Bhatia who subdued Prabha Narayan in straight sets. Kashish also made the doubles final with Sahira Singh.

The duo will face the top seeds Divya Bhardwaj and Shefali Arora. **The results (semifinals):** **Singles:** Sejal Bhutada bt Samaira Malik 2-6, 6-2, 6-4; Kashish Bhatia bt Prabha Narayan 7-6(4), 6-2.

Doubles: Divya Bhardwaj & Shefali Arora bt Shireen Ahamed & Miridhulla Palanivel 6-2, 7-6(3); Kashish Bhatia & Sahira Singh bt Kavya Khirwar & Tanushri Pandey 1-6, 6-3, [10-5].

It's Oges vs Suraj

LUDHIANA: Top seed Oges Theyjo put himself in line for a second successive title, as he beat Bikramjeet Chawla 6-4, 6-1 in the semifinals of the ₹100,000 AITA men's tennis tournament at the Harvest Academy, Jassowal, on Thursday. Oges, who was pushed to

his wit's end by qualifier Hitesh Chauhan in the quarterfinals, when he scraped through in the extended tie-break of the decider, will play Suraj Prabodh in the final.

The results: Semifinals: Oges Theyjo bt Bikramjeet Chawla 6-4, 6-1; Suraj Prabodh bt Udit Kamboj 6-4, 6-4.

Quarterfinals: Oges bt Hitesh Chauhan 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(8); Bikramjeet bt Akash Katewa 6-2, 6-1; Suraj bt Rhythm Malhotra 6-0, 6-0; Udit bt Chinmaya Dev Chauhan 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.

Doubles (semifinals): Udit Kamboj & Ajay Kundu bt Pranav Gadgil & Nishit Rahane 6-1, 6-0; Amit Bzad & Anuj Malik bt Gourav Gulia & Sushant Dabas 7-6(4), 7-6(6).

Timings

DELHI

FRIDAY, SEP. 01
RISE 05:59 SET 18:43
RISE 19:50 SET 07:06

SATURDAY, SEP. 02

RISE 06:00 SET 18:42
RISE 20:23 SET 08:13

SUNDAY, SEP. 03

RISE 06:00 SET 18:41
RISE 20:58 SET 09:19

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 36 27
Safdarjung 36 27
Palam 36 28

Delhi Palam Today
37°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be comfortable. Day will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
38°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be comfortable. Day will be slight hot and uneasy with gusty winds.

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THE HINDU

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

YOU LIVE FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



D. Balasubramaniam
Commissioner of Customs (Retd.)

PASSED AWAY ON 31.08.2023

Funeral on 02.09.2023 (Sat) at 12 pm

12, Besant Nagar 3rd Avenue, Chennai.

Ph : 9566162555

With profound grief:

Badri Narayan P.,

aged 56,

son of Aravinda and

S. Parthasarathy (Ville

Franchise, Pondicherry),

and brother of Sowmya

Athreya, passed away in

Chennai on 31 Aug 2023

after a brief illness.

Cremated the same day.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT MUNISI LAGUDI O.S.NO: 421 OF 2018 AND I.A. NO: 1/2019

1. Ilayaraja, S/o. K. Kamraj, 2. Bharathiraja S/o. K. Kamraj Both are residing at No: 70, B/5, Trichy Main Road, Keelaiyur Village Melapalur Post, Ariyalur District.

Vs Guldeep Peer, S/o. SG.M.L. Peer, H/43/7, Sector-16, Rohini, New Delhi-11.

.. 3rd Defendant

Summons to 3rd Defendant in the above suit

The above suit in O.S.No: 421/2018 on the file of Principal District Munsif Court is posted to 14.09.2023. You are summoned in the suit as well as in I.A.No: 1/2019 to appear on that day at 10:30 A.M. and raise your objection if any, when the case is called. If you fail to appear on that day when the case was called, you will be set ex parte and this Hon'ble Court would be constrained to proceed ex parte.

K. JAYARAMAN Advocate

PT.B.D.SHARMA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ROHTAK

Advt. No. UHSR/2023/04 Closing date: 25.09.2023 (Upto 5:00 PM)

The applications are invited on plain paper to fill up the vacant posts of **Consultant-Liver Transplant Surgeon (on contract basis)** in PGIMS, Rohtak for a period of 03 years (extendable for further two years) on fixed remuneration of Rs. 3.5 lakhs per month. For more details of eligibility and application please visit University website www.uhsr.ac.in

1241/11/4/2024/20660/199/7 REGISTRAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER E.N.T NO: 23-SSCL of 08/2023-24, DT: 29-08-2023

1. The Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) (hereinafter referred to as "SSCL" / "Employer" in this document) is executing SMART CITY MISSION (SCM) in Srinagar. Chief Engineer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), invites bids on Monthly License Fee (MLF) basis, from Agencies/Enterprises/Firms having experience in the Hospitality and Hotel sector/transportation Sector as mentioned in the RFP for the work as detailed in table below:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Organization	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Head of Account	Class of Contract	Contract Duration
1	Operation of Cruise Services on River Jhelum in Srinagar City	Srinagar Smart City Ltd	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 3,00/- Lacs	SSCL	Ag	

IN BRIEF



Golden generation Dutch keeper Jongbloed no more

Former Netherlands goalkeeper Jan Jongbloed, who played in two World Cup finals, has died after a long illness aged 82, according to the Dutch football federation (KNVB) on Thursday. Jongbloed built a reputation for being a goalkeeper who came out of his area and was part of the "Oranje" golden generation of the 1970s. During the 1974 final in Munich which the Dutch lost 2-1, Jongbloed made a name for himself by playing without gloves "because otherwise you can't feel the ball", he said.

Champion IOC knocked out by Central Secretariat

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) wouldn't have envisioned such an early exit from the 94th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament in Chennai on Thursday. The defending champion went down tamely 6-2 to Central Secretariat here on Thursday in a Group-A contest. The defeat meant IOC remained at seven points from four matches. Karnataka (seven points) sneaked into the last four based on a better goal difference (+1) as compared to IOC's -1. Earlier, Indian Army (nine points) topped Group-B with an authoritative 6-0 victory over Indian Air Force. Army had a superior goal difference (+9). On the other hand, Punjab National Bank's (nine points) goal difference was 0 and it ended up second in the group. Secretariat (six from four matches) failed to qualify for the semifinals, but prevented IOC from making it! In the semifinals to be held on Saturday, Railways will take on PNB while Hockey Karnataka will challenge Army. Friday is a rest day.

The results: Indian Army 6 (Sumeet Pal Singh 3, Manish Rajbhar, Harman Singh 2) bt IAF; Central Secretariat 6 (Hassan Basha, R. Manikandan, Mohd. Umar, Mohd. Shariq 2, Aniket Balasaheb) bt IOC 2 (Gurjinder Singh 2).

Akashdeep, Selvam Karthi, and Jugraj miss Asiad bus

Harmanpreet Singh will helm the men's team while Savita Punia will continue to lead the women's squad; both contingents were accorded a grand send-off by Hockey India



Ready to rock: The Asian Games bound men's and women's hockey teams in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

HOCKEY

BENGALURU

Forward Akashdeep Singh, who scored four goals in the recent Asian Champions Trophy, was left out of the Indian men's hockey squad for the Asian Games. Jugraj Singh and Selvam Karthi also missed the cut. Harmanpreet Singh will

helm the team while Savita Punia will continue to lead the women's team.

Felicitation

The teams were announced at a send-off ceremony hosted by Hockey India here on Thursday. The players and their family members were felicitated on the occasion.

Odisha Minister for Electronics and IT, Sports And Youth Services And

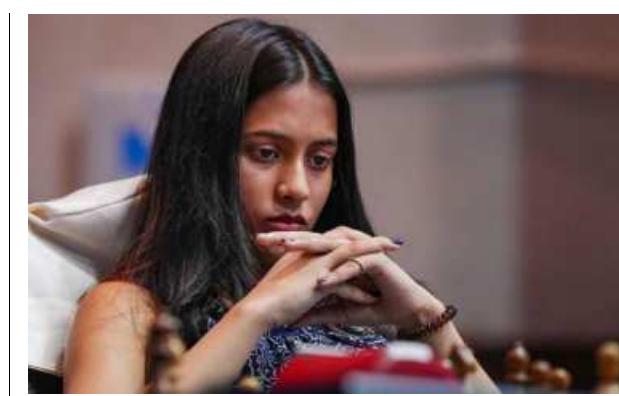
Home, Tusharkanti Behera, Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, Hockey India secretary General Bholu Nath Singh, and former hockey internationals A.B. Subbaiah and Sabu Varkey were some of the dignitaries present at the event.

The squads:

Men: Harmanpreet Singh (captain), P.R. Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma,

Hardik Singh (vice captain), Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsheer Singh, Abhishek, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Sukheet Singh and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay.

Women: Savita Punia (captain), Bhu Devi Kharibam, Deepika, Lalremsiami, Monika, Navneet Kaur, Neha, Nisha, Sonika, Udit, Ishika Chaudhary, Deep Grace Ekkka (vice captain), Vandana Kataria, Sangita Kumari, Vaishnavi Vital Phalke, Nikki Pradhan, Sushila Chanu and Salima Tete.



Great start: Divya stunned third seed Harika and drew with reigning World champion Ju Wenjun on Thursday. PTI

Divya and Vantika excel to take the lead

TATA STEEL CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOLKATA

Divya Deshmukh is here only because R. Vaishali isn't.

Vaishali, the defending champion in the women's blitz event, had to pull out virtually at the last minute because of ill-health, and Divya came in as her replacement for the Tata Steel Chess India tournament.

She is making the opportunity count. After shocking third seed Dronavalli Harika, and drawing with the reigning World champion Ju Wenjun of China, she defeated Georgia's Nino Batsiashvili to move into the joint lead on the opening day.

Divya is sharing the lead with Vantika Agrawal, another young Indian who had an excellent day at the National Library. They have 2.5 points after the third round of the rapid section.

Ju has two points, while Batsiashvili, Russian Polina Shuvalova and Irina Krush with Ju.

Only aim is to win gold at Asian Games'

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team is the favourite to win the Asian Games gold, given the side's impressive title run in the recent Asian Champions Trophy at Chennai.

The stakes at the Asian Games, however, are higher. The winner will earn a direct berth at the 2024 Paris Olympics – the perfect chance to avoid the tricky

qualification rounds.

Midfielder Manpreet Singh, who led the nation to a historic bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, acknowledged the added importance of doing well in the continental games.

"We have only one aim – to win the gold, because we can get the ticket to the Paris Olympics. This is a crucial tournament for us, and we are taking things very seriously," Manpreet said here on Thursday.

"But we should not take the burden of getting an Olympic berth in our mind when we enter the field. We should play our normal game.

"If we feel the Olympics pressure, we might lose focus. Our coach wants us to just enjoy the game," Manpreet added.

Manpreet stated that head coach Craig Fulton, appointed in March, has established a good rapport with players.

"He wants us to use the skills that come naturally to Indians. Craig's motto is 'defend to win'. He says that if we defend well, we can score at any time, because we have good strikers and penalty corner specialists," Manpreet said.

A marquee clash awaits India in the group stage of the Asian Games, when it takes on Pakistan. Manpreet explained that the players will do well to take a clinical approach.

THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	UHBVN	SUPPLY OF MATERIAL, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING FOR THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF NO 03 NO, 33 KV AIS SISTNS. ON TURNKEY BASIS UNDER CP CIRCLE PANIPAT IN UHBVN	CLOSING DATE 13.10.2023	45.12 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT-357/P&D/2023-24 (B-709)	01722570431 cepdc@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.tenders.hry.nic.in

SAMVAD 13/2024/40/20677/I/1997

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE		CORRIGENDUM	
SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM
1	UHBVN	RFS NO 106/ HPPC/SOLAR LTP III/500 MW DATED 17.04.2023	EXTENSION OF BID TIMELINE. INTIMATION TO TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED BIDDER DATED 11.09.2023

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.tenders.hry.nic.in

SAMVAD - 13/2024/40/20696/I/1997

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJNA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Chief Engineer (SZ) HPPWD Shimla on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD/P&T/Railways/Other State Govt/Central Govt. Agencies. Non registered bidders may submit bid, however, the successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

Sr. No.	Name of Dist.	Package No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in lacs) Excluding 18%GST	Total cost (in lacs)		Period of Completion	Bid security
					Const. Cost	Maint. Cost		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Shimla	HP-09-356	C/O balance work of Dhara Bhullara Malkhoon road km 0/0 to 6/0 (SH- C/O R/B walls CD works, PCC Drain, PPC parapets, Sign Board and five years routine maintenance under pkgs. HP-09-356)	105.36	27.10	132.46	365 days	2.65

- Date of release of invitation for bids through e-procurement 01.09.2023
- Cost of bid from cost of Bid formRs.5000 (non-refundable) in shape of Demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Rohru.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission - The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder will be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission the bids, the bidder is required to have valid digital signature certificate (DSC) from one the authorised certifying authorities (CA) Aspiring bidder who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSTenders.gov.in obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering bidders already processing the valid digital signature issued from authorised CAs can use the same in this tender.
- * Non registered bidders may submit bids: the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
- Submission of original documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved from and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provision of clause 4.4B(a) (ii) ITB with Superintending Engineer 14th circle HPPWD Rohru address and detail of office where to be submitted on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by registered post or by hand.
- Last date/ Time for receipt of bid through e-tendering last date/time for receipt of bids through e-tendering on dated 29.09.2023 up to 6:00PM.
- The site for the work is available.
- Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:00 A.M. on 30 Sep, 2023 in the office of Superintending Engineer 14th circle HPPWD Rohru by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
- The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the bill of quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
- All the required materials like Cement/Steel/Bitumen/Explosive etc shall be arranged by contractor at his own level.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any update, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

(Atul Jyoti Gatzla)
Superintendent Engineer
14th circle HPPWD Rohru
Tel 01781241713,240921
email-hp-sh12@nic.in

For Chief Engineer HPPWD
Nigam Vihar Shimla-1712002

e-TENDER NOTICE

PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT, HIMACHAL PRADESH, GHORA CHOWKI, SHIMLA-171005.

Online Tenders are invited by the Controller Printing and Stationery Department, Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, for the Gathering, Folding & Wrapping work of Giriraj Weekly Newspaper and Filling the same in gunny bags, district/ station wise, for the year 2023-24. There will be approximately 13000 copies of every weekly issue as the number of copies may vary as per demand. Technical bids will be opened in presence of the tenderers who wish to be present. Schedule for uploading the tender and opening the technical bids is as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Date upto which tender can be uploaded / submitted	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids.
1	Gathering, Folding and Wrapping work of Giriraj weekly Newspaper and Filling the same in gunny bags, district/ station wise.	23-09-2023 Upto 11:00 A.M.	23-09-2023 at 11:30 A.M.

If the date of opening the tender happens to be closed holiday, the tenders will be opened on the next working day. The complete details including tender form, tender schedule (referred in e-tendering as Bill of Quantity) and terms & conditions will be available for downloading from 05-09-2023 (4:00 P.M.) onwards on website htptenders.gov.in. The bid shall be submitted in electronic form on the Schedule- "A" (BOQ) of the concerned tender on the website htptenders.gov.in. The cost of tender form is Rs. 500/- per tender which is non- refundable and is payable in favour of Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, H.P. Shimla-171005 in shape of Demand Draft, which shall be made available by hand/by post, before the date of opening of tenders.

- INSTRUCTIONS:-**
- Bid documents can be downloaded from the website
 - The bids will be uploaded in electronic form on the website htptenders.gov.in and complete bidding process will be online.
 - To participate in bidding process, the Bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate" (Class-II or Class-III) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders, who already possess valid Digital Signature Certificate, need not procure new Digital Signature Certificates.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signatures. The bids without digital signatures will not be accepted. No proposal will be accepted in physical form on the basis of hard copies.
 - The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
 - Bidders are required to upload scanned copies of original documents as specified in the tender document. The original documents in respect of cost of tender form, EMD and additional documents, if required, shall be submitted in favour of Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, Himachal Pradesh and the same should reach this office before the date and time scheduled for opening the tenders.
 - No proposal/ tender will be accepted on the basis of hard copies/ manual tender in physical form. Online submission of

Exciting sub-plots keep the narrative alive for the rest of the season

Piastri can carve a niche for himself after a turbulent entry to the sport and repay the faith that McLaren has invested in him – in the case of the Australian driver, the expression 'numbers don't tell the whole story' is apt

S. Dipak Ragav

Formula One 2023 has been all about Max Verstappen and Red Bull Racing dominating the sport, with the former winning 11 out of the 13 races while Red Bull is still undefeated this year. With little competition at the top and the winner a foregone conclusion on most weekends, the interest in the championship has taken a drastic hit.

But despite the dominance, there are exciting sub-plots that one can watch out for down the grid. Even though most of the narratives have been around how the rival teams have failed to pose a strong challenge to Red Bull, there are also glimmers of hope further down the field.

One such example is the performance of McLaren driver Oscar Piastri, who made his F1 debut this year.

Though professional sport is all about numbers and numbers don't lie, in the case of Piastri, the other expression, 'numbers don't tell the whole story' is equally apt.

On the face of it, Piastri has scored just 36 points with a best finish of fourth, and his teammate Lando Norris has outperformed him with 75 points, including two podiums.

Norris also leads 11-2 in qualifying and 10-3 in races in the head-to-head battle. So, by these metrics, one would be fair to assess that the young rookie has yet to cover himself in glory.

But these numbers tell half the story. Dig a bit deep, and one can see why McLaren paid Daniel Ricciardo not to see out his contract and hire another Australian with no F1 experience.

For starters, his teammate is one of the fastest drivers on the current grid

and is in his fifth year in Formula One and has been embedded in the team well.

More importantly, the young Australian was also dealt a bad set of cards right from signing the deal last year. Even before he turned a wheel in F1, he was put through the wringer after being embroiled in an ugly contract saga involving Alpine and McLaren.

Enviable record

Piastri had an enviable record in the junior category, having won the F3 and F2 titles as a rookie in 2020 and 2021 before spending 2022 as a reserve driver for the Alpine F1 team. When Fernando Alonso left Alpine, the team quickly announced Piastri as the team's driver for 2023. However, conspicuous in the press release was a lack of quotes from the driver, which is standard procedure, raising a red flag. Unsurprisingly, a few hours later, Piastri posted a social media post saying the team had made a unilateral announcement and that he wouldn't drive for the team in 2023.

His tweet set off a series of unwarranted attacks on his character by the Alpine top honchos and even from some rival team bosses, saying that he has not repaid the faith the team showed in supporting his career at a junior level.

Eventually, when the issue

went to the Contract Recognition Board of the FIA, it became clear Alpine never had a valid contract tying him to the team, and the team's delay in giving clarity on his future meant he had to look for other options. McLaren was quick to react to this development and signed the Australian.

There was massive pressure on him as he had replaced an eight-time Grand Prix winner in Ricciardo, even though the latter had struggled for the last two years at McLaren.

To make things worse, a wrong design decision made last year meant the McLaren was one of the slowest cars on the grid in the early part of the season. During those tough races, Piastri kept improving every weekend without making many mistakes or crashing, even though the gap to Norris was more than a few tenths.

Slowly, the team developed the car and got a significant upgrade in Austria, which helped the former champion vault up to the sharp end of the grid and fight for podiums.

Even as Norris finished fourth in Austria, Piastri was outside the points as only the former had the car with the new upgrades. Fortunately, from the following race in Silverstone, Piastri also got the latest upgrades, and the difference between the two

For someone who came into the sport in far-from-ideal circumstances, Piastri has now firmly found his feet in the big league

drivers has shrunk and is almost negligible now.

At the British Grand Prix, the 22-year-old from Melbourne qualified third behind his teammate by just less than a tenth of a second. In the race, he was on course for a podium but got unlucky with a Safety Car that came out just after he pitted, while Lewis Hamilton, who had stayed out, got a free pit stop behind the pace car and got the jump on the Piastri.

In the following race in Hungary, the young driver did well to finish fifth despite picking up car damage early, which led to a performance loss in the car. And just before the summer break, in the Sprint Race at the Belgian GP, Piastri finished second to Verstappen after taking the lead from the reigning champion at the start.

These runs of races have given the youngster much-needed momentum and justified McLaren's faith. Though he crashed for the first time in Zandvoort last weekend during free practice - his first big crash in F1 - he made amends on Sunday by driving on dry tyres on a damp track without making many mistakes, showing that he has nerves of steel and is also a quick learner.

Now that he is almost matching his teammate, the Aussie driver has to show he can start beating his teammate and be ready to make the most of any opportunity if it arises to grab a podium, even as he is learning on the job.

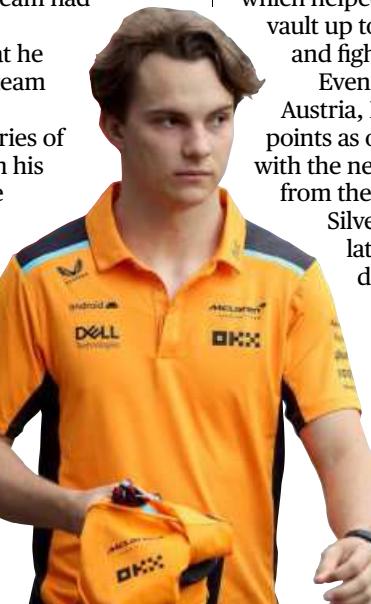
For someone who came into the sport in far-from-ideal circumstances with off-track politics distracting from his glittering junior ladder CV, Piastri has now firmly found his feet in the big league.

THE GIST

▼ Piastri had an enviable record in the junior category, winning the F3 and F2 titles as a rookie in 2020 and 2021

▼ In 2022, he was a reserve driver for the Alpine F1 team

▼ At the Belgian GP, Piastri finished second to Verstappen after taking the lead from the reigning champion at the start in the Sprint Race



GAME TIME

Test yourself on some assorted trivia and questions across various sports and games

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

When this event was first held in the Olympics, it produced the first female Olympic champion of a Muslim nation and also saw an Indian narrowly miss out on a medal. Name the event, the winner and the Indian.

QUESTION 2

Name the speedster who claimed the first five-wicket haul for India in its first-ever Test, against England, in 1932.

QUESTION 3

In the context of horse racing, what

connects Byerly Turk, Darley Arabian, and Godolphin Arabian?

QUESTION 4

In which sport can scoring an ippon or two waza-aris end the contest?

QUESTION 5

Which ICC World Cup-winning cricketer's life memoir is called *The Test of My Life*?

QUESTION 6

Which is the oldest international competition still operating in any sport with the first event happening in 1851?

QUESTION 7

Which cricketing knight is nicknamed

'Paddles' (apparently for his big feet)?

QUESTION 8

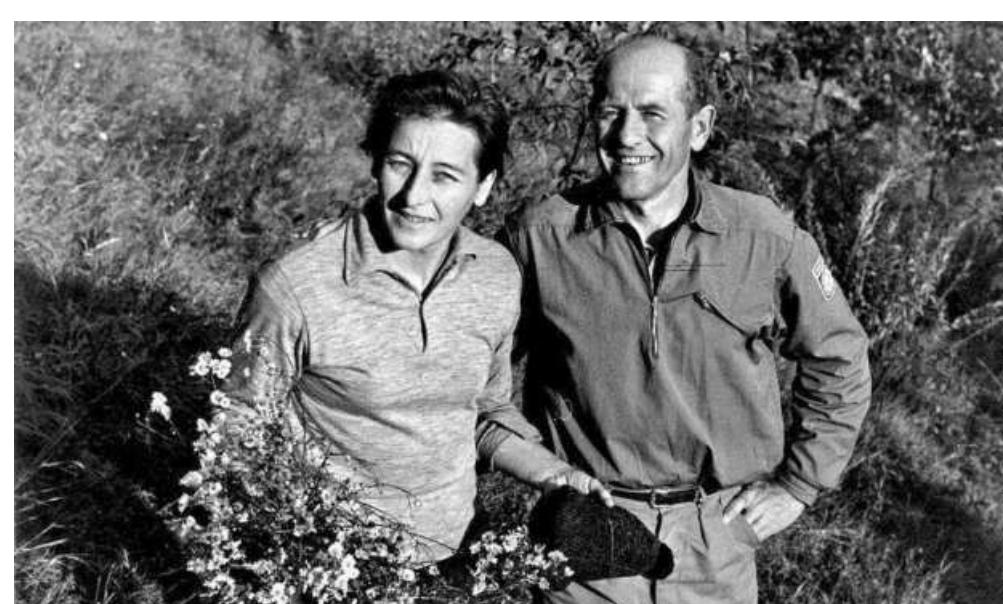
In which event did Shiva Keshavan represent India at six Winter Olympics?

QUESTION 9

In volleyball, which five-letter term describes an attacker using an inside-out path to attack an outside set?

QUESTION 10

In which African city did the famous 'The Rumble in the Jungle' between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman take place in October 1974?



Question 11: Name this legendary Czech couple who won four golds medals amongst themselves at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

THE ANSWERS

1. 400m hurdles, Nawal El Moutawakel of Morocco, and PT. Usha, 2. Mohammad Nissar, 3. They are the three stallions from which all 'thoroughbreds' are descended, 4. Judo, 5. Yuvraj Singh, 6. America's Cup in sailing, 7. Sir Richard Hadlee, 8. Luge, 9. Flare, 10. Kinshasa, 11. Emil Zatopek and Dana Zatopkova.

SCIENCE

Finding proof for the axiom that nutrition aids recovery

Conventional medicine treats by drugs or surgery but the doctor always mention an appropriate diet. Though the importance of nutrition is understood generally, studies validating the cruciality of nutrition in the recovery process of the body have to be conducted from time to time

Ramya Kannan

It would seem that optimal nutrition, essential for all biochemical processes to function properly, is an axiom. Naturally, it will then also be an accepted truth that appropriate nutritious food will have to be consumed, in order for the body to recuperate and heal even as it is treated by medicines when under assault. Strangely though, nothing can be as far apart in practice, as this axiom and its corollary.

The nutritional and environmental factors that influence disease and wellness are now part of a solid study of the human body. While conventional medicine treats and advances cure by drugs and/or surgery, the doctor seldom forgets to mention an appropriate diet to be followed. The problem, however, occurs when there's a piecemeal handling of the condition, with no insight into the patient's culture or food affordability.

Which is why studies validating the cruciality of nutrition in the recovery process of the human body are conducted from time to time.

Latest in this trend, is the RATIONS trial by Anurag Bhargava et al, which tries to address nutrition and tuberculosis within a syndemics framework. The researchers studied the effect of improving nutrition with a combination of a food basket and micronutrients on recovery of patients with TB, and preventing TB in close family members of those who are infected. Prof. Bhargava explains: "There is a backstory to this trial. We [my wife Madhavi and I] worked in a non-profit Jan Swasthya Sahyog that we co-founded in the rural Bilaspur district. We ran a TB treatment program where we realised that undernutrition was the blind spot in TB care and prevention. We finally published a study in 2013 on how low weights in Indian patients were a risk factor for TB mortality." This was followed by a paper in 2014 where we showed that undernutrition was the leading risk factor for TB incidence in India and addressing it could lead to substantial decline in TB incidence.

"In the current RATIONS trial, conducted with the NTEP in 28 tuberculosis units in 4 districts of Jharkhand, we had two populations of interest, the household members living in contact with a patient with pulmonary tuberculosis, and the patients themselves undergoing treatment."

In the study, he adds further, the household members in 14 TB units were randomised into an intervention group that was given a 6.5 kg food basket (5 kg rice + 1.5 kg pulses per head/month). The control group living in the other 14 TB Units lived on their usual PDS-based diet. Dr. Bhargava says: "The patients were not randomised since it was considered unethical to deprive them of a food basket which was a 10 kg/month combination of rice, milk powder, and oil. All the participants were followed up for 2 years in this first-of-its-kind trial that was sponsored by the ICMR and led by us at Yenepoya Medical College, with other investigators from National Institute of Research on Tuberculosis -- Chennai."

Prevalence of undernutrition in household members was high and one-third were undernourished, in the



Therapy and nutrition go together. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

study. In patients, he adds: "We had some of the lowest weights documented in the TB literature, with 1 in 2 patients below a BMI less than 16". Dr. Madhavi and Dr. Bhargava explain that the results found that early weight gain of about 5% of body weight in the first 2 months was associated with a 60% reduction in the hazard of death. The weight gain observed in the RATIONS patients was higher, the mortality lower and only 1% of patients dropped out of treatment. "Most importantly there was a return to work in 75% of patients after treatment in a situation where over 5% were able to work at the start of treatment," she said.

It is also believed that a sub-optimal diet is also an important risk factor, preventable in good measure, for non-communicable diseases, an epidemic of which seems to be holding India in its grip. A 2017 study that was done by GBD Diet Collaborators and published in *Pubmed*, estimated that in that year, 11 million deaths and 255 million Disability Adjusted Life Years were attributable to dietary risk factors.

An emerging and compelling body of research points to the potential of food and nutrition playing a prominent role in prevention, management and treatment, even reversal of disease. Such interventions in health care system might be associated with improved health outcomes and reduced healthcare usage

and costs. Sarah Downer and colleagues record this in an article in the *British Medical Journal* - of how a global epidemic of diet-related chronic disease has prompted experimentation using food as a formal part of patient care and treatment. One of every five deaths across the globe is attributable to a suboptimal diet, more than any other risk factor including tobacco.

Another area in which the role of nutrition in recovery has been well documented is in the HIV/AIDS sector. HIV infection and poor nutritional status are interlinked, L. M. Houtzager wrote in 2009 in the *Benin Journal of Post Graduate Medicine*. The impact of HIV infection on nutrition was identified early in the epidemic, with wasting one of the most visible signs of malnutrition in patients who progress to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). In a review, Houtzager pointed out that malnutrition impairs immune function and reduces the body's resistance to infection. HIV and malnutrition have a cumulative effect in damaging the immune system and worsening nutritional status.

It was in response to such averments that the World Food Programme initiated a pilot phase of distribution of nutrition supplements combined with nutrition counselling for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) on Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART), in Tamil Nadu, along with the Tamil Nadu



A sub-optimal diet is also an important risk factor for non-communicable diseases, an epidemic of which seems to be holding India in its grip

State AIDS Control Society, about 16 years ago recognising the lack of access to nutrition. The programme was initiated in September 2007 in all ART centres in the State covering more than 25000 PLHIV. In a mid term assessment, researchers found improvements in both BMI level and haemoglobin in the experiment group, versus the control group. Both BMI and HB were considered key indicators for comparative assessment and as impact indicators.

In a welfare state, the task of ensuring adequate nutritional status undoubtedly rests with the government. At any rate, any lapses in doing so, must be set right, if an opportunity arises, with a comprehension of the relevant political and social contexts. Supporting delivery of health care along with nutritional supplements must be guaranteed, wherever necessary, in order to ensure the best chances of recovery are available for patients.

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THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Exploring superfoods and beyond

Anjali Srivastava

QUESTION 1

Which "superfood" is dubbed as "the food of the gods" and was consumed by ancient civilizations for strength and vitality? It is the primary ingredient in chocolate!

QUESTION 2

_____ is a small but mighty seed, often called a "superfood," and is rich in omega-3 fatty acids. Not only does it offer the goodness of essential nutrients, but its versatility also shines as it can be effortlessly sprinkled over an array of dishes. Can you unveil the identity of this small yet

mighty nutritious seed?

QUESTION 3

If you were to indulge in a "green smoothie," what superhero nutrient would you likely get a boost of, for keeping your digestive system happily active?

QUESTION 4

_____ is a versatile veggie with a twist, known for its antioxidants, can be in spiral form consumed as noodles, and offers a low-carb alternative.

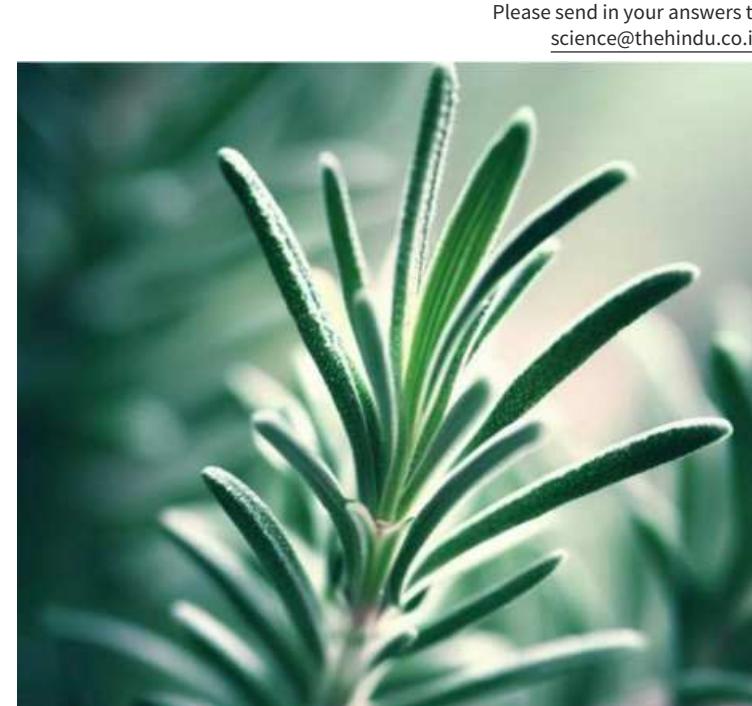
QUESTION 5

Which "queen of spices" owes its vibrant color to curcumin, often used in curries, and has been researched for its potential anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties?

Answers for the Aug 31 Science quiz

1. Hans Geiger's student who participated in the gold foil experiment - **Ans: Ernest Marsden**
2. Place where an atom's positive charge and most of its mass is concentrated - **Ans: Nucleus**
3. Radius of the nucleus - **Ans: 10^{-15} m**
4. Element whose isotope was radiation source in the gold foil experiment - **Ans: Radon**
5. Chief constituent of alpha particles - **Ans: Helium nuclei**

Visual: **J.J. Thomson**
First contact: P.N. Moorthy | Prashant Kalbende | Nandyala Sudharani | Ridhi A.



Visual question: Identify the aromatic herb shown below, which finds a place in Italian dishes, and in the whisper network, is believed to possess cognitive function and memory-enhancing 'magic'.



The mental health crisis requires a huge infusion of cash to manage. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Infrastructure shortfalls, low budgets worsen mental health issues in India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

Mental health-related issues are rising in India according to the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, which tabled its 148th report on 'Mental Health Care and Its Management in Contemporary Times', in Parliament, earlier this month, cautioning that the country lags with inadequate staff, medical infrastructure and budgetary allocation.

According to the panel mental health refers to a state of well-being that enables people to cope with the stress of life. The Committee stated that India currently has 0.75 psychiatrists per lakh people, which is significantly low.

The Committee observed that if India targets having three psychiatrists per lakh people, it will need 27,000 more psychiatrists. This scenario is similar for other professionals such as psychologists, psychiatric social workers, and nurses. The Committee also suggested increasing the number of seats for MD Psychiatry courses.

In 2010, global economic losses of \$2.5 trillion annually were attributed to poor mental health, stemming from diminished well-being and productivity. This will surge to \$6 trillion by 2030

Highlighting the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the psycho-social well-being of all groups, especially children, adolescents, and caregivers, it noted the need for evidence-based interventions for developing infrastructure and other policies around mental health.

Quoting the Ministry of Health and Welfare commission mental health survey in 2015-16, the Committee said that the issues highlighted in the 2015-16 survey have remained the same in 2023. "There is considerable scope to improve the treatment gap. Reasons for the gap include lack of mental health professionals, weak infrastructure and stigma," said the report.

The total Budget Estimate (BE) for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) is ₹ 89,155 crore. Of this allocations for mental health were as follows - National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, (NIMHANS), Bengaluru (₹ 721 crore); Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur (₹. 64 crore) and the National Tele-Mental Health Programme (₹ 134 crore).

Jaswant, senior resident, Department of Psychiatry, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, said: "In 2010, global economic losses of around \$2.5 trillion annually were attributed to poor mental health, stemming from diminished well-being and productivity. This will surge to \$6 trillion by 2030. The latest report highlights inadequate funding for care and research. Addressing this requires not only increased financial support and expanded psychiatry residency programmes, but also establishment of positions for trained psychiatrists within institutions and district mental health programmes. Furthermore, ensuring an ample number of working psychologists is essential to effectively operate any mental health facility and reduce the treatment gap."

The Committee also recommended that the Ministry should ensure essential medicines are available concerning mental health issues and suggests that the government further leverage the network of wellness clinics and tele-medicine to benefit patients.

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